

## Sermon #6: Galatians 3:1-9

3.1.26

### BREAKING THE ICE

Have you ever started a project with great enthusiasm but then tried to finish it using a completely different (and wrong) set of tools? Or followed a recipe but used a different ingredient? What happened?

### UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

*Read the Passage: Galatians 3:1-9*

1. Look at verses 1-3.
  - a. How does Paul address the Galatians in **verse 1**? What does this reveal about how seriously he views the Judaizer' teaching?
  - b. What specific question does Paul ask in **verse 2** regarding how they received the Spirit? How does that question challenge how they received the Spirit?
  - c. What illogical shift is Paul addressing with the Galatians in **verse 3**? Who does the work of salvation and sanctification? Explain.
2. Many early Christians were mistreated by the Jewish religious leaders. With that understanding, reflect on **verse 4**. What weight do those struggles have in relation to Christ?
3. In **Galatians 3:5**, Paul asks what basis God used to perform miracles among the believers. After reading **Galatians 3:5** and **Acts 8:4-8**, what do these passages suggest about how and why God worked miracles in the early church?
4. Read **verses 6-9**. Then Read **Romans 4**.
  - a. How does Paul use **Genesis 15:6** to support his argument that justification comes by faith and not by works of the law? (Consider where Abraham fits in biblical history and when the Law was given)
  - b. According to **verse 7**, who are the true "sons of Abraham"?
  - c. What did the Scripture foresee in **verse 8**?
  - d. What promise was given to Abraham in **verse 8** regarding the nations?
  - e. In **verse 9**, what is the result for those who are "of faith"?
  - f. To get a deeper understanding of how Abraham "believed God," read **Romans 4** and list the ways "Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness."

### SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Jesus was judged by the Jewish religious leaders for associating with those they considered unclean and for breaking the Sabbath. Yet when He hung on the cross, He was the perfect and unblemished sacrifice for sin. Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified before their eyes. The foundation of salvation was not circumcision, not obedience to the law of Moses, and not religious effort - it was the cross of Christ. The blessing promised to Abraham, that all nations would be blessed through him, is fulfilled in Jesus. Through Him, God justifies all who believe by faith, not by works of the law.

- How does Christ's finished work for your salvation move you to quickly accept those who trust in Jesus without requiring additional conditions for their acceptance?

## **MAKING IT MATTER**

1. How can remembering your own experience of trusting in Christ—when you first realized salvation was a gift, not something earned—help protect you from slipping back into a performance-based mindset?
2. In what ways might Christians today be tempted to add extra requirements to faith in Christ for acceptance with God? Consider how we sometimes speak about baptism, communion, church attendance, or specific Bible versions. How might these become unspoken “tests” of genuine faith rather than expressions of it?
3. Have you ever spent time with believers from a different culture or with people who were new to faith and found yourself feeling uncomfortable with something about their lifestyle, language, or appearance (for example tattoos, living situations, or other differences)? Did that discomfort come from a true spiritual concern, or from personal or cultural expectations about what a Christian “should” look or act like? How did you respond, and what does this reveal about the kinds of unspoken rules or standards we sometimes create—similar to the way the Jewish religious leaders did?
4. Paul reminds us that we cannot be perfected by human effort if we began by the Spirit. In what areas of your spiritual life are you trying to grow primarily through willpower rather than depending on the Holy Spirit?

## **PRAYING FOR GOD’S POWER**

“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” - 1 John 5:14-15 When we pray according to God’s will, it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these truths in our own strength, it becomes legalistic obedience. But when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational and glorifies Him.

- Share one specific application from today’s lesson you would like to see transformed in your life. Take time to pray that God would transform you as you trust Him in this area.