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Galatians 3

Faith and Belief

([Genesis 15:1-7](#); [Romans 4:1-12](#); [Hebrews 11:8-19](#);
[James 2:14-26](#))

Paul is not real gentile with the Galatians in this part of his letter. He calls them fools, out of a real concern that they would fall for the lies of the false teachers.

1O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

The entire event surround Christ was well known, even though to my knowledge Jesus never went into Galatia. Paul and the other teachers with Paul had some personal knowledge of the events surrounding Jesus. They had likely heard or heard directly from other apostles about Jesus teaching. So they were emphatic in their teaching the Galatians about Jesus. That is what is meant when it says “crucified among you”. The description by Paul and

the others was so specific that it was as if the Galatians had been there as well.

2This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

The challenge for Paul was to show the Galatians that what he had taught them was the Truth and that they had after that been lied to by false teachers. He had to redirect them back to Faith through the Holy Spirit.

4Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it* be yet in vain. 5He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

6Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. 8And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed. 9So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

Lest the false teachers had brought up a great deal about Abraham and what the nation of Israel believed about Abraham Paul needed to address that potential. Even though the Law started with Moses Abraham is considered the father of Israel,

which in fact he was; Jacob, Abraham's grandson was renamed Israel by God. So, Paul brings up the beginnings of Israel and the Jewish religion. The idea of Faith saving someone was not only found in the New Covenant; God had expressly told Abraham that due to his faith he was found to be righteous by God.

Righteousness is the goal for all believers. Our knowledge tells us that righteousness comes to us through the Blood of the Lamb. We are not righteous in our own right as we are sinners, saved by Grace through the Blood of the Lamb. That salvation transforms us when God looks at us He does not see the filthy sinners that we are in the flesh, He sees His Son and in that sight we are made righteous before God.

Christ Redeemed Us

(Deuteronomy 21:22-23)

10For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Paul's point is that if you want to walk in the Law you will be under the law in all things and you will be found to be cursed; because when God looks at someone who prefers the Law He has to judge them according to the entire Law. No one can survive that scrutiny.

11But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

The Law cannot justify anyone unless they live a sinless life and only one person ever did that; Jesus the Messiah. So when God looks at anyone other than Christ He sees them as they really are, sinners convicted by the Law that God Himself wrote.

12And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. 13Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

The only way the Law could be replaced was with a “righteous” sacrifice and there was only one Righteous; Jesus the Messiah. He was the only righteous man ever born.

Romans 3: 1What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? 2Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. 3For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

4God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

5But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) 6God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world? 7For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner? 8And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just.

There is No One Righteous

(Psalm 14:1-7)

9What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

10As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

13Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

14Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15Their feet are swift to shed blood:

16Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17And the way of peace have they not known:

18There is no fear of God before their eyes.

19Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

14That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The righteousness imputed to Abraham did not declare that he was sinless, he had the same sin lineage as the rest of us, what made him righteous before God was his Faith in God. It was possible then as the Law had not been given at this point when God called Abraham righteous.

The Purpose of the Law

(Romans 7:1-6)

15Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

Paul is reminding the Galatians that men had come to an understanding for the most part that they could create covenants between themselves and that they were bound by those covenants unless some extraordinary event happened. That could happen with men but not with God there are no circumstances that would cause God to annul a covenant only men can fail in the covenant which we have repeatedly. But due to God's Love of man He has sent us a remedy for our covenant breaking. It was His Son, the only righteous man ever born, after the Law was given by God to Moses was Jesus Christ.

16Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Understanding this can be a little tricky as we have to go back to Genesis to determine when it says “seed” what does God mean. Seed is singular so when it says, “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.” It is specifying a single seed. Another way to look at this is substituting the word “son” for “seed”. Again, that beginning of the verse would read “Now to Abraham and his son were the promises made.” We know Abraham had 2 sons, the son of promise and the son of the flesh. When God made the promise (covenant) to Abraham, was God speaking of the Isaac or Ishmael as the promised son? Obviously, it was Isaac.

