

## THE DITCH OF LEGALISM

Galatians 5:1-12     Jeff Schreve

### What is the ditch of legalism and why is it so dangerous?

#### 1. The ditch of legalism is adding the works of the Law to grace.

A. Grace and works of the Law are mutually exclusive.

*But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace. Romans 11:6*

B. The Law was never designed to save anyone.

*... knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.*

*Galatians 2:16*

C. The Law shows us we are sinner in need of grace.

*You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. Galatians 5:4*

#### 2. The ditch of legalism is attractive to our fallen nature.

A. It puts external rules above an internal relationship.

B. It puts personal performance above divine acceptance.

*... to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. Ephesians 1:6 NKJV*

C. It is very easy to fall into.

#### 3. The ditch of legalism is overcome by standing firm in Jesus.

A. The flow of God's grace comes only by faith.

*This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Galatians 3:2-3*

B. The joy of the Christian life is found in the truth of the cross.

*But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished. Would that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves. Galatians 5:11-12*

*For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

*1 Corinthians 1:22-24*

**If you are in the ditch of legalism, you can come out today!**