

## Book of Galatians –Teaching #5

We are continuing on our path to understand the book of Galatians, and we are looking at **chapter 3** starting in **verse 6**. To understand Paul's argument here, he is stating that Abraham was saved by faith, and not by works. And that God would save the Gentiles in the same manner.

Not by works, but by belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.

So many believers today are caught up in this same conundrum, that is that if they live right, refrain from evil against their neighbor, do all that they can to help folks in need, pay their bills and don't kill anyone, this behavior is accepted by God, and will ensure their entrance into heaven (if they believe in heaven at all), and most are not sure.

As stated last time, Paul is using scripture to back up his argument.

Paul uses the argument that the rules (the Law) given to the Jews some 400 years after Abraham was given the promises made by God, so how could these promises come to anyone who is hell bent on keeping the law?

Abraham's righteousness before the Lord was obtained in the same manner in which we become righteous. By believing God – period.

Striving to live a life you deem pleasing to God in order to obtain a position with Him is born in the pit of hell.

Keeping the law (rules to live by) is like expecting to "drain the swamp" by electing people who got us in this mess in the first place.

Again, according to the book of Hebrews, the faith that saved him was his believing somehow in the resurrection of his son Isaac. Knowing that when God told him to sacrifice his "only" son, that somehow God would raise him from the dead. As far as Abraham was concerned, his son Isaac was dead when that command came to "offer him up as a sacrifice".

Abraham believed that his son Isaac would have children, and now through that belief, the problem was no longer Abraham's. It was God's -. **Hebrews 11:12**

You and I receive all of our blessings through Abraham as well. That is what **verse 9** is saying; *"So then those who are of faith (belief in the Lord Jesus Christ) are blessed with believing Abraham."*

Paul uses an interesting word here in the Greek for "children" in **verse 7** - it is the word 'Huios' which is not children- but "sons". The Son of man which is the term Jesus uses of Himself, which denotes weakness and mortality, and speaks of his messiahship. Head of the human race, showing forth the "perfect" man who can act on behalf of all mankind. The man, in our place, if you will. He is acting both collectively and

individually of every man. In the first case Jesus came as the “suffering” one, but one day will come as the “ruling” one. Obviously at His second coming. Praise His Name.

Interesting and blessed side note here beloved from **Genesis chapter 22** where you find the story of Abraham, his two servants and Isaac His only son are to be offered as a sacrifice to God.

As you read the story here, we should note that Isaac was probably in his 30” s and not a teenage boy as some would suppose. Isaac looked at his dad and said in **verse 7**, *“look we have the fire and the wood, but where is the offering?”*

Abraham’s response was brilliant – God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.

God did provide for Himself – His only Son Jesus Christ – the lamb of God as the sacrifice for all sin of all mankind. Abraham knew he was acting out a prophetic word and somehow God would make it alright.

You remember the story from **Genesis 22**. However, after God provided the ram as the actual sacrifice and told Abraham to withhold the knife and do not touch the boy, Abraham named the place “The Lord will provide” **verse 14**, but in **verse 19** it says that Abraham returned to the two men who came with him and they returned to Beersheba.

No mention of Isaac. Why?

From the scripture, Isaac is withheld from the scripture from the time of his offering, until the time he meets his bride. Why is that?

Beloved, Isaac is a type of Christ. Presently Christ is in the heavens with His Father, and will not be on the scene until He is united with His bride (the Church). You will note further that during this time the unnamed servant (The Holy Spirit) is searching for a bride for the Son.

Beloved, that is where we are in scripture today. Jesus with the Father, building a house for His bride, the Holy Spirit is moving throughout the earth in search for a bride (the Church) for His Son, to be presented soon to the bridegroom (Jesus) in the heavenlies.

Halleluiah...

Look at **verse 18 of Genesis 22**. A prophetic word for sure, for in the acts of Abraham **ALL** the nations of the earth shall be blessed. Not just Israel, but all nations of the earth. Get it?

Keep in mind if you will what these Judaizers were now facing (**Acts 15**) Not just the Jews – God’s chosen people” but all the folks on this earth were to be blessed by faithful Abraham. Had to be a blow to them beloved, just think about it for a moment.

You might ask yourself at this juncture, why has God not judged the United States of America. As a nation, it is not mentioned that I am aware of, in scripture.

I believe the answer is in **Genesis 12** verse **3**, “I will bless those who bless you (Israel) and curse him who curses you.

That is the reason why we support Israel – period. It is to maintain God’s blessing on our land. Not because of our superior might, or our moral compass (which seems to be somewhat off these days) nor your Christian Churches throughout the land, no it is because we support Israel – and by the way, we need to continue to do.

Much more could be said about this, especially the move afoot to “divide up the land” We do not want to go there – period. God gave the land presently occupied by Israel to them in a covenant setting, and by the way, much more than they presently occupy. Much of the Middle East will be under their feet one day.

