

IV- Dependence on the Pure Gospel Galatians 3:1-22

Galatians 3:1-22 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? 4 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. 7 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. 11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. 12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. 15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. 16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. 17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. 18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. 19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. 20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. 21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. 22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Exposition of Text:

We come to the second section in our outline. We finished The Pure Gospel We Preach section and now come to The Pure Gospel We Were Promised. This section will take us through chapters 3,4 and into chapter 5. We will see we must have our dependence on the pure gospel because we cannot depend on anything else for our salvation in session 1. We will see that the gospel delivers us from several things namely sin in these sections also. The embodiment of the Gospel, Jesus Christ, will be seen leaving the shores of heaven to come to earth to die for our sins in session three. We will conclude this section by looking at the dependability of the gospel in session 4.

The key words in this section is Faith which occurs 14 times, Law which occurs 19 times, Promise which occurs 11 times. The key teaching is Justification by Faith. Allow me to regress to chapter 2 and point out again some important verses that lay our groundwork for this teaching.

Galatians 2:16, "...a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ..." Galatians 2:19, "...I live by the faith of the Son of God..." We will find that this is the major teaching of the New Testament, faith in Christ for salvation. We must depend on the Gospel because the law cannot save us. Allow me to offer the following outline for our consideration during this session.

Outline: Dependence on the Pure Gospel Galatians 3:1-22

A- Questions About the Origin of Their Salvation: Galatians 3:1-5

1- Who hath bewitched you? Galatians 3:1

2- Did you receive the Spirit by Works Or Faith? Galatians 3:2

3- Are You Made Perfect by the Flesh? Galatians 3:3

4- Have You Suffered In Vain? Galatians 3:4

5- Did the Miracles Come by Law or by Faith? Galatians 3:5

B- Old Testament Scripture Shows Our Dependence on the Gospel: Galatians 3:6-14

1- Example Of Abraham: Galatians 3:6-9

a- Gen_15:6 quoted: Galatians 3:6-7

b- Gen_12:3 quoted: Galatians 3:8-9

2- Curse of the Law Galatians 3:10-14

a- Deu_27:26 quoted: Galatians 3:10

b- Hab_2:4 quoted: Galatians 3:11

c- Lev_18:5 quoted. Galatians 3:12

d- Deu_21:23 quoted: Galatians 3:13-14

C- Law Was Given Until the Seed (Christ) Came: Galatians 3:15-22

1- Promise Was Prior to the Law Galatians 3:15-18

2- Purpose of Law Galatians 3:19-20

3- We Depend on the Gospel and Not Law Galatians 3:21-22

A- Questions About the Origin of Their Salvation: Galatians 3:1-5

Paul asked the Galatians if they depended on the Gospel of Grace by faith or by the law for their salvation in the beginning. He ask them several question about their experience.

1- Who hath bewitched you? Galatians 3:1

We know that justification by faith is one of the central themes in the New Testament but equally true is the Apostle Paul's ongoing battle against the lies of legalism. He addresses this subject in several places in his writings.

He begins by asking them who had "Bewitched" them. Who tricked them into believing something that was not true. He addresses them as "foolish Galatians," "Implying that they were failing to use their mental ability. Someone must have bewitched them, a term that described a sorcerer casting a spell or 'evil eye.'" 25

They had clearly had the pure gospel preached to them. The term Paul uses to describe the way the gospel had been presented literally means, "placarded." "In ancient times news was made public by means of a placard set up in some public place. In such a way, Paul said, the gospel of Christ had been as plainly set before them as a billboard." 26 They had understood, or should have, that they had depended on the Gospel for salvation.

2- Did you receive the Spirit by Works Or Faith? Galatians 3:2

Another question Paul asks them is how they got the Holy Spirit. He asks a question that has an obvious answer. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit was by faith upon hearing the gospel and they knew by their experience that it never came by the works of the law. In fact the Gentile church never did possess the law. Galatians 4:6 says, "...because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying Abba Father."

3- Are You Made Perfect by the Flesh? Galatians 3:3

How will you be sanctified? How will your salvation be made complete? He points out that what was begun in the spirit cannot be made better or complete by the flesh. They did not become mature in faith because of works. My friend this has always been a verse that speaks to my heart about eternal security. Our salvation begun as a work of the Spirit and He will complete it. We will not be saved by what we do or do not do because we are saved by a Spiritual rebirth and not by a work of the flesh.

4- Have You Suffered In Vain? Galatians 3:4

The early church was the object of much persecution. In Act_14:21-22, as Paul retraces his steps back through Galatia, they, "returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch..." The reason they did this was to confirm the Galatians and to exhort, "them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." (My underline for emphasis.)

