

"Doctrine of Justification and Sanctification"

Galatians 3-4

Part 3

Introduction: Last week in our study of Galatians we looked at Galatians 3:6-9. In those verses Paul brought up the salvation of Abraham. Keep in mind that the Judaizers poisoned the minds of the Galatian believers and had them convinced that it was necessary to be under the Law of Moses for sanctification and some taught it was required for salvation as well. Therefore, Paul points them back Genesis 15:6 where we are told that Abraham was saved.

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.

Here in these verses, we read of Abraham's salvation and he was saved 600 years before the Law was ever given. He was also saved before he was circumcised. So, neither the Law nor circumcision had anything to do with his salvation. Paul was stating to the Galatians that his message aligned perfectly with what was taught in the Old Testament which was something that the Judaizers could not say. Their message contradicted what the Old Testament taught.

Now as we move on Paul is going to teach the Galatians concerning what it means to go under the Law. Let me give you a few thoughts to consider. The Galatians were young believers who were Gentiles. They were not educated in the Old Testament. The Truth they had was what Paul taught them. The Judaizers came in and took advantage of their

ignorance and their fresh hunger. Possibly the Judaizers cherry picked a few verses to convince them that they needed to keep the Law. Let me show you a few verses they may have used.

Psalm 1:1-3

***Blessed is the man** that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

² *But **his delight is in the law of the LORD**; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

³ *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

Psalm 119:1-3

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.

² *Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.*

³ *They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.*

In both of these passages the "law" refers to the Word of God and not to the Mosaic Law but the Galatians would not have known.

➤ **The Curse of the Law**

Let us keep in mind that the Judaizers had been successful in convincing the Galatians to turn from Grace to the Law.

Notice Galatians 3:10

Here is an eye-opening statement for the Galatians. Paul makes it very clear that anyone who puts themselves under the Law are also under the curse. What is the curse? It is Divine Condemnation. Why is this so? Because the Law demands perfect obedience and no man can keep the Law perfectly. Those who are under the Law believe that it is a path of blessing but it is not a blessing but a curse. For those who come under the Law for salvation or sanctification will fail miserably.

The following verses of Deuteronomy 28 show some of the curses of the Law. The children of Israel would be faced with disease, drought, deportation, and dread.

Deuteronomy 28:65-67

⁶⁵ And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

⁶⁶ And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

⁶⁷ In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

Those who attempt to keep the Law for salvation face an even greater curse in that they are condemned to death.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6

⁵ Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

⁶ Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

We see in Numbers what happened to Law breakers.

Numbers 15:32-36

³² And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day.

³³ And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation.

³⁴ And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him.

³⁵ And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.

³⁶ And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Notice Galatians 3:10 again.

Paul quotes from Deuteronomy here.

Deuteronomy 27:26

²⁶ Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them...

If we notice verse 10 closely Paul explains that ALL THINGS which are written in the Law must be kept perfectly.

James 2:10

¹⁰ For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Illustration:

If one part of the Law is broken it is like breaking the small corner of a glass window. It is not only the corner that is broken but the entire glass is broken. Notice the words of Richardson.

"Dishonest people think they are an exception to the rule. There are many ways to get around human law, but there is no way to circumvent God's law. God's law is God's standard. It sets forth what God will and will not accept. He will not accept 99.9% of the law. He demands perfection."

Notice Galatians 3:10 again.

The word "curse" is used two times in this verse. This second word for curse ("cursed") is even more intense than the first word for curse in this verse. "Cursed" here carries the idea of loathing by God; people who do not accept His grace stand condemned by God. This is a curse from God, more serious than from man. A "cursed" person is an outcast from God and His blessings. God includes "everyone" in this curse; there are no exceptions. The word "continueth" has the idea of being consistent. People must understand that if they are going to come under the Law for salvation or for sanctification God requires that the Law be kept on a consistent bases/perfectly. Notice the words of Wiersbe.

"Yes, there is a fascination to the law, but it is only bait that leads to a trap; and once the believer takes the bait, he finds himself in bondage. Far better to take God at His Word and rest on His grace. We were saved 'by grace, through faith' and we must live 'by grace, through faith.' This is the way to blessing. The other way is the way to bondage."

Notice Galatians 3:11

Here in this verse Paul makes it very clear that not one person is justified by the Law IN THE SIGHT OF GOD. This statement is so important. People can present themselves before their fellow man as justified and we can even fool our fellow man. But no man can

fool God. He knows the heart and He says that no man is justified by the Law. Paul also quotes from Habakkuk when he says, "The just shall live by faith."

Paul again gets to the point of this letter with this quote. We are saved by grace through faith and then we are to live by grace through faith. Someone has said that swallowing is essential to life and it is in the sense that we get our physical nourishment by swallowing. But we must be very careful what we swallow. If we were to swallow poison it could lead to sickness or even death. In the same way faith is essential to justification and to sanctification. But it matters what our faith rests in just as it matters what we swallow. For justification, our faith must rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ. For sanctification our faith must rest in the promises of the God concerning what He says is True of me and you after we are saved. The promises that tell us we are now filled with the power to live Godly lives. The promises that tell us we are dead to sin and we are no longer in bondage to sin. In other words, we started on the path of faith and we are to continue down the same path. If our faith is in the wrong thing such as the Law or in man's rules then blessings do not come but only bondage.

Notice Galatians 3:12

The Law is not faith. It is a works righteousness which is no righteousness at all. As we said before, the person who is under the Law must live and keep every part of the Law and that is not possible. Notice what Peter said in Acts 15 concerning the Gentile believers.

Acts 15:5-11

⁵ *But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.*

⁶ *And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.*

⁷ *And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.*

⁸ *And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;*

⁹ *And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*

¹⁰ *Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?*

¹¹ But we believe that through the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Notice Galatians 3:13

Jesus has redeemed/bought us with a price from the curse of the Law. The Law demanded the death of every sinner and Jesus took upon Himself all of our sins and He experienced the very death that we were sentenced to, which was eternal separation from God. Jesus paid the sin debt for each and every one of us. Paul again quotes from the Old Testament to make his point.

Notice Galatians 3:14

Jesus became a curse for us so that we might receive the blessing of Abraham. What is the blessing of Abraham? It is justification. It is eternal as opposed to eternal death.

Conclusion:

Paul's point in all of this is, "Why would you put yourself under the Law unto bondage when Jesus went to the cross and died to set us free from the curse and from the bondage of sin?"