

Grace, Faith and the Law

Galatians Chapter 3

Ch. 1-2 Experience with Grace

Ch. 3-4 Doctrine of Grace

Ch. 5-6 Application of Grace

Gal 3:1

1st Question

1) Six Evaluation Questions vs 1-5

You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed {as} crucified?

- KJV has after "bewitched you" - "*that you should not obey the truth*"
- Foolish - Greek "*moros*" means morally /mentally deficient (Jesus used this word in Matt 25:1-13)
This word here is Greek "*anoetos*" is one who can/should know better but chooses not to.
- Bewitched - Greek "*baskinos*" to bring evil upon by feigning praise.
In Acts 8 Simon the sorcerer "bewitched" he people of Samaria. He used magical arts to influence the people and establish his position of authority.
- Paul is asking the Galatians "Who has brought you to this evil?" He asked who could have possibly influenced you in light of:
 - Paul's message (Ch1+2 Divinely given, Confirmed by Apostles, Validated by Authority)
 - The Truth - They had been taught, obeyed and walked in the truth
 - Jesus had been the focus of their walk (publicly-openly simply)

*** Application *** Is there anyone or anything who is influencing you away from Jesus?

2nd Question

This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

- "receive the Spirit" - This is the Holy Spirit, the third person of the trinity.
 - John 3:5-7 "*Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*"
 - Luke 11:9-13 "*So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or {if} he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will {your} heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"*
- "by the works of the Law"
 - Deuteronomy 28:1-14 THE BLESSING Deuteronomy 28:15 -68 THE CURSES
 - The "works of the law" is the whole law. The Moral Law as well as the Ceremonial Law. Paul is dealing with salvation/justification by law on the whole even though his immediate battle is with those who want the Gentile believers to adhere to the ceremonial law.
 - The Qumran Texts - *Miqsat Ma'ase Ha-Torah*, or *MMT* translated as "Particulars of the Law" Some scholars say the greek translation may have been "the Works of the Law" These text were multiple copies of instructions for Jewish Christians for behavior as a Christian and keeping the Torah. It spoke of washing, feasts, and ceremonial rituals. This is suggested as the "works of the Law" that Paul was fighting against.
- "by hearing with faith"
 - Romans 10:17 "*So faith {comes} from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."*
- Under the law, spiritual growth is EARNING AND DESERVING. Under grace spiritual growth is BELIEVING AND RECEIVING.

*** Application *** Is the Spirit a gift or a reward?

Gal 3:3

3rd Question

Are you so foolish?

- Are You so Foolish? Scripture teaches us what a fool is:
 - Proverbs 12:15 "The way of a fool is **right in his own eyes**, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel."
 - Proverbs 14:6 "A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, But a fool **is arrogant and careless.**"
 - Proverbs 17:10 "A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding Than a hundred blows into a fool." (he doesn't understand the rebuke)
 - Proverbs 18:2 "A fool **does not delight in understanding, But only in revealing his own mind.**"
 - Proverbs 28:26 "He who **trusts in his own heart** is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered."
 - Psalm 53:1 "The fool has **said in his heart, "There is no God,"**"
 - Luke 12:16-32 Parable of rich fool "And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years {to come;} take your ease, eat, drink {and} be merry.'" "But God said to him, 'You fool! This {very} night your soul is required of you; and {now} who will own what you have prepared?' "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about {your} life, {as to} what you will eat; nor for your body, {as to} what you will put on. "For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and {yet} God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! "And which of you by worrying can add a {single} hour to his life's span? "If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. "But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is {alive} today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more {will He clothe} you? You men of little faith! "And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. "For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. "But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom."

*** Application *** Have you acted foolishly?

4th Question

Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

- These Gentile believers were told that to be a better Christian they needed to / should have previously become a Jew. This was done by keeping the Holy Feasts, Keeping the ceremonial Law and by the Jewish seal of the Israel's covenant - CIRCUMCISION.
- In Paul's writing he wrote Colossians 3:5 "Put to death what is earthly in you" and Romans 8:13 "Put to death the deeds of the body" This has come to be known as "Mortification of the Flesh."
- Examples:
 - Saint Dominic Loricatus — (995-1060) 1st was a priest, then a hermit, then a monk. His mortification was reading the psalms and for each psalm he whipped himself 100 times. He read the Psalms 20 times in 6 days. He also wore a "hairsuit"
 - "Hairsuit" — (cilis) originally an course uncomfortable undergarment. It eventually became a piece of chain mail with barbs to inflict pain.
 - St Francis of Assisi - had done self inflicted penance through fasts, flagellations and a hairsuit.
 - Today in Latin America and the Philipppians during lent these flagellant rituals are excessive even to the point of self crucifixion.
 - However, Paul wrote to the Colossians 2:20-23: "If YOU died together with Christ toward the elementary things of the world, why do YOU, as if living in the world, further subject yourselves to the decrees: "Do not handle, nor taste, nor touch," respecting things that are all destined to destruction by being used up, in accordance with the commands and teachings of men? Those very things are, indeed, possessed of an appearance of wisdom in a self-imposed form of worship and [mock] humility, a severe treatment of the body; but they are of no value in combating the satisfying of the flesh."

