

**OBSERVATION**

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

**INTRODUCTION TO GALATIANS -- JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH:**

After Paul’s dramatic conversion on the Damascus Road, converting him from the chief resistor and persecutor of the early church to one recognizing that in his religious zeal he had actually become a persecutor of the Messiah, he became God’s messenger to the Gentiles. **Oh how he preached the gospel – “I preach nothing but Christ and Him crucified! (1Co 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.)** That salvation is through and only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. Not Christ plus anything else at all!

For the Judaizers had come into Galatia and began spreading a perversion to the gospel message that for one to be saved they had to believe in Jesus Christ AND to be circumcised and to keep the dietary laws and to keep the law of Moses. Paul sees these false teachers as poisoning the believers. He looks on them as kidnappers of the true gospel position of being saved by grace and grace alone. He looks upon their false teachers committing the most horrible thing of taking people away from the one and only pure and true stream of eternal life! So here is addressing their foolishness of turning away for grace!

Thankfully in Paul’s responding to this awful situation, which is still prevalent in the church today, that of false teachers, **the Book of Galatians is such a source of truth and revealing that justification is through faith in what Jesus Christ has done and in this faith alone!**

**Habakkuk wrote - Hab 2:4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.**

**In Galatians, Paul repeats this verse in chapter 3:11 “But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”**

In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.

Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul’s doctrinal instruction about grace. Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace. It’s a fabulous book—Paul’s manifesto on the absolute necessity of standing in liberty and his glorious defense of the gospel of grace.

**Galatians:** Paul had established the churches in Galatia in the faith in Jesus Christ. There were those Judaizers who followed Paul, who said that Paul did not tell them the complete truth. That it was necessary to keep the law in order to be saved. Now when you ask someone about their hope of eternal life if they answer you, my faith in Jesus Christ, they’ve answered you well. If they say my faith in Jesus Christ and, the moment they add anything to that, you are in trouble. By grace are you saved through faith, that not of yourself. It is a gift of God and not works, lest any man should boast. And so these Galatians were drawn away, many of them by the false teachers.

**Chapter 3:** The apostle Paul was deeply concerned about what was happening in the series of towns and cities known as Galatia. After he had shared the Good News of Jesus Christ with the Galatians, men came in who began to complicate the gospel. “Paul’s message is cool,” they said, “but not complete. In addition to believing on Jesus Christ, you must show you are serious about Him by keeping rules and regulations.” In this third chapter of Paul’s letter to the Galatians, he shifts his focus from his personal experience with grace (chapters 1 and 2) **to doctrinal instruction about grace (chapters 3 and 4).**

**Grace Greater Than Our Sin** – Julia Johnson – sung Bob Kauflin

*1. Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt! Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.*

*Refrain:*

*Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within; grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!*

*2. Dark is the stain that we cannot hide. What can avail to wash it away? Look! There is flowing a crimson tide, brighter than snow you may be today.*  
*(Refrain)*

*3. Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, freely bestowed on all who believe! All who are longing to see his face, will you this moment his grace receive?*  
*(Refrain)*

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**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

**GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 – Justification by Faith**

*Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?*

*Gal 3:2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—*

*Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*

*Gal 3:4 Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?*

*Gal 3:5 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?*

*Gal 3:6 just as Abraham "BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."*

*Gal 3:7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.*

*Gal 3:8 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."*

*effectively in me toward the Gentiles),*

*Gal 3:9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.*

**The Law Brings a Curse;**

*Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT CONTINUE IN ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO DO THEM."*

**v. 1** Why do you no longer embrace and enjoy the simplicity of Jesus Christ? Who put this spell on you?" Paul asks the Galatians.

**v. 2** "How did you receive the Spirit when you were born again? Was it by the works of the law—doing this or refraining from that? No. You received the Word simply by faith." This verse speaks not only of being born again, but also of receiving the fullness, baptism, or "coming upon" of the Spirit to empower one's life

**v. 3** You began in the Spirit," said Paul, "hearing the Word, and receiving it by faith. So don't let people tell you more is required of you. That's foolishness."

**v. 4** "When you began," said Paul, "you were persecuted because of your simple faith in Jesus Christ. People came down on you, laughed at you, and made fun of you. Yet you continued to believe in the simplicity of the gospel. You've gone through the put-downs and persecution. You've already taken some hits and experienced some beatings because of your belief in grace. Don't turn from grace now."

**v. 5** When he entered the region of Galatia, seeing a lame man in the city of Lystra, Paul healed him. How did he do it? Was it by fasting and praying? Was it by proving to God that he was worthy to be used in a powerful way? "No," says Paul. "The one who ministers the Spirit, the one who is used by God is not the one who does works, but the one who simply believes." Is it by the works of the law? Is that what has empowered a man? Or is it the faith in a man that brings these miracles? And of course, again the answer, it is faith. Not by the law, not by works.

**v. 6** Abraham wasn't doing something to impress God. He just believed God, and God declared him righteous. Paul pointed to Abraham—the father of the Jewish nation, the one whose heritage the religionists and Judaizers claimed as their own—as an example of the all-sufficiency of faith. God said to Abraham, even as the stars are innumerable, so shall thy seed be. And Abraham believed God! And God accounted it to Abraham for righteousness.

