

How can we paint a concise picture of, not only what was said yesterday, but what has been said on Sunday mornings and written here for the last several weeks? Hmmm...

How 'bout this, "Throw off the burden of the guilt of sin. And once you get it off, don't let anyone, no matter who it is, put it back on you again! Jesus has, "...wiped out the written record of the *dogma* that was

against us, and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross." (Col 2:14, Enhanced)

The Greek word "*dogma*" has the same basic meaning as our word "dogma", "A doctrine or a corpus of doctrines relating to matters such as morality and faith, set forth in an authoritative manner by a religion." Jesus took that out of our way, let that be where it stays! **"Stand fast in liberty, Christ has set us free! Therefore do not entangle yourselves again in a yoke of bondage."** (Ga 5:1, Enhanced)

Pretty much my whole life I thought that meant "don't sin". I, like many of you, spent so much time trying not to get into the bondage of sin that it was mostly my focus, and you tend to become what you look at. So, when I screwed up, I felt awful and defeated. But that's not what's being said here. Let's consider Jesus for a moment. What was His purpose in coming?

"...God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses, and to place in us the *logos*>plan or design of reconciliation." (2Cor 5:19) He was anointed and sent to "proclaim good news", "to heal those oppressed by the enemy", "to set them at liberty", and "proclaim the favor of The Lord." (Is 61:1-2, Lk 4:18, Acts 10:38) **"God did not send His Son into the world so that He might judge the world, but in order that the world, through Him, might be saved. The one believing into Him is not judged..."** (Jn 3:17-18) In short, the purpose of the mission was to set us free, and that should be the "Good News" that we preach in an attitude of gratitude with the power of praise!

I want to take a minute to address the centuries old objection to simply "**proclaiming liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof**" (Lev 25:10), like Jesus did. We need to come to grips with what Paul said in Ga 3:3, we are not going to be "perfected in the flesh". No matter what religious traditions or regulations we codify and try to keep, it can't work. It *can't* because Jesus *already* perfected it! He has already completed the work! Anything men try to "add in" just causes the power of The Truth to become ineffective so that the guilt and condemnation set in, and round and round we go again!

Sorry for yelling, but I get passionate about this stuff. John said that, **"If our heart doesn't condemn us we have confidence engaging with God and whatever we require of Him we receive from Him!"** (1Jn 3:21, Enhanced) Condemnation will stifle your prayer life! But back to the objections, and we touched on this yesterday.

"let us draw near with SINCERE HEARTS and a full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water". (Heb 10:22) The Church has always had people, (think Ananias & Sapphira, Acts 5), who were insincere. We've endured "men of God" who "fleece the flock" and members who were pretenders in the faith. But no amount of rules, doctrines, and ordinances is gonna keep that at bay. In fact, they tend to cause it. So let's be, **"Looking away from all else into Jesus, the architect and completer of the building of faith."** And **"...run through the race laying before us (being) of *hupomone*>cheerful constancy"** (Heb 12:2-1), because we're free! **"...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."** (Heb 10:10)

Love never fails!

