

Galatians 3

V.1-2

- this church that Paul founded is now in danger of falling back under the law
 - Paul started this church on a solid foundation but others have crept in since he has been gone
 - they have misled the people and convinced them that in order to be saved, they had to obey the law
 - people at this time were much more susceptible to going back to the law than we are today
 - that was their way of life for thousands of years
 - before Jesus was crucified, people held to the law
 - it was a huge change for them so it was easy to fall back into it because it was so familiar
- Paul doesn't belittle them
 - he assumes that they have all received the Holy Spirit
 - if any of these believers were at Pentecost, they will remember exactly how they received the Spirit
 - not only were people receiving the Spirit by hearing with faith, but everyone heard in their own language

V.3

- this is obviously a rhetorical question
 - the two are completely incompatible

V.4-5

- Paul knows that when this group of believers was sincere and genuine, they had to suffer for their faith
 - now that they are reverting to the law, Paul is asking them if they went through all that for nothing
- Paul is determined to make them understand the difference between the works of the law and hearing by the Spirit
 - the Law cannot work miracles
 - all it can do is show us how sinful we are
 - It was given by God but it isn't God Himself
- The Spirit was sent by God and is God
 - this is why miracles can be performed by the Spirit
- Paul keeps talking about hearing with faith
 - what exactly is he referring to?
[Rom 10:17](#) So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
- the Word of Christ, the bible, is the way to build our faith

V.6

- Abraham was a great man of God without question
 - but there is one act of obedience that lands him in the hall of faith in Heb. 11
 - it wasn't that he was the father of the Israelites
 - or that that he was called the friend of God
 - it was the fact that he had the faith to trust God above everything else
 - God called Abraham and his son Isaac on a journey where Isaac was to lead his son up on a mountain, put him on an altar and sacrifice him
 - without grumbling, without hesitation and without question, Abraham followed God's instructions

-Abraham knew that this was a problem because God told him that through Isaac all the families of the earth would be blessed

-and with Isaac dead, God's promise wouldn't come true

-and this is where his remarkable faith is recorded

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*;

Heb 11:18 *it was he* to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED."

Heb 11:19 He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

-So when it says "Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.", this is what it is referring to;

-the fact that Abraham believed that God was so faithful that if he sacrificed Isaac, God would raise him from the dead in order to keep His promise that all families of the earth would be blessed through him

V.7

-When Paul tells them to "be sure", he isn't telling them to double check to make sure, he is saying that "you can count on it"

-it is not only the physical descendants of Abraham who are his sons

-it is anyone who is of the faith

-so if you are a believer, feel free to say you are a descendant of Abraham

V.8

-some say that God is unfair because in the Old Testament, He only loved the Israelites and opposed all the gentiles

-when this verse says that "all the nations will be blessed in you" it's not only talking about gentiles after Jesus died

-God's grace was as available to those in the Old Testament as it is today

-instead of pouring out His wrath on the wicked gentiles of Nineveh, God went to great lengths to send Jonah there to preach the gospel to them

-they repented and hundreds of thousands were saved

-God isn't willing that any would perish but that all would come to repentance

-it is only those who reject Him that are under His wrath

V.9

-we don't often think of Abraham as "the believer"

-we think of him as "a friend of God"

-"the father of our faith"

-the truth is that he looked forward in faith to the cross for salvation the same as we look back on it

-he wasn't saved by sacrifices or keeping the law

-the law wasn't even given until 600 years later

V.10

-people think they are doing something good by trying to keep the law

-they are actually under a curse if they try

-there is no possible way anyone can keep the entire law

-if you don't keep it perfectly, you are guilty

-**Jas 2:10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.

Rom 3:10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

-so people trying to keep the law really need to examine these verses and realize that they are not exempt from what they are saying

V.11

-the law is the direct opposite of faith

-keeping the law says "I can do it on my own"

-I can work hard, follow the rules, be good and then I don't need God"

-faith says "I can't do it on my own"

-"no matter how hard I try, I fall short"

-"I need a perfect God to intervene in my life and save me from my sins"

V.12

-all those who claim they live by the law don't realize what they are getting themselves into

-if you choose to live by the Law, you will be required to keep the entire law, not just the bits and pieces you like

-and not only are you required then to keep the Law, but now you will be judged by it as well

-**Joh 12:48** "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

-I think the main reason people try to keep the Law today is the same reasons the Pharisees did in the time of Jesus

-to be noticed by other people

-so others would say "wow, they are so spiritual"

-it is all rooted in pride and pride is one of the most destructive sins known to man

-Pride was the original sin that caused Lucifer to rebel against God

Isa 14:12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!

Isa 14:13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.

