

CHILDREN OF GOD BY FAITH

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TEXT:

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:24-26).

INTRODUCTION:

1) God through Paul is showing that justification from sin comes through obedience to the Gospel - not by the law of Moses.

2) Has shown that there is one Gospel for the Jew and the Gentile. “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8-9).

3) They had removed from that Gospel. “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:” (Galatians 1:6).

4) Some had come in and "bewitched" them. “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?” (Galatians 3:1).

(1) "foolish Galatians" - thoughtless, not using their mind.

(2) “Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:” (Luke 24:25).

(3) "Bewitched" - led you astray- (each one is responsible for himself - not to be led away)

(4) Satan is behind all of it .

(5) “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” (John 8:44).

(6) “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (2Thessalonians 2:8-10).

(7) Does make a difference what one believes?

5) Jesus had been crucified before their eyes - knew about it by means of the Gospel; (idea of public proclamation - but were turning away. O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?” (Galatians 3:1).

I. PAUL'S ARGUMENT FROM THE SPIRIT. Verses 2-5

1) Miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit were given by laying on of the apostles

hands. "And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money," (Acts 8:18).

2) Paul assumed they should see relationship between gifts of the Spirit & the message proclaimed.

(1) Purpose of miracles.

(2) "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen" (Mark 16:17-20).

(3) "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" (Hebrews 2:3-4).

(4) With whom was the Spirit identified? Paul or Judaizers? PAUL! V.5

(5) So God endorsed Gospel preached by Paul.

II. ARGUMENTS FROM THE SCRIPTURES. Verses 6 -18

1) Several times Paul will refer to the scriptures. (Old Testament)

2) Will use scripture, persons, and principles to prove support for the Gospel he preached.

3) First use Abraham.

(1) Abraham righteous without the law of Moses. "Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness" (Galatians 3:6).

(2) Abraham had active obedient faith - "And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness" (Genesis 15:6).

(3) We must have the same. "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17).

(4) God preached before the gospel unto Abraham.

(5) "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed" (Galatians 3:8).

(6) "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" (Genesis 12:3).

(7) A land promise - fulfilled.

(8) "And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass" (Joshua 21:43-45).

(9) Spiritual promise - fulfilled in Christ.

(10) "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ" (Galatians 3:16).

(11) Application. "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29).

4) The argument from the Law: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:10-14).

5) Then confirmation of God's promise: "Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise" (Galatians 3:15-18).

(1) God made a promise - covenant with Abraham.

(2) Promise involved Christ - promised confirmed - cannot be set aside!

III. THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW. Verses 19-24

1) Obvious question. What was the purpose then? "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator" (Galatians 3:19).

2) It was added (promise still in effect)

3) Law kept check on sin - showed sin was sin.

4) Wasn't intended to last. "Till" Verse 19

5) Before faith came - all under sin - "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed" (Galatians 3:22-23).

6) The law as our schoolmaster (tutor)- to bring us unto Christ. "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24).

IV. NOW - NOT UNDER THE LAW. Verses 25 -27

1) Now all are children of God by faith in Christ.

2) How? "in Christ" - how children of God by faith?

(1) "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

(2) "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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" (Romans 6:3-4).

CONCLUSION:

1) In Christ all are equal - no distinction as far as blessings.

(1) "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

(2) "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" (1Corinthians 12:13).

2) All heirs according to the promise. "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29).

3) These arguments should convince one we are not under the law of Moses.