**v. 7** Whether you're Jew or Gentile," Paul continued, "if you have faith in God, then you are linked to Abraham, the father of faith."

**v. 8** Because you believe in Me, Abraham, I can do a mighty work through you," said the Lord.

**vs. 9-10** Why is the law a curse? Because if you're going to try to earn God's favor through keeping rules and regulations, you've got to do it all.

**Vs. 1-2** The Holy Spirit is a gift of God, and to be received by faith. You can't earn it. Nor is it a reward for a level of commitment nor is it a reward for a level of holiness in your life. The Holy Spirit is given to us to make us holy. And thus you get into a vicious kind of a circle. If you think, well, I can't receive the Holy Spirit until I've achieved a certain degree of holiness and that degree of holiness that I'm seeking to achieve, I can't achieve it apart from the power of the Holy Spirit. So I stay in that place of sort of frustration. Desiring, knowing that I need it and yet, not believing God to do it. And realizing that the Holy Spirit is God's gift to me to conform me into the image of Christ. To give me the power to live the kind of a life that God wants me to live.

So the obvious answer is that they had received the Holy Spirit by the hearing of faith. Paul shared with them, concerning the power of the Holy Spirit. **They believed God and received the Holy Spirit by the hearing of faith, not by the works of the law.**

**V. 3** This is probably one of the greatest dangers that we as Christians face. Every genuine revival and move of God, the move of God's Spirit in a group of people, within a revival, every revival, it seems, every move of God, ends up with man trying to perfect it in the flesh. God began a work in the Spirit. Having begun in the Spirit, trusting in Jesus for their salvation, trusting in their faith in Christ to be accounted by God for righteousness, the righteousness which is of Christ through faith, they were now endeavoring by the law to improve that righteousness. **Well the righteousness of Christ is complete!**

You see, this was the whole error of the Pharisees, trying to develop a righteous standing before God by observing the law and keeping every fine little point of the law. **But in doing so, they missed out completely. (Rm. 9:30-32)** There is the other righteousness and that is God's imputed righteousness, where God accounts me as righteous because of my faith in Jesus Christ! So as a Gentile, **I have attained to a righteous standing before God because I am trusting fully in Jesus Christ and my relationship to Him to be accounted righteous by God**, whereas the Israelites who were trusting in the law have not attained to the righteousness of God.

**V. 6** Today you and I can stand before God and God accounts us righteous because of our faith in Jesus Christ. **It is a complete righteousness.** I cannot improve upon it! It's complete! **You are complete in Him!** The fullness of the Godhead bodily dwells in our Lord and you are complete in Him.

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**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

***Gal 3:11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."***

***Gal 3:12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "THE MAN WHO DOES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM."***

***Gal 3:13 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"),***

***Gal 3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.***

**The Changeless Promise;**

***Gal 3:15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.***

***Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "AND TO YOUR SEED," who is Christ.***

***Gal 3:17 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.***

**v. 11** The words “the just shall live by faith” are first seen in Habakkuk 2:4, when, in response to his complaints concerning the prophesied Babylonian invasion, the Lord told Habakkuk to look to Him rather than at the circumstances. They are seen again in Romans 1:17, where Paul stresses justification; and in Hebrews 11, where the emphasis is on faith. Here in Galatians, the accent is on live. Want to be happy, fruitful, excited, and set free in your Christian life? The just shall live—really live—by faith. **Martin Luther beat his body, crawled on his knees, and fasted in order to get close to God. But nothing worked. And then one day he read this verse—and he understood that the Christian experience is not “Do, do, do”—it’s “DONE!”** Jesus did it all. Dear saints, get rid of the burden of trying to be spiritual. Get rid of the notion that since you had morning devotions ten times in a row, God owes you a blessing. It doesn’t work that way. You are justified by faith alone.

**v. 12** The law says, “You must do it and keep doing it” (see Leviticus 18:5). Faith says, “He did it. It’s done” (John 19:30).

**v. 13** When man sinned, God said to Adam, “From this point on, you will labor for bread, live by the sweat of your brow, and work through thorns and thistles.” Then came Jesus, the Last Adam. In the Upper Room, His broken body became our bread. In the Garden of Gethsemane, His sweat mingled with blood. On Calvary, the thorns of the earth were embedded in His brow. “I’ve absorbed it all,” Jesus said, as He who knew no sin became sin for us, as He Himself became the curse. This is what Paul is driving home. What Jesus did is so incredible, so wonderful, how could we think that through our own efforts we could add anything to His work on our behalf? *Cursed is every one who hangs on a tree.* This verse has obvious application to Jesus Christ as He hung on Calvary’s tree.

**v. 14** Jesus paid the price so we could receive the promise of the Spirit—all the power and blessing of the Holy Ghost—not by our works, but by faith in what He accomplished on Calvary.

**v. 15** “Let me use an example you’re familiar with,” said Paul. “Once two parties sign their names on a contract, neither can add to it nor take away from it.”

