

Bad Lip Reading: Let Go and Let God - 1 John 2:1-6
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

“Just let go, and let God.” Can’t tell you the number of times I have heard that relating to various aspects of the Christian life. Of course, in light of our sermon a couple weeks ago on earning verses gift economies, it seems to make sense. We are saved by grace alone, we bring nothing to our salvation except our sin. Our posture in life should be to just let go and let God, right? Well, maybe and not exactly. First, the statement itself is dangerous, we don’t “let God” do anything. God is in His heaven and He does whatever He pleases (Psalm 115:3). But there are certain things where the call of the believer is to surrender self and situation to the Lord and leave the results to Him. So, while the statement is somewhat flawed, the sentiment does fit from a certain perspective. We are called to roll our fears, worries, and anxiety on the Lord. We should trust in the Lord with situations and people that are out of our control. And in the end, we are to do our part in the Christ-following life and leave the results.

Yet, there is also something deeper and dangerous in the “Let go and let God” mind set. For many this phrase becomes La-Z-Boy chair theology. There are two dangers we need to avoid in our spiritual lives. The first was addressed in the first sermon of this series, the danger of legalism. Legalism looks at the Law of God, all the commandments from the Scriptures and states that I am accepted based on my observance of God’s rules and performance in life. But Scripture continually reminds us that we are saved by God’s grace through our faith in Christ alone. But believing this truth can propel us toward the other danger, that of antinomianism. This is where “let go and let God” perspective can lead us into a pit (or lounge chair). Antinomianism (this phrase means “against law” or “no law”) looks at the Law of Christ and discounts it. While it is true that Christ has fulfilled the Law for us, and that its primary function is to serve as a mirror revealing our need for Jesus, there is still a purpose for the Law of Christ for the believer. Antinomianism says that we don’t need to worry about obedience to the Law, we are forgiven and free, live as you will, then let go and let God. It doesn’t matter what I do, I am forgiven and loved. This mind set actually arcs us back to Scott Holdegraver’s sermon last week, where we determine that God wants us happy so our obedience is always contingent on this. The Law of God is not important, and there is no effort in the life of Christ. So legalism says that if I obey, then I am accepted. Antinomianism says I am accepted, it doesn’t matter if I obey. But the Gospel tells us that we are accepted because of Jesus’ perfect obedience and death for us, but that should create a desire and walk of obedience in us.

So John’s words in our text this week have a clear warning. First, he reminds us that we will have times where we fail, and the finished work of Jesus is sufficient for our forgiveness. Yet, there is also a stern warning that we are to live in obedience to the Law of Jesus, specifically the call to love God with all of our being and love our neighbor as we love our self. But beyond that, the life of following Jesus is a life of grace-infused work walking as Jesus walked. Jesus Himself gave us the template for what this looked like both in His life and teaching (read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7). Let go and let God mind set puts is in the easy chair subtly teaching us that it doesn’t matter what we do. Yet John is clear, our assurance is based on our keeping Jesus’ commandments and walking in the values and actions He set forth.

The truth is that the church is filled with the “Let go and let God” mind set. It looks like this. “I know Jesus commanded that I am to love and forgive people, but you don’t know how deeply they hurt me.” “I know that Jesus commanded us not to divorce and to love our spouse sacrificially, but I am just not happy.” “I know Jesus tells us to live generously by giving to the church and to the poor, but we have this awesome Disney

vacation planned, so maybe next year.” In all of these the basic belief is that God will forgive, so do as you will and let God take care of the rest. But John is clear, if this is the posture of our so called Christian life, we really don’t understand the Gospel nor do we authentically embrace what Jesus did for us. We are not saved by our works, but we are saved for our works, to our obedience, to the walk of Christ.

This is not a return to earning economy, to pursuing salvation on the basis of the things we do. Rather the beauty of obedience and the genuineness of our walk is the authenticating mark that we have actually received the amazing gift of salvation and redemption through the Gospel. Author Dallas Willard reminds us, "Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action. Grace, you know, does not just have to do with forgiveness of sins alone."

So rather than stating, “Let god and let God,” the better way to apply the Gospel is to say, “Trust God and get going!”

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Romans 6	Romans 7	Romans 8	Romans 9	Romans 10	Romans 11	Romans 12

Reading from this past week: 1 John 2:1-6

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Family Worship

Song - *In the Shadow of the Glorious Cross*

<https://youtu.be/Td0IX0xMnuA>

Gospel Project

Story: God changed Jacob

Big Picture Question: Who is in control of everything?

Answer: God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God’s good plan.

Scripture: Genesis 25-33

New City Catechism

Question #46: What is the Lord’s Supper?

Answer: Christ commanded all Christians to eat bread and to drink from the cup in thankful remembrance of him.

Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Scripture

1 John 2:1-6

- When you hear “Let go and let God,” what do you feel like that statement means?
- What is antinomianism and why is it dangerous to our Christian faith?
- What does John say about the person who lives their life by “Let go and let God” La-Z-Boy theology?
- What are some things you can do in your life to “walk in the same way which He walked,” this week?

Prayer

*Pray that we would trust God and get going.

*Pray for God to give us favor as we move closer to obtaining a piece of ground for a permanent campus.