Now as we continue to look at the rationale that Paul uses to persuade in his argument, he uses scripture to fulfill that arena.

Paul uses the authenticity of scripture to complete his argument. He uses scripture to speak as though God were speaking (which of course, He is) whatever the bible says, God is saying.

Side note here beloved. When Paul speaks about scripture, he quotes it as being ‘God speaking’ We would do well to understand the absolute authority and total inspiration of scripture. A few examples – **John 10:35b**, **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16** “all scripture is given by *inspiration* of God. - literally it means “God breathed”

It is further interesting in **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16** that it says that all scripture is profitable for **1)doctrine** – ie how to determine if something is right, **2)reproof** – telling you that something is not right **#3) correction** telling us how to get it right and **4)instruction in righteousness** or how to stay right.

Now I want to dig down on something real important in verse **10**. Let me list it here; *for as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse, for it is written “cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”*

What on earth could this mean? No one I know wants to live under a curse

One brother put it this way – consider the “law” as a chain. If you break one link in that chain, it will no longer hold you up.

That is the way of the law. It must be kept in every way. If not kept in every way, the chain will break and the law becomes a problem for you. For that chain to be effective, every link must do its share. Break one part, the chain is useless.

That is what Paul is saying in **Romans 7 verses 7 & following**; We note: *What shall we say then, is the law sin? Certainly not, on the contrary* (there is nothing wrong with the

law) the problem is me – I can't keep it. *Paul goes on to say; I would not have known sin except through the law., for I would not have known covertness unless the law had said: "you shall not covet, but sin taking opportunity by the commandment produced in me all manner of evil desire, for apart from the law sin was dead.*

Verse **10 of Galatians 3** says; "*cursed is everyone who does not continue in ALL things*" – not most, but all - One can't say, I have kept some, some might even say *most things*, but scripture says it must be **all things**.

It is like saying- well, most of the links held, as you are falling toward the pit. But if one link fails – oops you are guilty of breaking them all.

Do we understand? You have heard this example before I am sure, but it is like the guy who throws himself off of the tall building, and someone yells out to him as he passes the 35 floor – How you doing Tom? And my response would be **-I am doing ok so far.....**

Look at the next verse – "*but that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith.*"

Why is it evident? Because when you are honest with yourself as Paul was here in Romans when he realized he had not kept all of the commandments in his heart, I have one broken link – and I am sunk – I am falling

In verse **10 of Galatians 3**, Paul is quoting from **Deuteronomy 27:28** – the curse was upon anyone who failed to keep any part of the law.

The breaking of one portion of the command only once, brings the person under a curse. That is what **Deuteronomy**; is saying. And since everyone is guilty of breaking just one portion of the law, he is guilty of breaking the entire law.

The best thing the law could do was not curse you if you were perfect in all things. And, of course, we are not.

So to conclude in verse **11 of Galatians 3**; *No one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith.....*

This little verse – "the just shall live by faith" changed the entire world and caused a giant upheaval throughout the world. It changed the history of mankind. It is what the "reformation period" was all about.

This quote was from **Habakkuk 2:4** and is the verse that changed a man called Martin Luther who was pressed with the question that if God is really good, how can He allow suffering? How can a "Holy God" ever have fellowship with sinful man? How can a Holy God, forgive the sins of man?

Of course, we know the answer to this, He Himself through His Son Jesus, paid the price for all sin through the death of His Son Jesus on the cross. "Paid in full"

A comment please on the phrase “the just shall live by faith” Quoted in Romans, Galatians and Hebrews.

Who are the just? The book of **Romans** nails this question. Quoted in **Romans 1:17** Well how shall the just live? The Book of **Galatians** nails this down – **chapter 3:11 in Chapters 5&6 we will discover just “how the justified live”** which is the culmination of how being justified, we now live? And of course, the answer is in **Hebrews 10:39**– the just shall live **by faith**.

**Just as a side note here** – Because Paul outlines this verse in **Romans, Galatians and Hebrews**, this is the main reason why I believe that Paul wrote Hebrews

Looking at verse **12 of Galatians 3** we note Paul saying: “*yet the law is not of faith” but the man who does them shall live by them.*” Oops...

Proving that the two are unreconcilable. Oil and water – can’t be mixed.

The book of **James 2:10** sums up the situation – “for whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all

To finish this subject for today, I want to look at one final verse. **Verse 13 of chapter 3 Galatians** *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us.* The word redeemed here means to “buy out of slavery”. Christ became the lawbreaker to redeem all of we lawbreakers from the curse upon us, and thereby became a curse for us.

Pretty remarkable don’t you think?

More later...

[www.TomMorrisonGodcast.com](http://www.TomMorrisonGodcast.com)