**SERMON NOTES**

**Grace Abounding**

**A Sermon Series through the Book of Galatians**

**“This the Power of the Cross!”**

**Galatians 6: 11 – 18**

**In the final section of Galatians Paul - like a lawyer or prosecutor making a closing argument –summarizes and reiterates the argument that he has made in Galatians thus far: the superiority of the gospel of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over the “gospel” of works, which is no gospel at all.**

**Paul is writing with big and large letters to emphasize what should be the biggest, largest, and boldest thing in the lives of believers: the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.**

**The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were Jewish converts to Christ who had come to the churches of Galatia insisting and teaching them that to be truly saved by God they needed to embrace Jesus as savior and *also* take on the Old Testament sign of circumcision.**

**When you attempt to add anything – even good things - to the work of Jesus you lose the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The praise and acknowledgement of man is so intoxicating that it can make our sinful hearts do things that are aimed at God in a way that puts the attention on us. This is the idolatry that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of our hearts are prone to, not just the Judaizers of Galatia or the Pharisees of Matthew 6.**

**In order for the law to bless, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ law must be kept, lest the curse of God come on the one who breaks it - this is God’s standard (Galatians 3:10).**

**Performance will never make anyone righteous because our performance must be perfect and perfect performance is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for us to achieve (Matthew 5:21-22; 27 -28).**

**In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ based righteousness, our worst moments cause us to despair in ourselves and our best moments cause us to boast in ourselves – this must not be. Instead, our boast must only be in the cross of Christ.**

**The cross of Jesus Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of all the good in life that comes to us - from salvation to the daily graces that we experience.**

**Without the cross there is only condemnation and judgement for us. There is only what is deserved: the right and just wrath of God felt on us as sinners who have gone our own way. But on the cross Jesus took that condemnation and that judgement for those who would see their sin, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**God owes wrath but instead has given us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – all because of the cross of Christ.**

**Salvation is not what we have done but what \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has done.**

**The cross of Christ also empowers us to live \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ways.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ grace comes to us when we realize that sin doesn’t have dominion and rule any longer over us because God’s power in you is now bigger than sin’s power in your life.**

 **The only true hope is found in the cross because the cross leads to becoming new creations with different motives and agendas that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ others.**

**The mark of being a new creation in Christ is not that you never struggle with sin and temptations of the world but rather that you *do* have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ struggle against them.**

**Notice that this prayer from Paul in verse 16 is conditional. It is conditioned on the fact that you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by this rule.**

**What rule? That only the cross of Christ brings us grace and that salvation comes to us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ based on what Jesus has done.**

Blanks: superiority; cross; Judaizers; gospel; all; whole; impossible; performance; source; repent & believe; grace; God; new; Transforming; please & serve; great; walk; only;

Congregational Scripture Reading – Titus 2: 11 -15

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Declare these things…”