

Galatians 3 FAITH WORKS!

Go through the Memory Scriptures with audience:

Galatians 2:20, Galatians 3:26-27, Galatians 4:6-7

What have we learned so far?

Paul is starting to heat up in chapter 2 and get into the real crux of the matter.

Define some terms

Law - Old Testament Covenant Laws put into effect by Moses with one of those laws being circumcision. 613 Laws put effect by blood of goats and animals.

“Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them WILL LIVE by THEM. I am the Lord.” Leviticus 18:5

Works - Anything done to fulfill the Old Testament Covenant System. Not just good deeds but actions done to obey God’s 613 laws. Things you do to get a wage. Where is your heart - Works vs. Faith!

Faith - Being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Heb 11:1.

Albanian language - Faith means Beson but also TRUST. They don’t have two words just one word! TRUST ME / BELIEVE ME!

Hearing - To not just hearing with your ears but responding to it.

Justified - A law term which means to be found Not Guilty as if you never have done the crime. Ticket got off - Speeding Minister

Paul in chapter 1 isn’t playing any games he gets right into it saying that there is no other gospel and this gospel was not taught to him by anyone but Jesus Christ.

Paul in chapter 2 is discussing two things he continues sharing and defending his apostleship and sharing about his interactions with Cephas, Barnabas and how he had to rebuke them for failing to eat and associate with the Gentiles.

Then he shares what he told them and it seems like he repented - Praise God. Talk about humility and fearing God more than men!

It is not that no one can be justified by the law but no one WILL be justified but the law.

I have entitled this Galatians 3 chapter - **FAITH WORKS!**

Let's jump right in

Read Galatians 3:1-6

You foolish Galatians!"; "What has happened?... Have I now become your enemy?... I am perplexed about you."

Or, as J. B. Phillips puts it, "**Oh you dear idiots of Galatia ... surely you cannot be so idiotic?**"

Wow that is strong language!

It shows us that sometimes a stronger rebuke or correction is needed!

Who has bewitched you?

Literally the word means "to give someone the evil eye, to cast a spell over, to fascinate in the original sense of holding someone spellbound by an irresistible power."

Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified!

The universe of Paul's thought revolved around the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Word *prographō* more likely carries the meaning, "**to display publicly as on a placard.**"

Paul likely was referring to the vivid, unforgettable way in which he first presented the story of Jesus' suffering and death to the Galatians. In effect, he was saying to them, "How can you have been so deceived by these heretics when in your mind's eye Jesus was, as it were, impaled on the cross of Calvary right before you? Yes, you have actually seen Christ crucified plastered on a billboard; **how could you ever lose sight of that?**"

That is convicting... We can lose sight of the cross.

Paul asked the Galatians a series of six rapid-fire questions, all of which he expected them to answer on the basis of their Christian experience.

Although Paul said I would like to know one thing from you? He asked 6 questions that he asked the Galatians that we must ask OURSELVES!

1. Who bewitched you?
2. Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by believing what you heard?
3. Are you so foolish?
4. After beginning by means of the Spirit are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?

“Flesh” in this context may refer, as many commentators believe, to the issue of circumcision, it also has the wider meaning of **“an independent reliance on one’s own accomplishments over against a spirit of dependance upon and submission to his rule.”**

5. Have you experienced (suffered) so much in vain - if it really was in vain?

By accepting circumcision, however, they might well have reduced the brunt of such persecution since they would then have appeared more as normal proselytes in submission to the Jewish rituals of the synagogue.

According to Paul, avoidance of persecution was a major motive of the false teachers themselves (6:12).

6. So I ask again... Goes God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law or by your believing what you heard?

Faith is believing what you hear!

Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?”

Thus Luther could write that the **only organs of a Christian man are his ears.**

Let me answer it for you with Abraham’s example:

“So also Abraham believed and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

He then as Paul does in many different places especially in Romans uses the great Father of the Faith - Abraham to explain the gospel!

But why Abraham? It has been suggested that Paul was exercising theological one-upmanship in his appeal to the father of the Jewish people. In other words, if his opponents claimed the authority of Moses, the giver of the law, he would do them one better by going even further back to Abraham. It is much more likely, however, that Paul developed his unique understanding of Abraham’s role in the history of salvation over against the appeal to Abraham in the theology of his opponents. Thus Paul’s main purpose was not so much to oppose Abraham to Moses as it was to set the Abraham of “faith alone” over against the Abraham of rabbinic exegesis who was blessed by God because of his deeds.

What is powerful about Abraham is God’s word said that Abraham believed God in Genesis 15:6 and it was credited him as **RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

Genesis 17:1-9 God speaks of circumcision as being a part of the Old Covenant or the first major covenant he makes with a chosen people.

Read Galatians 3:7-14

Understand then that those that have faith are the children of Abraham...

All nations will be blessed through you... So those that rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham the man of faith!

If you rely on the law or human independence or flesh you will be under a curse.

Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the book of the Law.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law for it is written.
"Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole/tree."

The blessings given to Abraham might be given to the Gentiles through Jesus so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Read: Galatians 3:15-22 - **Faith Unlocks the Promise and Blessings!**
-vs. 16 - Blows me away - The Promise of a SEED. Meaning one Person Christ

Locked up everything under the control of sin so that what was promised being given through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Apostolic Prophecy - Paul speaks about it through the Holy Spirit.

Faith unlocks all the promises of God.
By believing and living by faith God comes through on all his promises!
Not one of the will fail Joshua says!
God does not lie - Titus says.

Read - Galatians 3:23-29

Love what Paul says in vs. 23-25 - The law was our guardian until Christ came that we may be justified by faith. **NOW THAT THIS FAITH HAS COME WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER A GUARDIAN!**

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith for all of you who were baptized into Christ has clothed yourselves with Christ.

CLOTHED - NEED

God looks at you he sees Christ. Not a sinful man or woman that he forgave but Christ.

vs. 28 - It doesn't matter what race, background, Jew or Gentile, male or female for you are all on in Christ!!!!

GENTILES CONNECTION AND WONDERFUL POWER TO THAT UPLIFTING!

We all have the same clothes even though we are so different!

Then Paul ends with one powerful sentence that hit me so powerfully and wonderfully as I read it.

If you belong to Christ then you are Abraham's SEED and HEIRS according to the promise!

Faith WORKS - Faith in Christ works

- It justifies you through the blood of Christ
- It gives us the Spirit
- It unlocks the promise of grace and blessings
- It gives us the clothes in Christ when we were baptized
- It gives us the amazing privilege of being Abraham's SEED = JESUS and HEIRS.

Faith always has worked - it is what pleases God.