

Authority & Power / Grace & Glory - Continued

Scripture Reading: John 3:25-36

Previously, we looked at divine authority and power in the earthly life and ministry of Jesus Christ in Luke 4:1-22. Then Jesus warned us to look for the mark of divine authority in the lives and ministries of others, as well as in our own life and ministry in Matthew 7:13-29. In this lesson we will examine the flow of grace **from** God **through** us **to** others (Ephesians 3:1-8; I Peter 4:10; Romans 15:18). We also will discuss the glory, which is revealed to us and through us, that must not be tampered with (II Corinthians 4:6-7; 2:17; 12:7-10; I Corinthians 2:1-5).

Receiving and Distributing – Read John 3:25-30

Touch not the glory – Read John 7:14-18

Glancing through Galatians

The following references give us a survey of Paul's emphasis on the purity of the gospel. The gospel is of divine origin and must be handled humbly, reverently, and spiritually. Legalism, carnal attitudes / ambitions, and religious pride all interrupt the flow of God's grace and interfere with the glory that belongs to God alone. *Soli Gratia* ("By Grace Alone"). *Soli Deo Gloria* ("To the Glory of God Alone").

- **Galatians 1:6-12**

In order to minister with Christ in a real and living way, we must abide in the doctrine of Christ (Colossians 2:6-8; II John 1:9).

- **Galatians 2:20**

We need to see Christ obviously and actively present in our lives (John 15:4-5; Romans 15:16-18).

- **Galatians 3:1-5**

The true gospel teaches that salvation is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-10). It starts with justification and continues through sanctification all the way to glorification (Acts 13:38-39; Romans 3:23-24; Galatians 3:24; Philippians 1:6; I Thessalonians 5:23-24; II Thessalonians 2:13-14). It is a work of God's Spirit, not done by the strength and willpower of man (**Galatians 5:16-25**; II Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 2:12-13).

- **Galatians 4:8-11, 17-20**

In order to walk with Christ, we must not get entangled with rituals, traditions, and religious forms (Colossians 2:8-10; Hebrews 13:9-16). False teachers will entangle you with laws, rules, and strange doctrines. Follow Christ, the teachings of His Apostles [i.e. the New Testament] and those teachers who do the same (Matthew 7:15-23; John 8:12,30-32,36; I Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:14-17; I John 4:1-6 cp. I Timothy 4:1-16).

- **Galatians 5:1-9**

Again, Paul warns against the entanglements of man-made religion and legalism. It may seem harmless, but it is like leaven that spreads a bad influence on others (Galatians 5:9 cp. Matthew 16:5-12; I Corinthians 5:1-8). Note Galatians 5:6 cp. Galatians 6:15.

- **Galatians 6:12-17**

Identifying with Christ in His death and resurrection is more than just getting baptized (Romans 6:1-13).

As we die to self, our lives are changed by His inner-presence and resurrection power (John 14:15-23; Romans 8:9-14; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:10 cp. Ephesians 1:15-20; 3:14-19).

Note Galatians 6:17 – As we die to self, our bodies might literally suffer and be scarred, while we seek to live godly lives and to reach others with the gospel (II Timothy 2:1-10; 3:10-12; II Corinthians 4:6-12).