

"Doctrine of Justification and Sanctification"

Galatians 3-4

Part 6

Introduction: In our study of Galatians last week, we looked at the purpose of the Law pertaining to salvation. Paul explained to the Galatians that the Law was never given as a means of justification. The Law was given because man is sinful and the Law then serves as a mirror to help man to see his true spiritual condition.

Notice Galatians 3:19

It was given until the Seed should come and the Seed was Jesus Christ. This does not mean that before Jesus Christ came that people were saved by keeping the Law. We know that Old Testament sinners were not saved by the Law because Paul used the example of Abraham who was saved 600 years before the Law and about 14 years before he was circumcised. Keep in mind the Law contained more than just the Ten Commandments. It also told man how he was to come to God and how he was to make atonement for his sin. Under the Law the average man could not get into the presence of God. Only the high priest could come into the Holy of Holies. But now that Jesus has come, He has made a way for the common man to come into the presence of God at any time. He did this by His one offering for sin.

Hebrews 10:10-14

¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹ And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Paul also made it very clear that the Law was not the means of justification but instead the Law was our school master that would bring us to Jesus Christ.

Notice Galatians 3:24-25

What was a school master in Paul's day? They served as a tutor and a disciplinarian that watched over a child until the child grew to maturity. Once the child grew to maturity then

they were free to live without the school master. It is then that the school master is no longer needed. The picture Paul is presenting is that once we come to Jesus Christ why would we want to go back under a tutor? Now in Jesus Christ we have everything we need to live godly lives. Grace teaches us to live separated from sin.

So, Paul's point is that the Law did have a purpose in the life of the sinner but it was not given to provide salvation. It was given to help us to see our need of salvation because it is not possible to keep the Law and therefore, we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God.

"The Blessings of Faith"

1. We are children of God.

Notice Galatians 3:26

The word "FOR" here connects back to what Paul just stated. We no longer need a tutor or disciplinarian because now we are all children of God. Now let me make something clear that is very much misunderstood in our society today. Not everyone is a child of God which means that not everyone can call God their Father. Only those who are saved can call God their Father. Those who are not saved are not the children of God.

John 8:33-34, 41-44

³³ *They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

³⁴ *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

⁴¹ *Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.*

⁴² *Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.*

⁴³ *Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.*

⁴⁴ *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Those who are not saved are children of the Devil. He is their father. So, the teaching that says we are all children of God is not Biblical. Only true believers can call God their Father. There are only two families on the earth. Those who are children of the Devil and those who are children of God.

Notice Galatians 3:26 again.

We need to notice that Paul says that we are the children of God BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS. He does not say that we are children of God because we have kept the Law or because we were circumcised. It is faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ that brings about the New Birth.

John 3:3

³ *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

Why do we need to be born again? Because in our first birth we were born spiritually dead.

Ephesians 2:1

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

To be born again is to be born of the Spirit. This is a literal birth that takes place the moment we exercise faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:14-22

¹⁴ *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

¹⁵ *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

¹⁶ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

¹⁹ *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*

²⁰ *For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,*

²¹ *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

²² *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*

As the children of God, the world does not know us for who we are. But there is coming a day when Jesus returns to the earth at the end of the Tribulation and in that day when the earth is released from the curse, we will be made manifest.

Before we move on to the next verse let us understand that as children of God we should demonstrate the characteristics of our Father. So as children of God we do not any longer need the school master. The Law served its purpose in the believer.

2. We are baptized into Jesus Christ.

Notice Galatians 3:27

The moment that we were saved several things took place.

a. We were born again.

John 3:3, 7

³ *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

⁷ *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

b. We were baptized into the body of Jesus Christ and into His death.

1 Corinthians 12:13

¹³ *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

Romans 6:3-6

³ *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

⁴ *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

⁵ *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

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.*

This is not two baptisms but one.

Ephesians 4:4-5

⁴ *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

⁵ *One Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

Notice Galatians 3:27 again.

This verse tells us that since we have a new position, we should also have a new practice. We are to put on Jesus Christ. This verse can be summed up with a verse from the previous chapter.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

As we have said many times, when a person is saved, he or she now has the power to live a life that glorifies the Lord by His power.

Romans 13:13-14

¹³ *Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*

¹⁴ *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

3. We are one family.

Notice Galatians 3:28

Paul points to 3 points that can separate. Ethnicity, social, and personal. The point is that no one in the church is superior to anyone else.

Ephesians 2:11-15

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

I want to show you how important unity in the body is to our Lord.

John 17:20-21

²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

²¹ That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

For anyone to attempt to disrupt the unity in the church is a serious offense against God.

Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁶ These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

¹⁹ A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

4. We are heirs according to the promise.

Notice Galatians 3:29

We receive the promise of justification through faith in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

Notice the words of Warren Wiersbe.

"Finally, the Law could never make us heirs of God (Gal. 3:29). God made the promise to Abraham's Seed? (singular, Gal. 3:16), and that Seed is Christ. If we are in Christ by faith, then we too are Abraham's seed spiritually speaking. This means we are heirs of the spiritual blessings God promised to Abraham. This does not mean that the material and national blessings promised to Israel are set aside, but that Christians today are enriched spiritually because of God's promise to Abraham."