Isa 14:14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

V.13-14

-God never planned for man to live by the Law

-if He thought that man would be able to keep the Law, He would not have given them priests and systems of sacrifice to take away their sins after breaking the law

-**Rom 3:20** because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

-the Law was given to point out our sin, not to save us from it

-**Rom 8:3** For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

-not only did Jesus take our sins upon Himself at the cross, but He actually became sin

2Co 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- this was the fulfillment of Numbers 21
- the Israelites are being attacked and killed by serpents and God says:
Num 21:8 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery *serpent*, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live."
 - instead of serpents, it is sin that is attacking and killing us
 - so God made Jesus become sin and raised Him up on the cross so that all that look to Him will be saved
 - why did He have to become sin?
 - why not just be content with dying for our sins?
 - By becoming sin, He was able to destroy sin through death
- Rom 6:10** For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

V.15-16

- All the way back in the second chapter of the first book of the bible, God promised that Abraham's seed would bring blessings to all nations of the earth

- Gen 22:18** "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

V.17-18

- The covenant he is referring to is the one made between God and Abraham
 - the covenant that says that through him, all the families of the earth will be blessed
 - when the law was given to Moses 4.0 years later, it didn't invalidate the promise God made with Abraham

V.19

- So Paul asks a great question now
 - Why the Law?
 - we talk so much about the law not being meant for this and that
 - if the law wasn't meant to save us and didn't come to take the place of a previous covenant God had with man, why did God even bother giving it to us?
 - it was given because of transgressions
 - it seems that as time went on and the world got more populated, man could no longer govern themselves
 - without guidelines, everyone did what he thought was right in his own eyes
 - If God wouldn't have given the law, there would have been nothing to stop people from stealing, killing and abusing each other
 - you could compare it to a small town
 - at first, everyone knows everyone
 - they all work together for common goals
 - no traffic lights are needed because everyone respects each other and they all work together
 - as time goes on and the town gets bigger, traffic gets more congested in the streets
 - people get in a hurry and become more selfish
 - they don't all have a personal relationship with each other
 - since there are no traffic rules, they all do what serves their interest best
 - they don't stop for each other
 - they drive dangerously fast through town
 - so now laws are needed because of their transgressions

-the traffic laws don't make them all perfect drivers, but serves as a deterrent from breaking the rules

-it's interesting that he says the law was ordained by angels

-it isn't mentioned in Exodus when Moses receives the Ten Commandments but Stephen mentions it twice in his speech in Acts

Act 7:38 "This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and *who was* with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.

Act 7:53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and *yet* did not keep it."

V.20-21

-Paul is determined to say it as many ways as possible that righteousness does not come through the law

-IF the Law was able to impart life, then we would be required to keep the Law

V.22

-Everyone is guilty according to the scriptures

- **Rom 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 3:10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

-the only way to escape the condemnation of the Law is through faith in Jesus Christ

-God has made it so simple

-this is probably why so many people have a hard time with the Gospel

-people tend to want to earn something

-they want to be in control

-accepting the gospel means relying completely on Jesus and not on what you can do

V.23-24

-Before Christ, God's people were kept in custody by the Law

-the law was to be their guide but the priests and sacrifices were put in place to cover the sins that were committed because God knew no one could keep the law

-The animals that were sacrificed to cover the sins of the people were a picture type of what was to come through Jesus

Heb 10:1 For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.

-the law is our tutor

-it teaches us what we should do and gives us a moral compass

-but it cannot save us

-alike traffic laws, what it does is tells us what is expected and then gives us consequences when we don't obey

-those consequences are sometimes painful but that is to discourage us from breaking the same law again

-if I break the speed limit and get a \$500 ticket, you can bet I will watch my speed in the future

V.25

-Paul compares it to a marriage covenant

Rom 7:2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

Rom 7:3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

Rom 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

Rom 7:5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were *aroused* by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

Rom 7:6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

V.26-27

-so what does it mean to be "clothed in Christ" and how important is it really?

-listen to a story Jesus told:

Mat 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.

Mat 22:3 "And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come.

Mat 22:4 "Again he sent out other slaves saying, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are *all* butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.'"

Mat 22:5 "But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business,

Mat 22:6 and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them.

Mat 22:7 "But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire.

Mat 22:8 "Then he *said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

Mat 22:9 'Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find *there*, invite to the wedding feast.'

Mat 22:10 "Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.

Mat 22:11 "But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes,

Mat 22:12 and he *said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless.

Mat 22:13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Rom 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

-God makes available the kingdom of heaven freely to all who wish to enter but you must be clothed in Christ to enter

-If we are not in Christ, our sins are not removed

-sin cannot be tolerated in the presence of God

V.28

-Christ is the great equalizer

-in this world, we have to deal with all the struggles that come with class warfare

-society is always divided up into groups of people depending on their wealth, influence or popularity

- this doesn't just happen with adults
- it's amazing to watch this take place as kids go through school
- the first few years of elementary, all the kids are innocent and oblivious to this
- but as they get older, they tend to gravitate more to people of the same social class as them
- and this only seems to get worse as life goes on
- then you have religious groups who divide their people into caste systems like the Hindus
- and being a Dalit on the lowest rung of their social ladder means you are not much better than an animal
- Paul says that in Christ, there is no such thing as social clubs, or a pecking order
- in Christ, we are all the same
- this became very clear to me on my walk to Emmaus
- at an evening prayer time, we all went to the front to spend time in prayer and it became very clear to me that the wealthy and the poor that night were all the same before Christ

Rom 2:10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.

V.29

- It is no longer just the children of Abraham, the Jews, who are God's chosen people
- if you are a believer in Christ, you are a descendant of Abraham and the promise pertains to you