

becomforted.

Date: May 22/23, 2010

Weekly Topic: Jesus, not performance, is a prerequisite to a relationship with God.

Teaching Pastor: Carl Carey, Urban Ministry Coordinator

Introduction

We live in a high pressure, high performance culture. We feel pressured to improve our financial situation in order to have the "better life." We are pressured to improve our social standing by purchasing nicer houses, cars and clothes. Sometimes this performance mentality distorts our understanding of the spiritual realm. God's love is freely given to us. We don't have to earn His grace. Our performance is not a prerequisite for a relationship with Him.

Discussion

"Jesus, not performance, is a prerequisite for a relationship with God."

What does this phrase mean to you? How does this play out in your day to day living?

Read Galatians 3:15-25 and discuss what role the law plays in our relationship with God. (Read Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:1-21 for more insight into the law.)

How does the law become a measuring stick for our relationship with God?

What does it mean to be "held prisoners by the law" (v.23)? What things hold you prisoner or stifle your relationship with God?

We are all guilty before God (Romans 3:23), but God offers us a life of freedom through Jesus. What steps can you take to allow God to free you from the things that stifle your relationship with Him?

Think About It

The Bible is clear: God chooses to forgive us. Yet, there is always a temptation to earn God's grace by our performance. What does it mean to rest in God's mercy? What steps can you take to live more attuned to God's grace?

Do Something

Take 30 minutes this week to think about your standing before God. Have you sought to improve your standing by your accomplishments or have you rested in God's grace? Write down your answers.

Take 30 minutes this week to meditate on Galatians 3:10-14. Write down your thoughts on the passage. If you have never relied on God's grace for your salvation, speak to a Christian you trust regarding God's plan of salvation. Otherwise, feel free to set up an appointment with a pastor at Prairie Lakes Church to speak about a relationship with God.