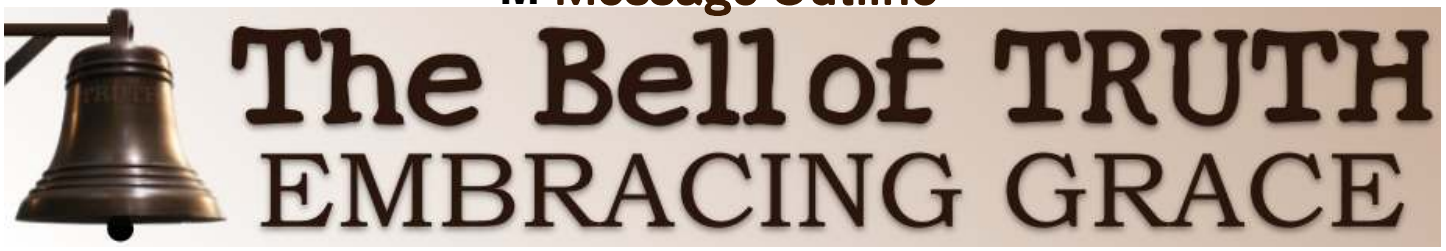
M Message Outline



Galatians 5:7-12

7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.

11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. 12 I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

v7. YOU RAN WELL. WHO HINDERED YOU FROM OBEYING THE TRUTH?

Galatians 2:2, Paul says "*for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain."* Notice it was HIS race, not THE race, meaning it is not involved with anyone else.

The race is for all believers, and it is not a competitive race.

Galatians 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Yet Paul says in **1 Corinthians 9:24-25**, *24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown,* ***but we*** *for an imperishable crown.*

The Galatians at one point were running well, but that is in the past.

Question for Application: *Is this happening to us? Are you still running the race well? Will you be qualified to receive the imperishable crown at the end of the race, or will you not?* **The REAL question is, in faith can you make it to the end?**

How do we do that? — A poor running form is one that slows you down.

- Creating more effort and that means less grace.
- Grace, which should be affecting you and everyone around you.
- Grace should be embraced by the believer, not all your might and effort.

Do you not trust God?

Application Answer: Stand firm in the liberty with which Christ has set you free. Jesus said, "Love each other as I have loved you." You must keep His grace in focus.

v.8 THIS PERSUASION DOES NOT COME FROM HIM WHO CALLS YOU.
The truth is compromised by false teaching. What is this powerful truth?
Salvation from death and the wrath upon sinful men, this freedom is:

- ***BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH that you are saved.*** Ephesians 2:8
- ***It is for: anyone whosoever will believe it,*** John 3:16.
- ***It is the gift of God, not a result of works*** - Ephesians 2:9.

Did you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, by grace through faith?
BUT, **do you *STILL believe*** it is BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH?

v.9 A LITTLE LEAVEN LEAVENS THE WHOLE LUMP. V.10 I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOU, IN THE LORD, THAT YOU WILL HAVE NO OTHER MIND; BUT HE WHO TROUBLES YOU SHALL BEAR HIS JUDGMENT, WHOEVER HE IS.

Application: Just because it is not your own teaching that you are not responsible. Remember this: just because a famous preacher said it, does not mean that it is right.

Matthew 16:27 *For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 - *12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

How often do we find things that are hard to understand about the Bible?

Do not worry: **1 Timothy 2:4** says we will all come to a full knowledge of the truth.
Let the Word of God and the Spirit do Their work.

***vv.11-12 AND I, BRETHREN, IF I STILL PREACH CIRCUMCISION, WHY DO I STILL SUFFER PERSECUTION?* THEN THE OFFENSE OF THE CROSS HAS CEASED. I COULD WISH THAT THOSE WHO TROUBLE YOU WOULD EVEN CUT THEMSELVES OFF!**

How is the cross offensive? The cross is offensive in what IT teaches.

1 Corinthians 1:17-18 - *For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

The unaltered, unhelped Truth is the power of God! Saving those who believe in **TOTAL** forgiveness of God by grace.

But here is what I have noticed. Christians believe it, but they don't apply it.

This spoils the Gospel of Grace:

- **Works** - you need to be doing this in order to be saved.
- **Rules** - you need to be obedient in order to be saved.
- **Conditionals** - if you do this, then you are saved, if you don't do this - you aren't.
- **Rituals** - you need to KEEP doing this to be saved.

You will notice that all four of these are the essence of circumcision. Like it, they need to be avoided. Works, rules, conditionals, and rituals will wear you out.

Believe Christ has done ALL the work for you in faith. If not, you lack faith. See wrath, anger, bitterness, annoyance, and indignation are erased by grace.

You will be persecuted for preaching God's grace!

A believer who is busy in their self-righteous works goes nowhere. **Turn on the light!**

Luke 2:30-32 *30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."*

Standing in liberty means you have truly embraced the Grace of God.

2 Peter 3:18 says to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You will know you have embraced His grace by giving grace to others in love.

Ephesians 4:29 & 5:8 (ESV) *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light!*

INVITATION
If you want to RUN FREE and EMBRACE GOD'S GRACE then believe this Gospel.

Jesse Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
May 13-14, 2023

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