

# GALATIANS

NO OTHER GOSPEL

# Three Things about Three Things in Ch. 3

Week 6 (3X2): Galatians Book Study

# Book of Galatians

## *Freedom in Christ*

Week	Section	Topic	Teacher
1: May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Galatians Intro	Paul's Background & Introduction	Ron Grebe
2: May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Galatians 1:1-10	Greeting & No Other Gospel	Ron Grebe
3: May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Galatians 1:11-24	Paul Called by God	Stew Bruner
4: May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Galatians 2:1-10	Paul Accepted by the Apostles	Adam Collins
5: May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Galatians 2:11-21	Paul Opposes Peter	Mike Gann
<b>6: June 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Galatians 3:1-14</b>	<b>By Faith or Works of the Law</b>	<b>Stew Bruner</b>
7: June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Galatians 3:15-29	The Law and the Promise	Ron Grebe
8: June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Galatians 4:1-20	Sons and Heirs & Paul's Concern	Mike Gann
9: June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Galatians 4:21-31	Example of Hagar and Sarah	Grant Phipps
10: July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Galatians 5:1-15	Christ Has Set Us Free	Ron Grebe
11: July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Galatians 5:16-26	Keep in Step with the Spirit	Grant Phipps
12: July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Galatians 6:1-10	Bear One Another's Burdens	Mike Gann
13: July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Galatians 6:11-18	Final Warning and Conclusion	Ron Grebe

# Galatians

- In Galatians, Paul aggressively defends his **apostolic authority** and the gospel of grace against "**false teachers**" claiming that Gentile Christians must follow Jewish laws (circumcision) to be saved.
- Paul turns the corner from defense to offense in Ch. 3:

Galatians		
Chapters 1-2 <b>Defense of Authority</b>	Chapters 3-4 <b>Justification by Faith</b>	Chapters 5-6 <b>Freedom and the Spirit</b>
Paul defends his apostolic calling and asserts that his gospel message came directly from Jesus Christ, not men.	Righteousness comes through faith, just as Abraham was justified, not by adhering to the law. The law was a temporary guardian until Christ arrived.	Believers are called to freedom, not to use it as an opportunity for the flesh, but to walk in the Spirit, producing "fruits" such as love, joy, and peace.

# The Judaizers' Mindset (Week 3 Reprise)

- Premise: Hello, Jesus was JEWISH!
  - Premise: Jesus was a Jewish rabbi
    - Devout Jews have long followed leading rabbis
  - Premise: 'The Way' is just another Jewish sect
    - "Jesus Followers" are categorized like Essenes or Zealots or Pharisees
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- Conclusion: "Dance with who brung you" (aka Moses & The Law)

# Overview of Week 6

1. Contrasting “the hearing of faith” with the works of the Law
  - Contrary Gospels (moralism, humanism, materialism)
  - Table of contrasts
2. What’s the big deal about Abraham?
  - Obedience or belief - -chicken and egg?
  - Walking by faith 430 years early
3. The real, live curse of the Law
  - How do you apply it?
  - Practical application in my life

*How do you reconcile grace with law?*

*Which are you more tempted to go overboard with?*

*Why do you think that is?*

# Galatians 3:1-5

<sup>1</sup> You **foolish** Galatians, who has **bewitched** you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was **publicly portrayed** *as* crucified? <sup>2</sup> This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup> Are you so **foolish**? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? <sup>4</sup> Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? <sup>5</sup> So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

# Some Greek Words

- Bewitched = *baskainō* lit. “enchantment” but more led astray, confused
- Publicly portrayed = *prographō* made known beforehand, written in earlier times, see Col 1:21-23 for larger context (the cross)
- (The) Hearing with (of) faith = *akoē pistis* (separate slide)
- Foolish = *anoētos* “lit. “unthinking/thoughtless” but more like failure to ‘put 2 and 2 together’ rather than ‘stupid’
- Being perfected = *epiteleō* lit. “to bring to an end or finish”

# Paul's Important Contrasts

Paul	Judaizers
Faith Alone	Belief w/Obedience aka 'Circumcision'
Spirit	"Flesh Works"
Abraham / Men of Faith Anywhere	Law of Moses / National Identity
True Gospel	Contrary Gospel (The Law is Salvation)
Christ is the fulfillment of the Law (Rom 10:4)	The Law must be lived out
Passive Righteousness	Active Righteousness

# The Key Question

Does He who provides you with the Spirit and works of power do so by the Law or by (the) **hearing** with (of) faith (verse 2 in KJV/RSV)?

- Various translations:
  - by your believing what you heard -- NIV
  - by your hearing based on trust and faithfulness – Tree of Life
  - because you believe confidently in the message which you heard with faith -- Amplified
  - because you have believed the Gospel – JB Phillips
- Adam's point: the same means and method applies to both conversion and growth!
  - “[God’s] Spirit is supplied to Christians not only at the beginning (to believe) but throughout their whole life (to sanctify them)” – Interpreter’s Bible

# A Practical Experience

From Blue Letter Bible commentary (read by Stew)

Don't get sidetracked! What is your reaction to this leader's experience?

*Chuck Smith, Calvary Chapel, Galatians Commentary, c.2000*

# Galatians 3:6-9

- <sup>6</sup> Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, *saying*, “ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.” <sup>9</sup> So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

# Father Abraham: Faith or Obedience?

Paul's Interp. versus The Judaizers

## Old Testament Refs

1. Gen 15:6

2. Gen 12:3

3. Gen 18:17-18

## New Testament Refs

1. Romans 4:10

2. Acts 3:22-26 (2<sup>nd</sup> sermon)

3. Romans 4:16-18

# Galatians 3:10-14

- <sup>17</sup> For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a **curse**; for it is written, “**CURSED** IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.” <sup>11</sup> Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, “**THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**” <sup>12</sup> However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, “**HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM.**” <sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the **curse** of the Law, having become a **curse** for us—for it is written, “**CURSED** IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”— <sup>14</sup> in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

# Paul's References in Part 3

## Old Testament

1. Deut 27:26
2. Hab 2:4
3. Lev 18:5
4. Deut 21:22-23

## New Testament

1. James 2:10
2. Hebrews 10:38 (quoted)
3. 2Cor 5:21
4. Acts 5:30 lit. 'wood'

# Let's Talk Curses

*What exactly is a curse? 'katara' in Gr.*

- English – “calling down evil or injury on someone or something” related to “*curuz*” from Anglo-French, translated “wrath”
- “In Paul’s world a curse was believed to be a living entity which generated a poison atmosphere around its victim.” – Interpreter’s Bible
- Begun by God Himself! Gen 3:14 (serpent) then Gen 4:11 (Cain)
- Law of Moses forbids it against God, father or mother, (Deut. 27) and the deaf, curiously (Lev 19:14)
- There is a prophetic or predictive sense to the spoken words of it

*Have you ever actually been cursed or felt cursed?*

A curse without cause does not alight/come. – Prov 26:2

*How does one break a curse?*

What if someone would take it on your behalf?

Stew's Gal 3:13 revelation: Jesus took on every curse ever spoken over me in my place on the cross, so they are broken!

Conversely, is Matt 27:25 the epitome of curses?

If Time, Stew's Experience of Being Cursed

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