“Faith Working Through Love”

Intro: Here, in these last two chapters we learn how those who are saved by grace through faith in Christ are to live. What glorious ____________ freedom the believer has in Christ and here we learn how this freedom is to be manifested in the daily ____________ of the believer.

A. In this morning’s text Paul tells of three horrifically negative consequences that come as a result of holding to the ____________ that one can ____________ their salvation by fulfilling the works of the Law, and then he follows by presenting six heavenly ________________ that come to those who are justified by ____________ through faith in Christ.

I. There are ______________ consequences that come as a result believing that one can ____________ their own salvation:

   A. “If you receive circumcision, Christ will be of ___ ________________ to you.”

      1. It is not that the physical act of circumcision is right or wrong but it is the ________________ motivation (or the spiritual __________) of circumcision that was at the root of the issue.

      2. It is an unbridgeable contradiction to say that ___ ____________ in Christ for my salvation and also trust in my fulfilling the ________________ of the Law for my salvation.

      3. One ____________ have it both ways. If one trusts in Christ they have no need then to ____________ their salvation. And if they trust in themselves to merit salvation, then ____________ will be of no saving benefit to them. It is that plain and simple.

   B. “Every man who receives circumcision, ... is ______________ obligation to keep the whole __________.”

      1. Once one makes ________________ one point of the __________ a necessary means unto salvation then they have made the keeping of the ________________ of the Law the necessary means unto salvation, for the Law is one.

      2. When one subscribes to the Law as the means of salvation (even in the slightest point), they have then placed themselves ________________ the ________________ of the Law in its entirety!

   C. Those who trust in their ability to merit salvation have been ________________ from Christ, fallen ________________ ________________.

      1. Those who reject God’s plan of salvation ________________ themselves from God’s means of salvation: ________________.

      2. Those who have ________________ from grace are those who heard the message of grace but refused to believe, ________________ instead to take the non-saving path of ____________-righteousness.
II. In contrast to the curse those who are under the Law face, there are heavenly _______ that come to those who are justified by grace through faith _______

A. Those who have faith in Christ _______ through (in) the _______. Amen! As Paul wrote, 2:20a, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but _______ lives _______; ..."

B. Those who have faith in Christ _______ _______ _______, being freed from the burden of the Law. Again, 2:20b, "...and the life which I now live in the flesh I _______ _______ _______ in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

C. Those who have faith in Christ _______ _______ _______ as they patiently await the hope of righteousness.
   1. "For we through the Spirit, by faith, are" _______ _______ _______ _______ are "__________ for the hope of righteousness."

D. The true believer is ____ _________!

E. Being in Christ the believer is _______ _______ _______ doing _______ that do not matter.
   1. When we are in Christ we are freed from worrying about fulfilling burdensome rules and regulations so as to be _______ _______ _______ _______, for we are in Him! And nothing shall separate us from the love of Christ! Perfect love has cast out all fear!

F. Being in Christ the believer's _______ is made manifest through love.
   1. The Christian _______ manifests itself through love! This is the agape love of God: that _______ of the will whereby one in all holiness and purity _______ loves the other for their highest spiritual good!

   2. Puritan John Preston wrote, "Now, lest we should be mistaken in this, as if [God] should require nothing ... except an empty idle faith, [Paul] addeth further, it must be such a _______ as is effectual, as is _______: And that is not enough, but it must be such a faith as works by _______."

   3. This _______ that is the manifestation of true Christian faith does not need the Law to rule over it for instinctively, by its own divine nature, it _______ what is pleasing to God – and this love never violates _______.

Closing: Now then, the question comes: Which of these two do _______ _______ to be? The one who lives in the freedom of the Spirit-filled life or the one who is bound to meaningless rituals and faces eternal death?

   A. Narrow is the way. _______ _______ while it is still day. "God, by Your grace grant us faith in _______, saving our souls. And may our salvation then be shown to be true, manifested not in claims of righteousness, but in faith working through _______. Amen."

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