*** Application *** Are you trying to do a better job than the Holy Spirit?

Gal 3:4

5th Question

Did you suffer so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain?

- Acts 14:1+2 " In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks. But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren."
- Acts 14:19 " But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead."
- The gentile believers, Paul and his company experienced persecution.
- Paul is asking were these persecutions in vain.

*** Application *** Is your calling out to God for help worthless?

Psalm 18:6-7 " In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, [even] into his ears. Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth."

Psalm 34:6 " This poor man cried, and the LORD heard [him], and saved him out of all his troubles."

Gal 3:5

6th Question

So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

- "He who provides the Spirit" is God.
- "He who... works miracles among you" is God.
- Paul really is repeating the 2nd question (Galatians 3:2) for emphasis. This is the point.
- Do you EARN/DESERVE or do you BELIEVE/RECEIVE?

*** Application *** Again, Is the Spirit, or your salvation a gift or a reward?

- This addresses those who are feeling UNWORTHY - You cannot add to the work of Christ (the King)
- This addresses those who are feeling SPIRITUAL PRIDE - You did not do anything to deserve Christ's (the King's) blessing.

Gal 3:6

2) The Argument of Abraham vs 6-9

Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- Paul brings up Abraham as an example of receiving from God is by FAITH rather than the LAW.
- This verse is quoted from Genesis 15:6. God had promised Abraham a son. Abraham believed him. There was no action or performance by Abraham, just a believing.
- This verse is quoted 3 times in the New Testament (Romans 4:3,9-10,22; and Galatians 3:6, James 2:23) Paul uses this example to show that God acknowledges that which is hidden deep in the soul of a man rather than that which is seen on the surface of a man.
- It is important to bring up Abraham for it was accounted to him as righteousness 400-500 years BEFORE the LAW.
- It must also be stated, it was not the "believing" that made Abraham righteous. It was God who accounted or reckoned to him righteousness.
- **Believing** = "to accept as true, genuine, or real" "to have a firm conviction as to the goodness, efficacy or ability of someone or something"
 - **Not believe in God but Believe God**
 - **James 2:19** " You believe that God is One. You do well; even the demons believe and shudder"
- **Reckoned** (Accounted) = Greek (*logizomai*) "to calculate" "to sum up" "to settle accounts"
 - "If God reckons Abraham righteous than Abraham should reckon himself so. (Guzek)
- **Martin Luther** " Faith in God constitutes the highest worship, the prime duty, the first obedience, and the foremost sacrifice. Without faith God forfeits His glory, wisdom, truth, and mercy in us. The first duty of man is to believe in God and to honor Him with his faith. Faith is truly the height of wisdom, the right kind of righteousness, the only real religion . . . Faith says to God: 'I believe what you say.'"

Gal 3:7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

- Paul again states a very controversial position.
 - There are the Jews whose birth from a Jewish mother claim to be *sons of Abraham*. Rightly so
 - There are Muslims who claim to be from Ishmael's line which is a *son of Abraham*. (Although this may be true not all Arabs are from Abraham. Arabs pre-date Muhammad and even Abraham. When Abraham arrived in the fertile crescent there were people already there. [Canaanites and Perizzites - Gen 13:7] These were part of the people that made up the Arab ancestry.)
 - Paul says those who are of faith (**you and me**) are *sons of Abraham* because we believe.
- **Matthew 3:9** John the Baptist preached concerning relying on heritage "*And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.*"
- **Romans 9:6** "*For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel*"
- "*Those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.*" He is saying that it is not the genetics that establishes this position being called Sons of Abraham, but faith. This redefines what the sons of Abraham is and how to achieve that status.
- Bear in mind that some have taken this verse and used it to support a teaching that is known as Replacement Theology.
 - **Romans 11:25+26a** "*For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery--so that you will not be wise in your own estimation--that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved;*"
 - **Genesis 13:15** "*for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.*"
 - **Genesis 17:7-8** "*I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*"

God is not through with Israel. The church has not replace Israel but has been grafted in. (Romans 11)

Gal 3:8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, {saying,} "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU."