**v. 16** In the minds of most, “Abraham’s seed” is synonymous with “the Jews.” Paul contended, however, that the promise was made not to seeds, but to one seed. And that one Seed is Jesus Christ. The promises of God to bless the world come not through the Jewish nation, but through Jesus; not through any national entity, but through Jesus Christ exclusively to all people, in all places.

**v. 17** God made a promise, a covenant, with Abraham that through his Seed, Jesus Christ, everyone who wanted would be blessed. Paul is about to show us that, since we are in Christ, the blessing that comes to us is neither given because we keep the law nor nullified by our failure to keep it. The law is completely irrelevant as it relates to the blessing of God. What a fabulous truth!

v. 16 Today, we are blessed through Jesus Christ. The covenant that God established with Abraham is in force. And we are the beneficiaries of that covenant. For we receive the blessings that God promised to give through Abraham’s seed. **The blessings of salvation, the blessings of redemption, the blessings of fellowship with God,** these are all ours, now, to enjoy freely! For the covenant was made by God with Abraham. And if the earthly covenants are steadfast, can’t be altered or changed, so **the covenant of God can not altered or changed.** Thus the law, which came four hundred years after Abraham, does not disannul the covenant that God made with Abraham, the covenant of the blessings that would come upon the world through Abraham’s seed, Jesus Christ.

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**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

*Gal 3:18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise. ."*

**Purpose of the Law;**

*Gal 3:19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.*

*Gal 3:20 Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.*

*Gal 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.*

*Gal 3:22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.*

*Gal 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.*

*Gal 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

*Gal 3:25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

**Sons and Heirs**

*Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

*Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

**v.18** It was when Abraham had no children that God told him his offspring would number as the stars of the sky and as the sand on the seashore. But Scripture records that Abraham believed God anyway.

**vs. 19-20** If our walk is to be based simply upon believing what God said, receiving His promise, and resting in what He's done, then why was the law given at all? Because of sin, the law was given until Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world—came on the scene. On Mount Sinai, the law was given to angels. Angels gave it to Moses; Moses brought it down to the people. In other words, the law was not directly communicated. The promise, on the other hand, was given without mediators or middlemen. It was given to Abraham directly and intimately.

**v. 21** Does the law given to Moses contradict the promise given to Abraham? No. The law doesn't contradict the promise. It simply gives an alternative to the promise. The law offers man a choice. You see, we can either receive a righteous standing before God by simply believing what God says—or we can keep every point of the law.

**vs. 22-23** We were in trouble because we were supposed to keep the commands of the law, but we couldn't do it. We were cut off from the faith that would later be revealed.

**v. 24**

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster until Christ.” *that we might be justified by faith.* Justification would mean all the evidence would be obliterated, that his record would be totally clean. We're all sinners. God, however, looks at believers not as being forgiven—but as though they had never sinned at all. Why? Because the blood shed on Calvary's Cross was so powerful it blotted out every violation written against us (Colossians 2:14).

**v. 25** The law was a schoolmaster with red pencil in hand, circling our mistakes. But once Christ came into our lives, the law is no longer to be a part of our lives. This is such a radical statement that if God didn't say it, I would be afraid to share it.

**vs. 26-27** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. When you became a believer, you put on Christ. You were placed in Christ. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away (2 Corinthians 5:17). Therefore, when the Father looks at you, He doesn't see you in all of your sin. He sees you in Christ Jesus, robed with His righteousness. That's Good

v. 24 We are all in desperate need of Jesus Christ. So God gave the law in order that sin might appear to be very sinful. That we might realize how horrible sin is! And how helpless we are to overcome sin! And it drives me to Jesus Christ. **It causes me to realize that my only hope is through the promises of God that through the faith in Jesus Christ,** I've been justified from every wrong deed I have ever done.

v.25 We're no longer under the law as a standard or basis for righteousness. Now the law is good if you use it lawfully. But if you don't use it lawfully, then the law is a false hope. It has brought many people into a false hope of thinking, I'm righteous before God because I go down the ten commandments and I can cross them off and I've done the right thing. I've never killed anybody. You know, you can go down the line. But the law can't make you righteous. To look at it as rules to make me righteous before God, you are not using it lawfully. **It is to show you your sin to make you guilty before God so that you are driven to faith in Jesus Christ.**



**GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 – Justification by Faith; The Law Brings a Curse; The Changeless Promise; Purpose of the Law; Sons and Heirs**

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**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

*Gal 3:28 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.*

*Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

**v. 28** Each morning, a Jewish man would pray, “I thank You, God, that I was not born a Gentile, a slave, or a woman.” Referring to this same Jewish prayer, Paul says, “In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither bond nor free, neither male nor female. All those barriers are broken down. You’re all one in Christ.” You see, the law sets up walls and separates those who do from those who don’t, those who are keeping their rules from those who have failed in their attempts. But once you put on Christ, all those walls crumble. We’re all sinners saved by grace. God doesn’t hear men more than women, those who are free more than those who are oppressed, Jews more than Gentiles.

**v. 29** If we are in Christ, we are not of Moses, not of the law, not of performance. We are of Abraham, of faith, of promise.