To further verify that God was speaking of “seed” as a singular individual and not as many let’s look at Genesis.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

In this verse God was speaking of single entities; the “woman” Eve, would with Adam have several children but God was speaking of a single entity in her progeny; Christ Jesus. He was also speaking of another single entity and enemy of God; Satan.

17And this I say, *that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.*

This covenant was entered into while Abram was still in Ur. The Law was not given until Israel left Egypt and made its way to Mt Saini where the law was given. Israel sojourned in Egypt for 430 years. Paul's point is that the only way a covenant can be broken is for the parties of the covenant to all agree that it should end. That included God, Jesus and Abram. The Law did not end or break the covenant as none of the "authorizers" of the covenant did so and the Law was separate from the Covenant. The Law was given to Moses and Israel not to Abraham and Isaac. Paul's point is that the Law cannot disannul the Covenant that was between God, Jesus and Abraham.

18For if the inheritance be of the law, *it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.*

The Covenant and the Law are two different things. To be frank I always thought of the Law as the Old Covenant and it is not. The Old Covenant is really the same as the New Covenant it is a promise from God to Abraham that his Son, progeny would bless the entire world.

But why give a Covenant that would bless the entire world and then give a Law that would harness man into bondage to the law?

19Wherfore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to

whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

Remember God had already endured mankind and the sin that they would conjure up; He solved that partially with the flood. But with mankind and the sin nature it was only a short reprieve. Man would soon enough be back at his evil ways; so, God introduced the Law to show man how far short he was from God's Righteousness.

The Law was a type of restraint until the "mediator" Christ would appear on earth.

20Now a mediator is not a *mediator of one*, but God is one.

This mediation would take place not one on one with God but this mediator would mediate for all mankind with the One and Only God.

21Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

We know by our own existence that we cannot keep the Law. The Law was not given to provide righteousness it was given to show how far short we as humans are from being righteous. Law does not give life it brings death.

22But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

The mediation led Christ to the Cross. The sin of man had to be paid for. Our sin, your sin, my sin had to be paid for based on the Law. The Covenant God made with Abraham all those years ago was the promise that God made that through the lineage of Abraham a Deliverer would be provided that would not only successfully navigate the Law but fulfill the Covenant that God and Christ made with Abraham, the “Abrahamic Covenant”.

23But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

So clearly stated how can any Jewish person who has lived under the Law not see this? Paul in speaking to the Galatians could first-hand account for what it was like to live under the Mosaic Law.

As Gentiles we can see it quite easily even though we were never directed to walk in the law of the Jews. Even so, when we saw the Law and saw what we had done and were doing we were convicted by the Law of our own sin. We had no manner of

solving our sin problem until someone told us about Jesus and the solution He brought to all mankind. How can people not see the simplicity of Christ and His death for us?

Faith changed everything for everyone. It is the same Faith that God found Abraham righteous. Faith has always been there, but sin obscured man's vision. Satan's plan was to make man think that the Law was all there was and that no one could walk in the law so that meant all would die and Satan would win.

God extended to Abraham and to us His Grace, Love and Mercy. Abraham was the first to experience Faith and because there was no law at that time Abrahams Faith was sufficient. Now we know what the Law is, and we find we have no recourse; our lot is death. But wait, God has extended His Grace, Love and Mercy again because His only Son fulfilled the Law, dying on the Cross, raising up from the Dead He defeated Death Satan's trump card and God opened up the Faith channel again to any who would believe.

Sons Through Faith in Christ

26For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

God through His Love, through His Son has saved mankind from Satan and us.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Grace is from God and it is by His Grace we are saved! That Grace allows God to give us Faith, He had to do that because God created a Covenant between Himself, His Son and Abraham. God cannot break a promise, so He bound Himself to that promise and delivered His Son as the payment for sin, fulfilling the Covenant He made with Abraham several thousand years ago.

29And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Genesis 15:6And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

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