If they turned from grace to the law they would, "Brand their former position in error and would then have suffered so much for nothing." 27

5- Did the Miracles Come by Law or by Faith? Galatians 3:5

Act_14:3, Act_14:8-11 records the miracles that were done among the Galatians. In Iconium the word of the Lord was testified to by God, "granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands." Paul also healed a man crippled from birth in Lystra.

Paul ask them if these miracle were done by the works of the Law or by Faith. Faith is the obvious answer.

B- Old Testament Scripture Shows Our Dependence on the Gospel: Galatians 3:6-14

Paul quotes from six different Old Testament passages to show their dependence on the Gospel and not on the Law for salvation. He in fact shows that the Old Testament is a book of justification by faith in the example of Abraham. He also points out the law was a curse.

1- Example Of Abraham: Galatians 3:6-9

The Judaizers were using the teaching of Moses and laying claim to having the Old Testament on their side. Paul goes back farther than the Law of Moses to Abraham. The NIV says, "Consider Abraham." Paul uses two quotes to show that Abraham was justified by faith and not the law.

a- Gen_15:6 quoted: Galatians 3:6-7

"He (Abraham) believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness." Gen_15:6 "Striking a tremendous blow at the Judaizers, Paul linked the past with the present and declared that just as Abraham was saved by faith so were those who claimed to be his children."28 This blessing by the way was before circumcision was given as a sign. (See Gen_17:24)

b- Gen_12:3 quoted: Galatians 3:8-9

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Gen_12:3 The blessing promised Abraham by faith, was for all nations.

2- Curse of the Law Galatians 3:10-14

He now uses 4 Old Testament passages to again state the Pure Gospel of justification by faith and to show that those who are trusting the law for salvation are actually bringing themselves under a curse.

a- Deu_27:26 quoted: Galatians 3:10

"Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them." The Judaizers were trying to get the Galatians to go back under the law for salvation. This would be to put themselves under the curse of the law when they failed to keep it, which they would surely do. James says in his epistle, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Jam_2:10

b- Hab_2:4 quoted: Galatians 3:11

"...the just shall live by faith." Hab_2:4
Notice that it says that no man is justified in the "sight of God" by the works of the law. The only place man is justified by keeping the law is in his own sight and maybe in the sight of man but never in the sight of God. It is only by faith that we are justified in God eyes. This verse is also quoted in Rom_1:17 ; and Heb_10:38 .

c- Lev_18:5 quoted. Galatians 3:12

"Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the Lord your God." Lev_18:5 God required that the man who would live under the law to do them. The law requires action, doing not trusting. Constantly trying to do is a curse.

d- Deu_21:23 quoted: Galatians 3:13-14

"His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God." Deu_21:23 We know that Christ hung on the cross and redeemed us from the curse of the law. Col_2:14 says, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross..." Christ has redeemed us, praise His Holy Name.

C- Law Was Given Until the Seed (Christ) Came: Galatians 3:15-22

We might then ask the question of what was the purpose of the law? We see here that the law was given, "till the seed should come..." Col_3:19 .

1- Promise Was Prior to the Law 3:15-18

We have been over this ground pretty thoroughly and understand that the promise given to Abraham was prior to the law. 3:17 says it was in fact, "four hundred and thirty years" after the

promise that the law came. The law therefore cannot "disannul" or do away with the promise that preceded it.

2- Purpose of Law Galatians 3:19-20

What then was the purpose of the law? As we have previously stated the Churches of Galatia did not have the law because it was given to the Jews. Notice what Warren Weirsbe says about this.

"Rom_2:14 and Act_15:24 make it clear that GOD NEVER GAVE THE LAW TO THE GENTILES. The moral law was already written in their Gentile hearts (Rom_2:15). But the ceremonial law (including the Sabbath laws) was never given to the Gentiles. The law was 'added' and was not a replacement for the Abrahamic promises. Once the Seed (Christ) came, the law was done away." 29

In Mat_5:17 Jesus says, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I come not to destroy but to fulfill."

Another reason we see that the law was given is because of sin. "It was added because of transgressions" 3:19 The law told us what sin was. We will discuss this briefly again in the next session.

3- We Depend on the Gospel and Not Law Galatians 3:21-22

The law had its purpose and the purpose was not to give life. Galatians 3:21 says, "if there had been a law to give life then life would have come from the law." There was not and is not any law or the keeping of any law that gives life. We therefore must depend on something else for life. What? "...the promises of Jesus Christ." Galatians 3:23