

Galatians 2:15-21---3:10-14

“Live in His Grace”

June 12, 2016

In my travels this week, I heard of an old sin which some in the church around the world are revisiting. The sin is called hyper-grace. Those who follow hyper-grace believe that **in faith** all sins: past, present and future are forgiven. Therefore they can sin as much as they want because it is forgiven. Our sin caused our Christ a lot of pain during His earthly life. Our sin caused our Christ a lot of pain upon the Cross at Calvary. Our sin causes Him pain now. Why would we want to go out and sin more just because in our faith it is forgiven? The sin of hyper-grace is that those believe it feel the freedom to sin because they are forgiven. They are just thinking of themselves and the meeting of their desires. They are not in love with Christ or they would not be causing Him the pain of deliberately sinning.

In my study of our text, I came across another sin. It is the sin of despair or living in guilt. We all sin and fall short of the glory of our God. Some allow their sins to weigh them down so much that they live in despair. Those who live in despair can't believe that God can forgive them. For any Christian who dwells upon their sins will realize that we sin daily and sometimes moment by moment. These sins are usually not great sins in the eyes of the world, but they can weigh us

down if we don't live in God's undeserved grace and mercy. Our God does not want us to live in despair or guilt. Our God wants us to learn through His undeserved grace and mercy to be content in every and all circumstances we find in life.

In the study of our text, I am reminded that we cannot be saved by the Law. For salvation by the Law, our God demands the perfect obedience of the Law. We cannot achieve that perfect obedience in thoughts, desires, words and deeds. Christ was obedient for us during His life upon this earth and then He paid for our failure to live up to the Law. We call this living in His grace. We are called to faith by the Holy Spirit. Then our faith leads us to obedience to our God's desires for our lives. Now, we work at rejecting those thoughts, desires, words and deeds that are selfish and self-centered because we want to thank and praise our God for His blessings through Christ.

I ran across someone who said that they could not and would not forgive someone who had hurt them. I talked about Ephesians 4:32; "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted forgiving one another, even as God for Christ sake had forgiven you." I told them that it would take time to forgive. They may go months or even years before they could forgive. However in obedience to our God, they must work at forgiving. They still refused. I came to realize that the real issue was not forgiving the wrong done, but their relationship with our God. Not forgiving is

a selfish act. Likewise they wanted revenge. This too is selfish act. God asks us to let Him revenge or show His grace.

Our God loves us and He lives in us. He finds it hard to live in unrepentant souls. Just as the devil finds it hard to live in souls dedicated to our God. The more selfish and self-centered we are in life, the more vulnerable we make ourselves to the influence of the devil in our lives. The more we deny that there is a devil, the more freedom he has to act in our world because we are not on guard. Evil exists and it lives in us and in our world. We fight evil when we make our God the center and focus of our lives. We gain greater assurance that we are forgiven and that heaven is our home when we make our God the center and focus of our lives. We make our God a greater and greater center and focus for our lives when we open our hearts to Him.

We live in a world that is finding it more difficult to believe that there is a God. We live in a world where every religion and half of Christianity tells us that the path to life beyond this world is paved with our good works. This idea that our good works open the doors of heaven has led some to do some extraordinary things like walking on a bed of coals. Christianity is the only religion that depends upon God's grace not our works to gain heaven. Christianity is the only religion that lives in God's grace and not by our good lives. Christianity is the only religion

where we see God at work among us. Therefore we live in His contented peace.

Amen.