

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 9TH-10TH, 2024 // GALATIANS

FAITH (GALATIANS 3:1-9) "YOU FOOLISH GALATIANS!"

Paul sarcastically asks who had "cast a spell" that would persuade them to think salvation came from any other means than Jesus' work.

- "Foolish" is used because they had seen evidence of the Holy Spirit in their lives before they heard the false teaching of salvation through works.

HOW QUICKLY WE FORGET

Paul also asks if they "experience[d] so much for nothing—if in fact it was for nothing?"

- **If we're not in a consistent relationship with Jesus, seeds of doubt and fear creep in. In this, we forget how much Jesus has done for us, and we start to rely on our abilities vs. His.**

WHAT HAS PRODUCED THE BLESSINGS?

Galatians' theme is touched when Paul asks if the "miracles" in their lives were a result of following the law or God's grace. He answers himself by referring to the salvation of Abraham.

- The Judaizers pointed to the law and circumcision for salvation, but they came 430 years after Abe was saved by God.

"ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU"

Starting with Abe, everyone would be invited into a personal relationship with God. Those who choose **faith and trust in God** will have **righteousness** (morality) "credited" to them, and they will be **justified** (declared good).

- **Sincere faith and trust in Jesus is the path that leads to eternal AND present life.**

THE PROMISE (GALATIANS 3:10-18)

RELIANCE ON SELF IS A "CURSE"

Deuteronomy 27:26 says anyone who doesn't follow the law is cursed. If we're to perfectly follow the law but are incapable, we're cursed. This is why Habakkuk 2:4 says **the righteous will live by faith.**

- **We should strive to uphold the 10 C's but in our realization that we cannot, we must lean on the perfect Savior.**

JESUS TAKES ON THE "CURSE"

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us." This means Jesus purchased us, ended the slavery of being perfect, and took on the weight and responsibility ("curse") of saving humanity.

- **This knowledge should produce love and submission to Jesus, not an excuse to sin.**

FAITH PRECEDED THE LAW

The promise of salvation through faith in God was a binding contract made with Abraham before the law was given. **A relationship with God starts with faith, and the law highlights our need for that relationship.**

- **Relationships cannot be reduced to checklists. It's a matter of heart and desire.**

OUR INHERITANCE

When we put our faith in Jesus, we receive salvation, produce fruit and gifts, and receive provision in this life as we anticipate heaven.

- We are co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17). This is an honor that should inspire us to live a life of gratitude, dedication, and dependency on Jesus!

HEIRS & IDENTITY (GALATIANS 3:19-29)

SO, WHAT IS THE POINT OF THE LAW?

The law cannot save; it can only condemn. In other words, **the 10 C's define what is right and wrong and establish a moral standard.**

- The law was given to Moses because of humanity's *transgressions; violation of duty.* Basically, **God was letting us know we were heading in the wrong direction.**

"PUT INTO EFFECT...BY MEANS OF A MEDIATOR"

The law required two people to live up to the contract, us and God. Again, the problem is we cannot live up to it. On the other hand, faith only requires God to do the work (v. 20).

- The law was given to Moses (a mediator) to define sin until the Seed (Jesus) came and **justified (to be right) us by faith.**

DO THE LAWS CONTRADICT GOD'S PROMISES? (V. 21)

All of the law (ceremonial, social, and moral) points to Jesus. Jesus ended the need for the ceremonial and social.

- **The moral law remains in place to give us direction on how to live and reveal our dependency on Jesus and His grace to accomplish righteousness.**

A "GUARDIAN" UNTIL JESUS CAME (V. 22-26)

Paul says we were "imprisoned" by the law until Jesus liberated us. This wasn't a wholly negative statement. **The law acted as a guard, or "strict nanny," that corrected humanity when it acted improperly.**

- **Laws have the power to correct, but not to change the heart and save people. THE OT IS LIKE AN ARROW POINTING TO JESUS**

So, the law acted as a guide to Jesus, Who would come to save, change, and restore those who trusted Him.

- People have always been saved by faith (Romans 4), and **the revelation of Christ further clarified just how dependent we must be on God's work for salvation!**

FINDING OUT WHO WE REALLY ARE (V. 26-29)

Through faith, we become God's children and discover that **we are more than our color, gender, nationality, or social standing.**

- **Finding identity in anything other than Who we're made in the image of (Genesis 1:27) will result in unmanageable frustration, depression, anxiety, and discontentment.**
- True faith in Jesus will be expressed through obedience. One step of obedience is baptism, where we are "clothed" with Christ.
- When we choose faith in Christ, we become "Abraham's seed, heirs" and **receive the same promise of salvation and transformation through Jesus.**

AVOIDING FOOLISH FORGETFULNESS

- Like the Galatians, **if we become apathetic in our relationship with Jesus, we open the door for doubt and fear to creep in because we have forgotten all Jesus has done for us in the past.**
- When that happens, we rely more on our abilities and ideas rather than God's.

SELF-RELIANCE IS A CURSE!

- The problem with self-reliance or treating faith as a checklist is it is destined to lead us to failure and disappointment.
- Fortunately, **Jesus came to take on the burden of living a perfect, all-knowing life for our benefit.** We must simply put our complete faith and trust in Him.

THE BENEFITS OF KNOWING WHO WE ARE

In the pursuit of **Who God is we also discover who we are.** We learn we're more than color, gender, nationality, or social standing. We are the only thing created in the image of God!

- **Knowing our true identity gives us security, confidence, hope, peace, and freedom from the affirmation trap.**

FAITH - OBEDIENCE - INHERITANCE

- When we place genuine faith in Jesus it will be expressed through obedience. **Through obedience we are "clothed" with Christ.** This means He completely surrounds us.
- **Our obedience to Jesus unlocks the inheritance He desires for us, both in this life and in eternity.**

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

- The Galatians had taken Jesus' work for granted, and in doing so, forgot who they were.
- Do we know who we are? In whose image do we fashion our lives? Who or what are we reliant on?
- If we claim identity in Jesus, are we "clothed" with Him so we can live in His promises?