

Book of Galatians – Lesson #6

A couple of interesting facts beloved before we get into the lesson.

Looking at verse **13 of Galatians 3**, “*cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*” The word tree here does not mean a tree with leaves etc. It is an actual piece of wood, not usually a tree, but like a gallows or crosses.

In the Old Testament, criminals were usually killed by stoning. After death, they were displayed on a stake or post to show everyone of God’s divine rejection.

In **Psalm 22**, you have a perfect enactment of what takes place in a person who is crucified on a cross.

It is interesting that it is written by David some 700 years before crucifixion was even thought of as a means of killing someone- invented by the Persians and then further used by the Romans.

Further it is written in such a manner as it would be in the *first-person singular*. I.e. As though Jesus was writing it Himself as He was experiencing this horrendous method of dying. Further it describes what takes place within the body as death is near. **Verse 14:** *I am poured out like water, and all of my bones are out of joint, my heart is like wax, it has melted within me, my strength is like a potsherd (word means anything severed, as a fragment of earthenware) My tongue clings to my jaws, You have brought me to the dust of death, I can count all of my bones etc.*

Question – When was Christ made a curse for us? It wasn’t during his upbringing, it wasn’t during His ministry, it wasn’t even during the first 3 hours He hung on the cross for it was at that time *that He offered up Himself without blemish*, scripture says. It was during the last three hours. According to **Isaiah 53: 10** it was at that time that He was made a curse for us. It says: “*Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him, He has put Him to grief, when you made His soul an offering for sin, He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sins of many.*”

You want to examine something I think very interesting?

If you look at **Numbers 21** you have a situation where the children of Israel murmured against Moses telling Him he had brought them out of Egypt only to die in the wilderness., even grumbling against this “loathsome bread”: which fell from heaven 6 days a week to sustain them, which we know this to be Jesus the bread of life so this grumbling disturbed the Lord so He sent fiery serpents among the people and everyone who was bitten by these snakes, died.

The people repented in verse **7 of Numbers 21**, so God gave Moses the solution for healing. **Verse 8** says; The Lord said to Moses; “, Make a **fiery** (brass) serpent, set it up on a pole, and so it was that if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he/she looked upon that serpent on the pole, he shall live. Moses did as he was told, made it out of

brass (which speaks of judgment) and everyone who looked upon that serpent, was healed.

You can read the entire Old Testament to figure what this was all about, and you get no answer. However when you get to Hezekiah in **2 Kings 18:; 4** this king broke the serpent on a pole because it was still around and they were worshipping it, and you hear nothing about it nor are you able to understand it until you get to **John 3 vs 14** where Jesus has the encounter with Nicodemus and tells him in **verse 14** *“as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so the Son of man is lifted up and whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

And you begin to understand what that was all about in Mose’s day. The entire thing God set up in **Numbers 21** looked to the cross of Jesus Christ.

Jesus became the “serpent on the pole” ie. He actually became sin. He became every sin man ever created, and took that sin upon Himself. When He who “knew no sin, became sin” – that was what the serpent on the pole was all about. All who “look upon Him, shall be saved.” The serpent is a symbol of sin. Brass is the material that speaks of judgment and is a symbol of “sin judged”

The next verse which we all know and have memorized is set up by these previous verses explaining Moses and the serpent being lifted up, as was Jesus Christ lifted up on the cross.

OK,

Then back to **Galatians 3 vs 14** *“that the blessings of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

There are two purposes of the redemptive work by Jesus Christ on the cross- by the conjunctive verb *“that”* Literally means **“ In order that”**

These two things – That Gentiles should receive the blessings of Abraham solely by believing, and **2ndly** that we might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit. The law did not give us possession of the Holy Spirit.

Got it?

Again, to review, many Christians today mix the two – law and grace. They again are oil and water and will never mix. As I have said many times, if left to ourselves, we will revert back to the basic desire to become under some sort of law.. Some sort of “rules to live by” in order to remain in relationship with Him. We need to strive to reject this type of thinking. We are like our computer that defaults itself back to a certain thing that we do not want it to revert back to.

When I open my computer in the morning, I prefer to start with Resolver News as my home page, but my computer always seem to open with photos in G-mail or something other than Revolve News.

We will drift back under some method to please Him, rather than just rejoice in His reception of each of us. Am I clear here?

Remember that the “flesh” loves to perform. The flesh loves to be told what to do, primarily for our desire to measure up to that performance. It takes “faith” for us to believe that we are accepted in the beloved, irrespective of our behavior.

There are three words that are repeated in **chapters 3&4** – faith 14 times law 19 times and promise 11 times.

Again, you will remember that Paul rebuked Peter because Peter acted differently around the Jews than he did around the gentiles, yet all have been saved by faith.

No one has ever been saved by doing the law. Why? Because it is impossible to keep every part of the law. As Paul realized in his own life to break one part of the law is to have broken every part of the law. Remember beloved, the purpose of the law is to reveal sin in our lives.

The blessings that were once promised to Abraham, are now ours by faith. Abraham was promised land as a possession, this of course is passed on to his direct descendants Issac and Jacob. We have the promises of spiritual blessings.

We are now looking at the promises in verses **15-23 of Galatians 3**

Notice in **verse 16**, that the promises were made to Abraham and His seed (singular). This is the promise made to Abraham and Jesus Christ His seed. Notice how the verse is written; *“now to Abraham and his **Seed**, were the promises made. He does not say “and to seeds, as of many, but to one, and to your **Seed, who is Christ.**”*

Matthew declared in **Chapter 1 verse 1** *“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham:”* and the heir of the first covenant’s promises. The word Seed speaks specifically to Jesus Christ. **Genesis 22:18.**

In John 8:56 Jesus says:” *your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw it and was glad.*” Abraham looking forward to the day when Christ would fulfill what He was doing.

Look at how **Galatians 3: verse 17** frames the issue: And this I say, *the law which was four hundred and thirty years later cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed by God, in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect, verse 18* – *for if the*

inheritance if of the law, it is no longer of promise, but God gave it to Abraham by promise.”

The promise given to Abraham was a gift (*verse 18*)

No activity on his part, a gift. By the way beloved, this whole issue of “works” or doing something for God began way back in **Genesis 3:7** where Adam and Eve made clothing to cover themselves out of fig leaves. You will recall that God did away with their clothing and clothed them in the ‘skins” of an animal. Why? Another subject for another time.

If you believe, you have the promises of God given to Abraham. – period. No work on your part.

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