

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 10TH, 2024 // GALATIANS

## EXPERIENCE (GALATIANS 3:1-9) AUTHORITY

Paul spent the first two chapters establishing his authority, the origin of the gospel, and his willingness to protect and share the true gospel at any cost.

- **What are we willing to stand for? Do we know why we should stand? What would our story look like?**

## FOOLISH GALATIANS

After sharing his convictions, Paul lays down a solid rebuke to the Galatian church. It may look like he is asking them a series of questions, but they are rhetorical, and each one reveals a powerful truth that should have kept them from being led astray.

## WHO CAST A SPELL?

This is the first-century church. They knew that Jesus had been crucified and resurrected from the dead. They **KNEW** He was alive. They never would have been fooled if they had kept their thoughts on this one truth.

- **How often do we consider the power of Christ's resurrection?**

## WHAT ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

In verses 2 & 5, Paul reminds them that God had given them His Spirit and that He continued to work through the Spirit in their lives because they believed (Christ as their Savior), not because they kept the law (were good).

- **Seeing God's power in our lives can make us think we are powerful.**

## FINISHING BY THE FLESH?

In verses 3 & 4, Paul says it's foolish to believe that obeying the law and "being good" is why the Spirit worked in and around them.

- **God gives salvation. God gives His Spirit. God changes us. God works through us. Do we think we can do this alone? Maybe that's our problem.**

## WHAT ABOUT FAITH?

Paul reminds them that faith came before the law. Abraham believed and was saved, and **EVERYONE** who would believe (have faith) in God would be saved and blessed.

- **The law didn't save Abraham. Faith is trusting and believing God adopts us into His family, and we are forgiven.**

## PROMISE (GALATIANS 3:10-18) ON THE OTHER HAND

Some still believed that the law was the key to salvation. One problem: No one could keep ALL the laws. But that didn't keep them from trying.

- **Being "good" doesn't make us "good with God." Maybe we're satisfied with "good enough," but that isn't God's standard.**

## RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

Because no one could keep ALL the law, faith in the law was impossible. Paul had been freed from the curse of "faith in the law." Christ fulfilled the requirements and bore the curse for us.

- **Righteousness doesn't come from being good; it comes from believing Christ did something we couldn't do.**

## AN OLD, UNBREAKABLE PROMISE

Just like you can't change a will, Paul says that the promise God made to Abraham wasn't replaced with the law, it was fulfilled in Christ.

- **Abraham had faith in God's promise. The promise is Christ. Faith in Christ has ALWAYS been the ONLY way to a relationship with God.**

## PURPOSE (GALATIANS 3:19-29)

### WHY WAS THE LAW GIVEN?

Paul's simple answer: to show us how far from perfect we are.

- **Would we know we are breaking the law if it was never written? Can we be held accountable for laws that aren't written? The law wasn't written to bind us; it was written to reveal who we are without Christ.**

## LESS THAN THE PROMISE

Paul says that the law has a purpose but comes through mediators and requires multiple parties to fulfill its terms to keep it valid. The promise was directly from God and dependent solely on God.

- **Does this mean that the law is worthless?**

## ABSOLUTELY NOT!

Sure, the law couldn't give life or righteousness. But it does reveal everyone's need for a Savior.

- **The law prevents any attempt on our part to find righteousness before God in any other way than through Christ! Where we fail, Christ succeeds!**

## UNTIL CHRIST

Until the time of faith in Christ, everyone was imprisoned by the law, like children with a strict nanny.

- **Today, people still live in bondage to the law, making the law their god and criticizing everyone who doesn't follow their god. At best, it's immature. At worst, it's lostness.**

## HEIRS

When faith in Christ came, they found freedom from the law and became children of God, one in Christ Jesus.

- **As children of God, it's time to take off the old prison clothes and live in the righteousness of Christ. What keeps us from living like God has kept His promise?**

## UNBELIEVABLE

- Some things are hard to believe.
- **Most of the time, it's because we know it's something we can't do.**
- **We can't be perfect. Even if we had better, more detailed directions, we would still fail. Jesus came to live in this world, but He is not like us.**

## PERFECT

- Christ IS perfect.
- **As far as God's standard (perfection), we cannot expect to meet it.**
- **Jesus was always God's perfect plan to fulfill His promise. Why are we still trying to "rise to the occasion" and be "good enough?"**

## JUSTIFIED

- Christ became the curse for us.
- **Living like we're cursed is foolish.**
- **As followers of Christ, we are forgiven and given the righteousness of Christ. It's not freedom from sin; it's freedom from sin. The law and conviction should make us love Christ and His sacrifice even more. Will we live like we believe it's real?**