

Home Group Questions

the week of 1/28/2018

Romans 13:8-10

THE POWER OF LOVE! PT. 2

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the book of Romans. The focus of this message was a continuation on the theme of the power of love and how foundational love is pleasing God and living the Christian life.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Romans 13:8-10 as well as Galatians 1:6-10 and Galatians 3:10-14. These passages highlight the role of the Old Testament law to the New Testament believer. Certainly the Old Testament is fully inspired by the Lord but it has been fulfilled by Jesus Christ and His Work on the cross. Talk about the balance of not being saved by following the Law but the importance of still being instructed by the Old Testament Law. For example, we no longer do animal sacrifices because Jesus fulfilled all the sacrifices however, what do the animal sacrifices tell us about God and sin and the importance of dealing with sin in the day by day story of the nation and people of Israel in the Old Testament? How does Jesus' fulfillment of all of these sacrifices give you a new appreciation for the scope and the importance of Jesus' sacrifice for us?

2. Read the following quote and discuss the differences that you see between the Old and New Testament and ways in which you have learned from the Old Testament while still not being bound by it's laws and regulations. Discuss the sabbath and how you understand your approach to "prioritizing time to worship God":

"The Ten Commandments were essentially a summary of the entire Old Testament law. Nine of the Ten Commandments are clearly repeated in the New Testament (all except the command to observe the Sabbath day). Obviously, if we are loving God, we will not be worshipping false gods or bowing down before idols. If we are loving our neighbors, we will not be murdering them, lying to them, committing adultery against them, or coveting what belongs to them. The purpose of the Old Testament law is to convict people of our inability to keep the law and point us to our need for Jesus Christ as Savior ([Romans 7:7-9](#); [Galatians 3:24](#)). The Old Testament law was never intended by God to be the universal law for all people for all of time. We are to love God and love our neighbors. If we obey those two commands faithfully, we will be upholding all that God requires of us."

3. Read Colossians 2:16-23. The theme of this passage is the freedom that we have in Christ and how we cannot do things to obtain or maintain our salvation. Now Christ certainly wants us to aim for holiness and to be more and more like Him in everything. However, that's sanctification (growth in Christ) not salvation (redeemed by Christ). Salvation is clearly a one-time act that leads us to growing in Christ. How do you seek to balance the freedom in Christ but not acting with "license" (the belief that you can do anything you want as a Christian because God will forgive you or even look the other way)? How do you live out your faith in a way that is passionate for holiness yet still not placing too much emphasis on works (i.e. affirming "saved by grace" but pressuring yourself as if you are "saved by works")?

MOVING FORWARD...

Thank the Lord for the freedom we have in Christ and the access we have to him as his children. Pray that you would sense His daily presence in your life as a source of love and encouragement that He longs to give you as you seek to live for Him.