*Tuesday, July 19, 2011*

**The Grand Illusion**

Galatians 2:16-18 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (17) But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. (18) For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. (KJV)

Here is one the greatest disappearing acts that has ever taken place for mankind, that being the old law and its rigid rules. Our Lord fulfilled and accomplished everything that was needed for mankind, and having said that, it’s amazing how so many get tricked back into thinking that there is some work that was left for us to do. In fact when you try to incorporate any of these dead works, which we will deal with this week, back into your walk it actually puts you in the category of a transgressor; ouch!

Romans 4:2-4 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. (3) For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. (4) Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. (KJV)

Jesus Christ did a completed work, and then the law was done away, like a vanishing act. Today the illusion is that we see many who put a veil up and make it reappear thinking something carnal would ever be pleasing to a Spiritual God. Do you really desire to put your salvation on the line, thinking that there is some kind of work you still need to accomplish, or would it be so much simpler to rely on our Lord who said that He is the only way, truth, and life?

Galatians 3:1-3 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? (2) This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (3) Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? (KJV)

Let’s replace the word Galatians with Christian and ask the same question, having begun so well in the Spirit who did you let pull the wool back over your eyes in the form of a veil? It was your hearing with a new set of Spiritual ears that got you in good standing in the first place, and it is still based on your hearing that will keep you in good standing with our Lord.

Galatians 3:4-6 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. (5) He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (6) Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. (KJV)

There are no magic potions or quick carnal fixes that will ever get you to the place that you need to be in the body of Christ. It’s your simple belief and trust in God through Christ that will get you where you need to be on the path of life.

Galatians 3:7-10 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. (8) And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. (9) So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. (10) For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. (KJV)

As we go along this week we will point out some of the areas where man has replaced faith with works, which results in a curse. Please Church, don’t let yourself be duped into anything other than a simple faith in what Jesus Christ has done for us.