

"Doctrine of Justification and Sanctification"

Galatians 3-4

Part 2

Introduction: Last week in our study of Galatians we stepped into chapter 3 and we looked at the first 5 verses. Each of these verses presented a question to the Galatian believers and the questions were to get them to think. They had allowed the Judaizers to come in and present to them a false teaching that appealed to their sin nature and it made them feel good. By accepting the false teaching, they had cast aside the Truth that Paul had delivered unto them.

Notice Galatians 3:1-5

This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

➤ **The Example of Abraham**

Notice Galatians 3:6

The first question we need to ask is, "Why does Paul bring Abraham into this teaching?" Let us keep in mind that the Judaizers that had come into the Galatian churches were all about keeping the Mosaic Law. Many of them believed the Law must be kept for salvation and for sanctification. So, Paul in his wisdom will take the Galatians back to the life of Abraham who lived and was saved 600 years before the Law was ever given.

Here in this verse Paul points back to Genesis 15:6.

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

² And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

³ And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

⁴ And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

⁵ And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

⁶ And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Abraham did not just believe that God would multiply His offspring but Abraham believed that One of his offspring would be the Redeemer that was promised in Genesis 3 who would restore all that had been lost and would destroy Satan. Abraham's faith was a strong faith because Sarah was beyond the childbearing years.

Genesis 16:16-17:1

¹⁶ And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

¹ And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Genesis 17:17

¹⁷ Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

Genesis 21:1-5

And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

² For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

³ And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.

⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him.

⁵ And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.

Getting back to the point, Abraham was saved by faith before the Law was ever given. He was also saved before circumcision was ever introduced. Keep in mind we are told that he was believed God and was saved in Genesis 15:6.

Genesis 17:24

²⁴ And Abraham was ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Abraham was saved at least 14 years before he was circumcised and 600 years before the Law was given.

Romans 4:1-5, 9-10

What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

² *For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.*

³ *For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*

⁴ *Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.*

⁵ *But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*

⁹ *Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.*

¹⁰ *How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.*

This is why Paul made the choice to reference Abraham in his letter to the Galatians. The teaching of the Judaizers that said these Galatians must come under the Law and be circumcised had no ground to stand on.

Notice Galatians 3:7

Now Paul connects all believers to Abraham. Let me take a moment and tell you what Paul is not saying in this verse. He is not saying that the church has replaced Israel as many teach. Many teach the church is the new Israel. But that is not the Truth. God has set Israel aside as He gathers a bride for His Son but He will again work with Israel in the Tribulation. Paul made a clear distinction between three groups in this world.

1 Corinthians 10:32

³² *Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:*

If Galatians 3:7 was teaching replacement theology the verse would say that we are the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. You see not every person born from Abraham was a Jew. Ishmael was not a Jew, he was the father of the Arab nations. It is only those who

were born of Abraham and Issac and Jacob. A true Jew has 4 fathers. Jacob, Isaac, Abraham and God.

So, what does Paul mean when he says that all who believe are the children of Abraham? He is saying that Abraham has set the example and when we exercise faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are following in the steps of Abraham.

Consider how Abraham was saved. He came from a pagan country and he worshipped false gods.

Joshua 24:2-3

² *And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.*

³ *And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.*

Abraham was saved out of idolatry. We too worshipped false gods. Before we were saved there was something in your life that you worshipped. Then like Abraham God called you away from that life of idolatry and through time you were convicted and eventually came to exercise faith in the Savior of the world. So just as Abraham was saved by grace through faith so too we are saved in the same way. We are not saved by keeping the Law but we are saved by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Thus we are the children of Abraham because we have exercised faith just as he did and were saved.

Notice Galatians 3:8

Here in this verse Paul quotes Genesis 12:3 but before we look at Genesis 12 let us consider why God called Abraham. It was because of what took place in Genesis 11.

Genesis 11:1-8

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

² *And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.*

³ *And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.*

⁴ *And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*

⁵ *And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.*

⁶ *And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.*

⁷ *Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.*

⁸ *So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.*

It was in the midst of what happened at the Tower of Babel that we find the reason why God called Abraham in chapter 12. It was in the kingdom of Nimrod that the "mother child worship began." Nimrod married Semiramis and they had a son named Tammuz according to Babylonian records. Tammuz was killed by a wild animal and through satanic power was brought back to life. This then started the worship of the "mother child" that continues even today. This false worship was carried away from the Tower of Babel by every nation and therefore every nation was polluted with this false worship. Now as we notice Genesis 12 we can understand why God called Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

² *And **I will make of thee a great nation**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

³ *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed**.*

Abraham would be the father of a new nation that had not been polluted with the "mother child worship." God then gives the Abrahamic promises here and one is that all the families of the earth would be blessed through Abraham meaning that through him would come the promised Redeemer. God would later ratify these promises into a covenant in Genesis 15.

Notice Galatians 3:8 again.

So, what is Paul saying in this verse? He is telling the Galatians that it was the plan of God to bring the Redeemer through Abraham and through the Redeemer salvation would be made available to all nations and families. Paul is then in a sense saying that message was in agreement with what was recorded in the Old Testament Scriptures.

Conclusion:

Notice Galatians 3:9

Just as Abraham was saved by faith and just as he received imputed righteousness and was blessed. All who exercise faith in the finished work are saved and clothed in the righteousness of God and is then truly blessed.

Romans 3:20-25

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;