

Sermon Text Discussion 6/24/2018

Galatians 2:11-21 – “Walking Rightly with Respect to the Gospel” by Phil Owen

Overview

1. The Situation Demanding Paul’s Response (2:11-14)
2. The Truth of the Gospel (2:15-16, 21)
3. Walking Rightly with Respect to the Gospel (2:14, 17-20)

Quotations

“Salvation comes only as an undeserved gift of God through Christ’s death for our sins because that’s the only way he gets all the glory.” –Phil Owen

“If we really believe the gospel, our lives must show it by fully accepting anyone God has accepted.” –Phil Owen

Understanding & Application

- 1) Read Galatians 1:6-9. Paul uses strong language here. Do you think it is appropriate? Why or why not?
- 2) Peter acted out of fear of other Jews’ disapproval even though he should have known better, and even had defended his eating with Gentiles several years earlier (see Acts 11:1-18). Have you ever compromised to avoid someone else’s disapproval? Did this ever involve the gospel or your Christian testimony? When we do this, what does it say about our priorities? How can we avoid it?
- 3) Before you came to Christ, what things did you think would put you in good standing with God after death (if you believed in God)? How can remembering these things help you when you share the gospel with others?
- 4) Phil said that people generally want to believe that God makes salvation easy enough that anyone who tries a little can achieve it. The scandal of the gospel is that this isn’t so. Phil explained why by saying that such an idea robs God of his glory in salvation, dismissing his grace and devaluing Christ’s death (see Galatians 2:21). Do you think that is an adequate explanation? Is it one a non-Christian would understand? How else would you explain the “scandal of the gospel”?
- 5) Reread Galatians 2:11-14. Do you think Paul overreacted? Why or why not?
- 6) Phil told a story about some in John Wimber’s first church who resented the effects of revival because it changed the church too much. Do you think that would be possible at ZF? What kinds of people would we have trouble accepting? What should we do about it?
- 7) Consider the second quote above. The language of “acceptance” and “tolerance” is common today, especially in the homosexual community. How would you evaluate Phil’s statement in light of this? How would you respond to a homosexual couple coming to ZF claiming to be Christians and wanting acceptance of their lifestyle?