

Daily Devotions

Galatians Week 1

(Vs 14-16) Because of Christ's sacrifice the "blessing of Abraham" comes to all Gentiles through faith. (Vs 15) Does this void God's covenant with Abraham? The answer is no, but it is explained (Vs 16) Here we realize that God's promise was NOT to "seeds" (plural) but to "seed" (singular) This seed was Christ!

So, when God told Abraham he would be a father of a great nation, we see it was "physical" (Isaac =Israel) and "spiritual" (Christ = the church) I personally there is a distinction between Israel and the church. God is not done with them, but Israel was His tool, His vessel to bring His Messiah into the world and save man through faith in Him!

So; these "foolish Galatians" are getting a real lesson, they are learning, getting understanding and being established in the faith. May we all follow this pattern.

Saturday/Sunday: Galatians 3:17-29

(Vs 17-18) Here Paul points out again, that the promise and the covenant was given by God to Abraham 430 years before the law was given. Paul points out the fulfillment of the promise (covenant) could not be through keeping the Law, for then it would not be promise. It would be "earning" it - not "promise" (Grace)

So the breaking or keeping of the Law could not annul the covenant because God had given it by promise apart from Abraham's works, It was entirely of the purpose of God! This is a clear picture of Grace, it is God granting "life" because of His nature not man's!

(Vs 19-24) The logical question is "why did God add the law after the promise?" He added it to lead all unto Christ, the promised Seed. The law is our "schoolmaster" it shows us we need help and steers man to Christ who bore our curse so we can be in the promise, blessed with "Faithful Abraham" (Read Vs 25-29)

Monday: Galatians 1:1-24

What if you woke up today and everything you had believed was changed! This would be unsettling and such was the case for a Jewish man introduced to Christianity. The Jewish faith as God designed would have recognized and embraced Jesus as the Messiah, but the Jewish faith was "apostate" and they were more concerned with "rules" than "Christ."

We could say the Jewish faith was a "work based" religion. They had put the cart "before the horse." Works are a good thing and the result of salvation but not the cause. The cause of "good works" is God's grace alone. (Eph 2:8-10)

In Galatians Paul is writing the Galatians refuting the "Judaizers" (*See Acts 15:1-30*) I am sure you can see the big problem here! Paul concludes the answer to this question by Galatians (Note Vs 6-9) and puts a nail in the coffin in Gal 6:15-16

Let us never forget that works can never make a "new creature" only the divine working of God (grace). Rules, lists and religion are no substitute for God's grace. Think of today's religions, do they stress a work of God in the heart creating a new man or do they stress rules and rituals. In the coming days we will see Paul's defense of the faith!

Tuesday: Galatians 2:1-10

In the NT we see 2 groups, Jews and Gentiles. The Jews are often referred to as the "circumcision" or those who followed the law of Moses. The Gentiles were the "uncircumcised"

Circumcision was given as an outward sign of God's covenant, but Israel had forgotten that it was just a symbol of the faith they had..... They had lost faith a long time ago and this made the "symbol" a lie, but as "religion" goes, they had a bunch of ritualistic things they

worshipped. (See Romans 2:28-29) God is concerned about our hearts not empty symbols.

(Vs 1-10) These Judaizers dogged Paul everywhere because he was chosen to preach the gospel to the Gentiles (who didn't get circumcised) and Peter was chosen to minister to the Jews who were circumcised. The problem was not in circumcision but in the compulsion to be circumcised and keep the law. It was adding law to what Grace was supposed to do.

God's grace will produce the righteousness of the law in our lives, but not through external things but through the internal workings of the Spirit of God (Romans 8:1-4)

Wednesday: Galatians 2:11-21

Even good men like Paul and Peter have disagreements, but this is no silly disagreement. Paul is rebuking Peter who is wrong. Peter is a Jew living as a Gentile but he compels the Gentiles to live as Jews.

It was so bad that Barnabas was caught up in it (Vs 13) So Paul stepped in and points out the fact that Justification is by faith apart from the law (Vs 14-20)

(Vs17) The law enslaves and condemns. To have the law and Christ would make Christ the "minister" (servant) of sin. The two cannot co-exist. This is why Christ redeemed us from the law for He fulfilled it's righteous demands freeing us to His care.

(Vs 21) The word "frustrate" means "to count as nothing" In other words; If we have to mind the law and its demands on us, then Christ is dead in vain. When you meet a person counting on their works to get them to heaven, do point out they are counting Christ insufficient!

Rather; (Vs 20) I am dead to the law and sin through Christ's death (I was with Him in His death, burial and resurrection) so I can live unto God by His grace!

Thursday: Galatians 3:1-9

The word "foolish" here is not referring to their mental capabilities, but their lack of understanding.

(Vs 1-5) He asks them some questions to get them to "think." How often we lack understanding because we do not slow down and meditate.

(Vs 6-9) I have a book called "Legends of the Jews" it reads like a comic book but with Abraham as "superman", it is entirely fictional but provides a glimpse of what the Jews thought about him. So these verses deal a death blow to the legend of Abraham... He believed God that is it (See Romans 4:1-4), in fact, Abraham's justification occurred BEFORE he was circumcised (See Romans 4:9-11)

Paul was showing those who worry so much about the law and the outward sign that 400+ years before all these things were given, Abraham believed God and was declared righteous!

(Vs 9) Here we see the fullest meaning of God's promise to Abram recorded in Vs 8.

Do you see the folly of "works based" justification? Do you see grace is God's working apart from human merit? Do you see the utter hopelessness without God's grace? What a God we have!

Friday: Galatians 3:10-16

(Vs 10-12) Having lauded the merits of faith, Paul exposes the nature of the law; it enslaves and leaves man without salvation, but waiting!

(Vs 13) Man is cursed by virtue of being the enemy of God through sin. It is the height of alienation, like a rabid dog is hunted because of what it is, so is the unregenerate man. To understand this we must understand it is not what man does, but what he IS that brings a curse, man does not need to stop sinning, he needs a re-birth! Thankfully; Christ bore this curse so we could be blessed!