- Paul points out the additional clause of the Abrahamic Covenant from Genesis 12:3.
- All the nations (families / people groups) will be blessed. Not just earthly blessings but the greatest blessing possible - God would justify them.

Gal 3:9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

- After a strong argument he sums up the point by repeating with but slightly different arrangement, "the believer is the one who is blessed with Abraham".
- The most important question is "Am I of faith?" not am I a good Christian? Am I doing the Christian thing correctly? Simply "Am I of Faith?"

Gal 3:10 **3) The Argument of the Curse** vs 10-14

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

- Paul quotes **Deuteronomy 27:26** "*Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.*" And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'"
- The emphasis or activator of the curse is failure to DO/PERFORM the law.
- The Law requires a DOING. Grace requires FAITH.

Gal 3:11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

- It is evident NO ONE IS JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW - How? First, we just looked at Abraham and learned that before the Law Abraham believed. It was not the law but believing. Secondly, we know that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
- "The Righteous man shall live by faith" A New Testament Principal? No!
 - **Habakkuk 2:4** "*the righteous will live by his faith*"

- Romans 1:17 also quotes Habakkuk - EMPHASIS IS ON FAITH
- Hebrews 10:38 also quotes Habakkuk - EMPHASIS ON LIVING
- Galatians 3:11 quotes Habakkuk - EMPHASIS ON JUST / RIGHTEOUSNESS
- LIVE is not just breath and a heartbeat. It is (Greek - *zao*) "true living"
 - 1 Peter 1:3 "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*"
 - Living is equated to resurrection.

Gal 3:12 However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM."

- Paul quotes Leviticus 18:5
- In contrast, if you try to gain "TRUE LIFE" by the Law you will have to do it by DOING / PRACTICING the Law.
- It is not fulfilled by *trying* to do them. It is not fulfilled by *intending* to do them but only by *doing* them and doing them fully.
- This is actually a CURSE according to Paul. *It is like being hung on a tree.*

Gal 3:13 Christ 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"--

- Paul quotes Deuteronomy 21:23
- On one hand, those who live according to the Law are hung on a tree
- On the other hand, Jesus became a cure for us, hanging on the tree called Calvary.
- REDEEMED -purchased back from the curse of the Law. Jesus became a curse for US not for Himself
- "*All the prophets of old said that Christ should be the greatest transgressor, murderer, adulterer, thief, blasphemer that ever was or ever could be on earth. When He took the sins of the whole world upon Himself, Christ was no longer an innocent person. He was a sinner burdened with the sins of a Paul who was a blasphemer; burdened with the sins of a Peter who denied Christ; burdened with the sins of a David who committed adultery and murder, and gave the heathen occasion to laugh at the Lord. In short, Christ was charged with all the sins of all me, that He should pay with them with His own blood. The curse struck Him.*" (Luther)
- Deuteronomy 21:23 is also a Messianic Prophecy in that Jesus was taken off the cross before nightfall "*His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged [is] accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee [for] an inheritance.*"

Gal 3:14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

- Paul sums up this argument in that the Law is fulfilled in Jesus. Our blessing is "In Christ Jesus"
- Our DOING the Law to obtain Righteousness is swapped out with FAITH.

Gal 3:15

4) The Law Contradicts The Promise vs 15-18

Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is {only} a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.

- In a contract made between men, all the terms are negotiated then written down. Then the parties to the agreement sign the document. This signing is to formally approve the terms as written.
- "Ratified" = Confirmed (NKJV), sanction Greek - *kyroo*
- SETS IT ASIDE - (KJV = disannuls) The contract cannot be ignored. It was agreed upon and each party is counting on the performance of the other according to the contracts terms.
- ADDS - Those terms in the contract / covenant cannot be altered or added to after signing without another agreement stating the change and again both parties agreeing to it.

Gal 3:16

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as {referring} to many, but {rather} to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

- Who are the agreeing parties?
- Genesis 9:9 "And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;"
- God - He wrote the contract / covenant (his condition is to bless, give land, an inheritance)
- Abraham - The promise was spoken to him. (all he is to do is to believe, but no performance)
- For a contract to be legal there must be consideration of equal value on both parties. Abraham part has no consideration, just to receive. Is this legal? NO IT IS NOT A LEGAL BINDING CONTRACT
 - This is not a contract / covenant. It is an endowment.
 - The problem is that an endowment could end anytime the giver wishes.

But the price (CONSIDERATION) will be paid...

