

V- Deliverance of the Pure Gospel Galatians 3:23-29

Galatians 3:23-29 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Exposition of the Text:

In this section of Galatians we will deal with the deliverance we have experienced as a result of the Gospel. We will look at our need of deliverance from an outline that is two fold, our need of deliverance and our deliverance into Christ.

Outline: Deliverance of the Gospel Galatians 3:23-29

I- Our Need of Deliverance: Galatians 3:23-25

A- Prisoner to the Law: Galatians 3:23

B- Schoolmastery of the Law: Galatians 3:24-25

II- Delivered Into Christ: Galatians 3:26-29

A- Delivered From Servant to Son: Galatians 3:26-27

B- Delivered to be One: Galatians 3:28

C- Delivered to be Heirs: Galatians 3:29

I- Our Need of Deliverance: Galatians 3:23-25

The main idea of the first section of our outline is our need of deliverance from the law. We will discover in fact that the law was only a means to bring us to Christ. Paul again returns to the subject of the purpose of the Law in this section. He speaks of the time, "before faith came." "The text actually says 'the faith', meaning faith in Christ." 30 Paul here uses two figures of speech to illustrate our need of deliverance. He likens the law to first a prison and second to a child-cutodian relationship.

A- Prisoner to the Law: Galatians 3:23

The Good New Bible translates verse 23, "But before the time for faith came, the Law kept us all locked up as prisoners until this coming faith should be revealed." (my underline for emphasis)

Concerning the word "kept" Kenneth Wuest say that it, "means, 'to keep inward under lock and key.' The Law was a jailer who held in custody those who were subjected to sin, in order that they should not escape the consciousness of their sins and the liability to punishment." 31 He continues on in saying:

"The law shut them up to one avenue of escape, namely, faith in Christ, for during the 1500 years in which the law was in force, it was the means of convicting sinners of their sins and of causing them to look ahead in faith to the atonement God would some day offer which would pay for their sins." 32

So we see that the Law held men prisoners until the coming of Christ to deliver them.

B- Schoolmastery of the Law: Galatians 3:24-25

The next image is the image of a schoolmaster as translated in the KJV. In the greek the word is "paidagogos" which is from which we get our word pedagogue, or schoolmaster. However, the greek does not have this in mind. "The pedagogue here was not a 'schoolmaster' but a slave to whom a son was committed from age six or seven to puberty. These slaves were severe disciplinarians and were charged with guarding the children from the evils of society and giving them moral training." 33

Another duty of this servant was to conduct the children of the family to and from school. He was over them until they come of age into adulthood.

So we can see that the law kept watch over Israel like a jailer and a guardian, waiting the coming of Messiah.

II- Delivered Into Christ: Galatians 3:26-29

The key verse of this section is Galatians 3:27 . We have put on Christ in salvation. We need to understand the statement of, "baptized into Christ." Some would teach us this is water baptism. I submit to us this is baptism of (or in) the Holy Spirit. 1Co_12:12-13 says, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..." This teaches us that we are joined to Christ by the Holy Spirit baptizing us into Christ.

The idea of putting on Christ become more understandable when we understand some of the culture and historic background.

"In the Roman society when a youth came of age he was given a special toga which admitted him to the full rights of the family and state and indicated he was a grown-up son. So the Galatians believers had laid aside the old garments of the Law and had put on Christ's robe of righteousness which grants full acceptance before God." 34

We have been delivered to become sons, to be one in Christ to be heirs.

A- Delivered From Servant to Son: Galatians 3:26-27

As we have stated the law kept a son under bondage. Man was in fact a servant to the Law and to sin. Joh_1:12 says, "...as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to those who believe on his name." Remember that the Laws purpose was to bring us to Christ and when Christ came we no longer need the custodian. Remember also that Paul is talking to the Galatians who were wanting to return to the law. The Judaizers were in fact wanting them to return to being a servant when they now were sons. The Layman's Bible Commentary says, "Before the person in question was a minor, a ward under someone else's control. In Christ he is now a son in the faith. He has entered into full family privileges and partakes of his father's nature. Therefore he does not need the enforced discipline of the guardian. The implication is that a Christian trying to return to the law would be like a mature son wanting to be under the control of a strict governess again." 35

B- Delivered to be One: Galatians 3:28

We understand that the racial and religious differences in the ancient world was very important. Jews looked down on Gentiles, Greeks considered non-Greeks uncultured and barbarians. The Jews wanted to continually draw the line between themselves and others. The radical teaching that the church was to become a mixture of all races, creeds, economic, social, gender and political classes was an earth shattering teaching.

We know that first in the world there was only one class of people until Abraham. We can assume that everyone was Gentiles. When Abraham was called out and separated by God there became two, Gentiles and Jews. Now in the church age there are three, Gentile, Jews and the Church. The Church is not Jewish, though its roots are inseparable from Judaism, but it is made up of all kinds. In fact the early church was made up of all classes and this is nowhere clearer illustrated than in the book of Philemon. Philemon was encouraged to accept Onesimus back not as a run away slave but as a brother in Christ. All racial, political, and national borders are broken down by the Pure Gospel. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond or free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28 We have been delivered from being many unto being, "one in Christ."

C- Delivered to be Heirs: Galatians 3:29

The Judaizers taught that submitting to the law made one an heir to Abraham and the promise. Paul asserts that this privilege comes from faith in Christ. Paul has clearly taught that Christ was the seed of Abraham that was to come.

We need to understand that there are two types of descendants of Abraham. There are the natural descendants and the spiritual descendants. The natural descendants are from the 12 tribes of Israel who were the descendants of Isaac and Jacob from Abraham. I remind us that the natural descendants of Abraham did not come through Ishmael though he was a son of Abraham. There are also the spiritual descendants of Abraham who are sons by faith. The context of Galatians 3:29 is clearly concerning the spiritual seed. Being a natural son does not bring salvation to the Jews.

Rom_8:16-17 says, "The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ..." My friends everything that belongs to Christ belongs to us in this relationship. Who on earth would want to return to the law when there is the deliverance of us into Christ by the pure gospel. (Note: We will discuss the subject of Heirs in the next session when we do the exposition on Galatians 4:1-7 and especially verse 7.)