



TRUTH & TEARS –Living the Gospel Galatians 6:1-5

Ted introduced this passage by talking about the difficulties we often encounter in the church in terms of relationships just as Paul has done in the last chapter, and this sets up the context for understanding what Paul is talking. Ted also defined grace for us: grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more or anything we can do to love us less. In terms of our relationships with other people, grace means we balance a commitment to both truth and tears, honesty and graciousness. This is a powerful topic. The sermon title proved apt in this regard as more than a few people were moved to tears. Let's hope your group provides the same opportunity for personal reflection.

Getting Started

We're going to begin this week's group by pondering the words to a familiar song. Robinson's *Come Thou Fount* is well known to many people, but few of us slow down enough to think about what we are singing. Let's do just that right now.

"O to grace, how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take a seal it, seal it for Thy courts above."

How do you usually think about song lyrics?

Is singing more emotional or intellectual for you?

What do these words communicate to you?

How are you *hearing* them differently?

Let's get grounded before we begin. Remind yourselves of what you've studied so far in Galatians, what Paul's major themes are, and what Paul has just been speaking about. Imagine yourselves as the recipients of this letter. Now, let's dig in.

What do we do when someone sins? verses 1-2

Restore their walk with God as we ...

1. **recognize** how sin ensnares.
2. **rely** upon the Holy Spirit.
3. **reset** their understanding of truth.
4. **resist** the temptation to ignore yourself.

Relieve their burden through ...

1. **understanding** how they are suffering.
2. **entering** into their suffering.

Grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more or anything we can do to love us less.

What do truth and tears represent?

What does being "caught in sin" mean?

How is Paul discussing sin in light of walking in the Spirit?

What is the temptation we face in this situation?

Who are "those who are spiritual" Paul mentions?

What does it mean to carry one another's burdens?

Continue your study by reading the final three verses

How do we do it? verses 3-5

Humble awareness of the deception of prideful thinking.

Truth: we are absolutely dependent upon God.

Regular assessment of how God is at work in us.

Truth: we are designed for great things through the power of the cross.

We must take responsibility for what God is doing in our lives.

Why does Paul focus on the non-sinner so much?

How does this inform how we think about these situations?

How do we go about testing our own actions?

Why does Paul tell us we should carry our own burdens?

What does this say about our responsibility to deal with sin? What is the main point of this passage?

Application

Give everyone a moment to decide on a study-based application.

What part of the study got you thinking most?

How have you heard God speak to you this week?

Whom do you need to go to with truth and tears?

How can you improve your own personal assessment?

Prayer

Thank God for bringing everyone in your group to Trinity Chapel and to your group. Ask the Father to help each person realize the unique role He has for him or her in your group and at TCBC. Praise Him for loving us, taking the initiative, pursuing us, and giving us an abundant life worth living. Thank God for Ted and his faithful service to all of us at TCBC.