

"Doctrine of Justification and Sanctification"

Galatians 3-4

Part 1

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Galatians we have come to the doctrinal section of the letter. In chapters 1-2 Paul defended his message and his Apostleship. Keep in mind that the Pharisees had made their way into the churches of Galatia and they did two things.

1. They taught the new believers that they **MUST** follow the Law in order to live a life of holiness. They taught these believers that apart from the Law they would just go off into a life given over to sin.
2. They attacked Paul's message and Apostleship. They claimed he was not a true Apostle because he was not of the original group. They claimed his message was a message that was given only to please people.

In the first two chapters Paul defends both his message and his Apostleship. He explains that his message was directly from the Lord with no outside influence. Then he explains that his Apostleship and his message were accepted by the chief Apostles at Jerusalem. He even explained how he went to Jerusalem and took Titus who was a Gentile and the chief Apostles never compelled Titus to be circumcised. They never tried to force Titus under the Law. Then Paul went on to explain how he had to rebuke Peter who was the very chief Apostle, because of his legalism. In those verses he was saying that if he could rebuke the head Apostle then he could also rebuke the Galatians. He had the authority to do so as an Apostle. So, in the first two chapters Paul established his right to speak and now as we come to chapter 3, he will do just that.

As we start into Galatians 3 tonight, we are going to look at the first 5 verses and, in these verses, Paul will ask 5 questions to stir the minds of these believers. These questions are also good for our minds to make us think things through.

➤ **5 Questions for the Galatians**

✓ **Question #1**

Notice Galatians 3:1

There is much to consider in this verse so we will take our time and uncover the Truth that is located here. First of all, we see that Paul calls them "foolish." What does he mean by this word? To begin with we need to understand that he is not trying to belittle them for lack of intelligence. The Bible defines a "FOOL" as someone who refuses to believe something that is revealed in Scripture.

Psalm 14:1

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Getting back to the Galatians, when Paul refers to them as "foolish" he is speaking of the fact they are not accepting the Truth that he had presented to them. We will see this in greater detail in a moment. The word "bewitched" has the idea of being led into evil doctrine. So let us put these two thoughts together. They had been taught the Truth but they cast that aside when the Judaizers came in and bewitched/led them into an evil doctrine. They were guilty of not thinking. They just made the choice to follow their emotions and to buy into the false teaching.

Application:

We must be very careful with our emotions. Our emotions can change over and over again as circumstances change. But the Truth of God's Word never changes. The Bible must be our Anchor in a world that plays on our emotions. There will be false teachers that will have smooth words in an attempt to lure you away from the Truth. But no matter how good it sounds or how it makes us feel we must hold tightly to the Word of God.

2 Peter 2:1-3

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

³ And through covetousness shall they with feigned (molded or formed) words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Notice Galatians 3:1 again.

Jesus had been set before their eyes as crucified. How was Jesus set before their eyes? Paul had taught the Gospel so clearly that it was as if Jesus was crucified right in front of

them. The word "crucified" here is in the present tense. This means the word has the idea of a past event with present benefits. This is exactly what they needed to understand. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross happened 2000 years ago but it still has benefits for all believers today. What are the benefits? It is the finished work of Jesus Christ that not only saved us from sin's penalty but it also PRESENTLY saves us from sin's power. This is what the entire letter is about! They had been convinced to go back under the Law to become holy through self-effort by keeping the Law. But that is not the way to a holy life. A holy life comes the same way justification comes. It is by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Notice the words of Anderson.

*"There is a strong delusion among believers that is so prevalent, and that is the feeling that: FRUIT IN MY CHRISTIAN LIFE IS BY MY OWN EFFORTS or FRUIT IS BY THE FLESH. It is the thought that if we perform certain things, we will become spiritual. It is LIVING BY THE LAW that PROGRESS COMES BY PERFORMANCE. We now come to the **DOCTRINAL SECTION** where he will teach us of the foolishness of feeling that we can gain merit in God's sight and that our relationship to Him is all of grace and not of law. It is as if: REDEMPTION is 2/3 the WORK OF GOD and the remaining 1/3, the LIVING THE LIFE PHASE, is the WORK OF MAN. This DIVISION OF LABOR, so to speak, is diabolical and destructive of grace. That time between regeneration and resurrection is a critical time to understand that we are victorious not by the works of the law but by OUR FAITH IN THE ADEQUACY OF JESUS CHRIST TO LIVE OUT HIS LIFE IN US. It is NOT: 2/3 a work of God and 1/3 our living the life. You can say a lot of things but do not touch the grace of God."*

✓ Question #2

Notice Galatians 3:2

They were saved by faith in the finished work of Jesus. God gave them the blessings of forgiveness by faith. Would God then abandon His children to let them on their own for growth? Would God let His children powerless to overcome sin? NO!

On our own we have no power to overcome sin.

Romans 7:18-19

¹⁸ *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

¹⁹ *For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*

To follow the Law or a set of man's rules for holiness is to teach that God saved us and then left us to ourselves to work out sanctification by our own power. God gave us His power to overcome sin.

Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰ *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

²¹ *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

2 Peter 1:2-3

² *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,*

³ *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

Notice Galatians 3:2 again.

Notice that we have been given the Holy Spirit by faith. The Holy Spirit lives within us and He provides the power we need to overcome sin.

✓ **Question #3**

Notice Galatians 3:3

This verse contains the central theme for the letter. In this question Paul was asking, "You could not save yourselves so why do you think that you can bring yourself into a holy life of perfection by yourself?" Please understand that you and I did not save ourselves because we had no power to do so. We had to have faith in Jesus Christ that He alone could save us. After salvation our flesh has not changed. We are still sinful people. Therefore, we have no power in our flesh to overcome sin. We can follow as many rules as we desire, we can put ourselves under the Law, we can strip our lives of those things that enhance our weaknesses, but in all of this the flesh never changes. We need the power of God and that is what Paul is getting to. Just as we needed the power of God to be saved so we also need the power of God to overcome sin. The question is, "How do I get the power?" You already have the power! It is seen when we live by faith. We must live believing that Jesus not only died to free us from the penalty of sin but He also died to free us from the power of sin.

Romans 6:6-14

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

⁸ *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

⁹ *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

¹⁰ *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

¹¹ *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

¹² *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

¹³ *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

¹⁴ **For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**

✓ **Question #4**

Notice Galatians 3:4

Here Paul reminds them of the suffering that they endured as believers right after they were saved. Notice the what Paul said to these believers in Acts 14.

Acts 14:22

²² *Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and **that we must through much tribulation** enter into the kingdom of God.*

So if these believers were to go back to the Law then all the suffering they went through was all for nothing.

Application:

Suffering is an important part of the believer's life. It is through suffering that we are refined and we are shaped into the people that God desires for us to be. We are living in

the stone quarry where God has stone cutters who are sent to chip away at our lives. All the cutting must be done here because when we step into the presence of the Lord there will be no more refining.

✓ **Question #5**

Notice Galatians 3:5

God had performed an abundance of miracles in the presence of the Galatians.

Acts 14:3, 8-11

³ Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

⁸ And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

⁹ The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

¹⁰ Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

¹¹ And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

Notice Galatians 3:5 again.

I want you to see that the miracles did not produce faith but faith brought about the miracles. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Miracles were to strengthen the faith of believers. They were not to bring sinners to salvation. The miracles that the Galatians had seen were because they exercised faith in the Gospel.

Conclusion:

The point in these questions is, for a believer to have power over sin we must live by faith and God's power will give us the victory. The Christian life is to be lived as it begun, by faith.