

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
“Your baptismal blessings in Christ!”  
Galatians 3:26-29  
June 22, 2025  
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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 2nd Sunday is from Galatians 3:26-29.

**“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”**

So far the text:

Paul’s letter to the Galatians is full of passion and a zealous desire for them to know the truth of the Gospel...that is, to know and cherish the truth of the promise made to Abraham...that his Seed...the promised Jesus Christ brought the glorious freedom from the curse of the law.

There is nothing more beautiful in life than this. Oh, we hear talk about the big beautiful bill that may or may not be passed before Congress takes a recess before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. And if you were watching the news last night, you heard President Trump tell the country how there was a great military success in the precision bombing of nuclear enrichment facilities in Iran. It’s definitely a good thing to take away nuclear weapons from terrorist organizations, right?

30,000 lb bombs can be precision guided into ventilation shafts in a mountain to destroy all those centrifuges hidden below. And that is pretty amazing. And it was beautiful to hear President Trump thank God for this achievement, saying “In particular, I just want to say, we love You God!”

But Paul is telling the Galatians and all of us this Sunday morning about what God has done that is even more amazing...what is the greatest success this planet as ever seen.

For it happened on a mountain also. It was promised to Abraham. God took down the greatest terror organization of the world on Mount Calvary – the devil and all his legions of demons, as we heard in our Gospel reading.

As Paul says in the verses right before our text in chapter 3 of Galatians, **“3 Christ has 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”), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”**

This was Abraham’s blessing that he received by faith from the Holy Spirit...that his Offspring, the Seed, would redeem him and us Gentiles from the curse of the law.

Paul is really worked up in his letter to the Galatians. Why? Because this big, beautiful blessing...this big beautiful promise of Jesus work on the cross given to Abraham by the Spirit through faith requires zero, absolutely zero additional works of the law by Abraham or us. Nada! Zip! Zilch! It is a pure gift of God for all broken, enslaved, sinners, that gives 100% freedom from the law.

What does Paul tell the Galatians about how Abraham was justified?

**“5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?— 6 just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”**

Abraham’s big beautiful spiritual account was full of Christ’s righteousness, not his. He believed and Christ’s work 2000 years later became his work. No works righteousness...Only saved by faith in Christ.

So then Paul makes the amazing big, beautiful application to the Galatians and each one of us today. Listen to what Paul says next in Galatians chapter 3 right before our text:

**“Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.”**

And that is how Paul can then say in our text, full of passion and energy...

## **“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus”**

Nothing more is needed to become a son or daughter of God, but faith. And to assure us that this faith is indeed given to us, God gives us a visible sealing of our faith in our big and beautiful baptism. For immediately, Paul then says:

**“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”** It doesn’t matter if you are Jew or Greek, male or female, slave or free...the gift of salvation and freedom from the law is for all people by faith through the Holy Spirit. And of course, this verse has nothing to do with who can be ordained to the office of the Holy Ministry, which God according to the order of creation, calls men to be pastors, so that all people may know the Good News of the Gospel. It’s not by works but by the gift of faith!

Paul is passionate about this because all his time and effort that he spent with the Galatians on his 3 missionary journeys was being attacked by Judaizers teaching that the Galatians could only be saved by the keeping of the ceremonial law.

Listen how Paul gets after the Galatians in chapter 6 who were being told that they had to be circumcised in order to be saved.

**“11 See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! 12 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.”**

No, Paul says adamantly! We boast only in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. His work alone saves. And His work is what is given in the sacrament of our baptism through which we are literally clothed with Christ. He becomes our righteous garment and His righteousness covers our sins so that they are seen no more!

**27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

There is nothing else that our flesh can produce that can be added or needs to be added to the work of Christ. He has done it all. That is the big, beautiful Gospel!

And Paul reiterates this truth by another mountain illustration. Yes, there was some big explosions on a mountain in Iran last night. But, Paul moves our attention to Mount Sinai where there was thunder and lightning and fire with the giving of the law. This happened 430 after the promise was given to Abraham.

Why? Because the promise wasn't good enough? Man needed to make perfect the promise by adding the law? No! Paul asks:

**“What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions...”**

What does that mean? It means that man continues to sin even after having received the Gospel. We continue to sin. So to lead us to repentance and the receiving anew of the Gospel daily, God gave us the law. It is the mirror that shows us our sins. It shows us how impossible it is for us to keep the law perfectly. It leads us to see our great need of Jesus, the Savior. And that is what Paul says next:

**till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made;**

Only sinful man can confuse the purpose of the law by making it an extra requirement for salvation. To which Paul says very clearly:

**“And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.”**

The Law confines us under sin and leads us to the only One who can free us from its curse – the promised Seed – Jesus Christ.

In particular, we just want to say, this day, thank you God for giving us Your Son Jesus. We love You God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We love all You have done for us... It's Your Work, 100% Your Work for our salvation! We love you God for sealing this gift of faith in our baptism and clothing us with Jesus' righteousness! We love You God for giving us the sacrament of Holy Communion, Your visible means by which we receive Jesus body and blood under the bread and wine for our forgiveness! We love you God for all your temporal gifts to us, including wisdom for our government leaders, peace and prosperity in this life. Most of all, we love you God for making us your sons and daughter and heirs of eternal life through Jesus! Amen.

**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)**