

Sunday September 23 through Sunday September 30

- Pastor Robert continues his sermon series. This week Faith in the Law will be the focus.
- The Appalachian District Conference is in Weber City at 3pm today.
- Youth will be canceled this evening.
- Boy Scouts at 7 pm on Monday.
- Girl Scouts at 7 pm on Tuesday.
- Prayer team will be meeting at 6 pm on Wednesday.
- Choir practice on Wednesday evening at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome to add their voice to the Christmas cantata.
- Pastor Robert's sermon series concentrates on Faith in a Man.



This WEEK at Trinity

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Sunday September 23

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
3:00 pm—Appalachian District Conference
5:00 pm—UMYF canceled

Monday September 24

7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Tuesday September 25

7:00 pm—Girl Scouts

Wednesday September 26

6:00 pm—Prayer Team
7:00 pm—Choir Practice

Thursday September 27

No Scheduled Activities

Friday September 28

9:00 am—MEOC

Saturday September 29

No Scheduled Activities

Sunday September 30

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
5:00 pm—UMYF

Faith in the Law
Galatians 5:13-25

“For you were called to freedom brothers and sister; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants to one another.” Galatians 5:13

Last week I used a measuring cup to illustrate Jesus’ statement, “The Measure you give is the measure you receive.” Today, we read part of Paul’s Letter to the Galatians. He uses words such as “Flesh”, “Circumcision”, and “The Law.” While the words have different meanings they all come from the same measuring cup. Therefore, Paul says, “But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the Law.” Galatians 5:18

We know that circumcision is an outward sign, in the flesh, of the Hebrew people’s covenant to keep The Law of Moses. We know that circumcision requires the cutting of flesh. Therefore, Paul’s use of the terms flesh, circumcision, and The Law speak of three parts of the ONE Old Covenant.

Paul also uses words that describe the New Covenant. Freedom, Grace, and Spirit come from the One Cup of Salvation, Jesus the Christ.

In whom do you place your faith? The answer lies in what you use to fill your measuring cup. (I am using “measuring cup” as a metaphor of the heart, soul, and mind.) If we fill our hearts, souls, and minds with The Law, Circumcision, or the Flesh; Paul says, we receive “slavery!” Slavery to sin and death. (Read Galatians 5: 1; 2:15-16; 3:23-26) If we fill our hearts, souls, and minds, with Freedom, Grace, and the Spirit we become daughters and sons of God.

Do you not know that Pharisees and Sadducees, especially today, place their faith in Moses, the Law, circumcision, and the flesh? If then we fill our cups with faith in Moses we celebrate freedom from Egypt, but like the Hebrew people we are enslaved in the wilderness of Sin.

“For freedom Christ has set us free.” (Galatians 5:1) Christ gives us Freedom from sin, for the freedom of adoption. Christ gives us Freedom from the Law, for the Freedom of Grace. Christ gives us Freedom from the Flesh, for the Freedom to be led by the Holy Spirit. Freedom “from” is the call to repentance. Freedom “for” means that the Holy Spirit leads us from sin to “deliver us from evil, “for” abiding in God’s Glory, Presence, “now and **for**” ever. (Hopefully you hear me echoing in the Lord’s Prayer.)

Jesus filled the Law by receiving all sin. Jesus fulfill the penalty of sin, death. Yes, even death on a cross. Even so, Jesus rose again to show us our freedom for receiving mercy, grace, and love.

To put it another way: Jesus was shaken, pressed down, and broken. Do you not know that wheat must be shaken, pressed down, and broken to separate the chaff from the fruit? Now the chaff is sin and death, but the fruit is Love. The resurrection is Love’s victory.

Do you not know that the work of the Holy Spirit is to “lead us NOT into temptation but deliver us from evil”? Therefore, just as God asked Eve, “Where are you?” If you are suffering temptation or fear of sin do you not know that the Holy Spirit meets you where you are to deliver you into the Glory of God.

I find that I latched on to the Law when I became a practicing Christian because it was familiar. When I was a child I was taught right from wrong. I sought Jesus because I could not find peace. Now, Peace is never a product of the Law. The Law convicts. So, I found that while I was 40 years old, at the time, I had become a child. A child, not of Margret and Bob, but of God. I discovered that I desired to grow up in Christ, leave my childish ways, and become a man: Not just any man, but a man who places his faith in Jesus and is led by the Holy Spirit. Friends, the fruit of the Holy Spirit is Peace. Peace with God and self...enemies and neighbors.

For freedom, Christ has set us free... Do not submit to the yoke of slavery. See, we have two measuring cups set before us. The measure you give to yourself and your neighbor is the one you receive into your heart, soul, and mind.

One in Christ,

Robert