- Abraham's Seed - Paul opens the understanding that it is not an agreement between God and Abraham and the generations of children that follow. But it was between God and Abraham and the Messiah Jesus.
 - Seed not seeds meaning the one and only Messiah
 - Genesis 22 Abraham went to sacrifice.
 1. Vs. 8 Abraham said God will provide a lamb - God provided a Ram. God did not want ritualistic human sacrifice as a means to approach God. **The Lamb would be Jesus**
 2. for burnt offering - The burnt offering was to demonstrate a complete dedication to the Lord (*every Sabbath, at Passover, at Pentecost, at Feast of Trumpets, at Day of Atonement, Special Times: Consecration of Priests & Aaron and Dedication of Temple*)
 3. Vs. 12 + 16 God called Isaac Abrahams "Only Son" - (1) allusion to Jesus (2) dismissal of Ishmael
 4. Vs. 14 Jehova-Jireh - God sees and God Provides/ the context is that God sees the condition of man and provides for the discrepancy in the relationship between God and Man. Furthermore the verse says "*In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.*" This is a statement pointing to Jesus at Calvary. There God will see to it for the provision for man.
 5. Vs. 22 "*And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice*" all nations are blessed in this seed. **The seed is Jesus.**
 - John 8:56 Jesus describes what Abraham realized this way "*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw [it], and was glad.*"
- It is Jesus who performs Abraham's terms of the covenant!

Gal 3:17

What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.

Gal 3:18

For **if** the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

- Paul sums this up by stating that the covenant is not based on the Law, which came after, but it is based upon a PROMISE. Ratified by God. If placing the covenant based on Law it contradicts the promise.
- The Judiazers will quote Moses (LAW) Paul will quote Abraham (the PROMISE)

The Question comes up What is the purpose of the Law?

Gal 3:19

5) The Law Compliments The Promise vs 19-29

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

Gal 3:20

Driving not seeing the speed limit sign

Now a mediator is not for one {party only;} whereas God is {only} one.

- The law was added (in the sense of come along side) for explanation purpose. It was added because transgression was happening. Law came to reveal to man their transgression.
- ORDAINED - to set in place; to arrange; to give order
- ANGELS - a messenger
- MEDIATOR - someone that goes between two parties
- Paul has been using metaphors to illustrate his discussion of the Doctrine of Grace. Here again, just as the Seed is Christ, the Mediator is Moses and the Angels are the Prophets and Teachers.
 - Moses spoke to God face to face then related everything to the people.
 - The Prophets and Teachers set the Law before the people keeping it before them.
- The Law was given "until the Seed would come" That Seed being Jesus.
- Jesus didn't come to do away with the Law but He came to fulfill it. **Matthew 5:17**

Gal 3:21

Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.

- The Law is not contrary to the Promise. It is contrary if you assume the Law is able to impart life.
- *"People foolish but wise in their own conceits jump to the conclusion: If the Law does not justify, it is good for nothing. How about that? Because money does not justify, would you say that money is good for nothing? Because the eyes do not justify, would you have them taken out? Because the Law does not justify it does not follow that the Law is without value."* (Luther)

What does the Law do?

Gal 3:22

1. But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

- The Law shuts up the proud. It shuts up the self righteous. It shuts up the justifier.
- All become lawbreakers. All become knowledgeable of our own sin, each and every one of us.
- *"For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God."* Romans 3:23
- The purpose was not to leave us there. Notice the purpose of being shut up is to allow faith to work.

Gal 3:23

2. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.

- KEPT IN CUSTODY - (KJV - kept under) is being held, possibly even in chains or imprisoned.
- Again, the purpose was not to leave us there. Notice there is a time table BEFORE FAITH...TO THE FAITH...LATER REVEALED

Gal 3:24

3. Therefore the Law has become our tutor {to lead us} to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

- OUR TUTOR (KJV-Schoolmaster) The law teaches us to come to Christ (Messiah) For our justification is only found in the work of Jesus crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.

What does faith do?

Gal 3:25 1. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

- GRADUATION - Faith is the graduation ceremony. We no longer need that particular school.

Gal 3:26 2. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

- NEW FAMILY - Father God is our Father; Father God is our God

Gal 3:27 3. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

- NEW CLOTHES - We are identified with Christ. We are dressed like Him.
 - Loins covered with TRUTH
 - Chest covered with RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - Shoes are GOSPEL OF PEACE
 - We carry FAITH
 - Our Hat is SALVATION
 - We have a weapon the WORD OF GOD

Gal 3:28 4. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - no exclusive membership
- People didn't lose who they were. Men were still men. Women were still women. Jews were still Jews. Greeks were still Greeks. Slaves were still slaves. Free men were still free men. But the benefits of the promise by faith were available to ALL PEOPLE.

Gal 3:29 5. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

- WRITTEN INTO THE WILL - We now have a promised inheritance. Eternal Life. A New Body, A New Heaven, A New Earth.
- All by a promise.

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