

Date: 26 Mar 2023

Scripture Passage: Galatians 3:10-14

Title: Justification By Faith (Part 2)

Introduction

- Paul rescuing Galatian churches from influence of Judaizers. The Judaizers taught the people that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ was not sufficient. You must keep the laws of Moses, including circumcision. So in order to be better Christians, or to be sure of your salvation, you must keep the law of Moses. Faith is just not sufficient.
- In v1-9, Paul had explained that the blessing of Abraham comes to all the nations through faith in Christ.
- In v10-14 He shows us that faith delivers us from the curse of the law. This message is about the deliverance from the curse of the law.
- We want to be delivered from the curse of the law, we want to enter the blessing of Abraham. So Paul has shown us that to enter the blessing of Abraham, we must have faith in Christ. In this passage today, he wants to show that when you have Faith in Christ, you are delivered from the curse of the law.

1. Faith in Christ is contradictory to law-keeping (10-12).

- “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse”. Paul says all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse. Not only the Jews were under the law, but also the Gentiles are under the law. “All” are under the law of God. Paul argues in Romans where he says when there's no law, there is no sin. God can't hold anybody accountable for sin if he hasn't legislated any behavioral obligations to the world. Before the law was given on Mount Sinai and Moses delivered the tablets of stone, that the whole world already knew the foundational precepts of the moral law of God. We know the difference between what is right and what is wrong. And so we are all under (underneath) the law. Paul tells us that being under the law involves not only being under obligation to the law, but we are under the curse of the law.
- v10 Relying on works brings you under curse (10 cf. Deut 27:26).
 - You must keep to the law of God perfectly, otherwise you are under the curse of the law.
- v11 Law-keeping cannot justify (11 cf. Habakkuk 2:4).
 - The just shall live by faith. So those who have faith will live, otherwise they will perish in their sin. You must have faith in the savior, just like Abraham had faith in the coming savior as declared by God's word.
- v12 Law keeping & faith are two completely different systems. (12 cf. Lev. 18:5).
 - Only those who keep law perfectly will live by them, otherwise they will perish in their sin.
- The way of the gospel preached by Paul is justification by faith. And that way of salvation is so contradictory to relying on law keeping. If you want to go back to law keeping, then you will find you are under its curse because you are unable to keep the law perfectly.

2. Faith in Christ delivers us from the curse of the law (13).

- This is a quote from the Old Testament in Deuteronomy 21:23. That was what happened when Christ came to die on the cross. We are the one who deserve to die and to be under the curse of the law. We deserve eternal damnation because of our sin against God. When Christ was hung on the cross (or tree), he was being made cursed on our behalf. We needed to die, but he died in our place. We needed to be under the curse of the law, but Christ was made the one who bore the curse. And in that way,

we are spared from the curse of the law. Instead of we paying for our sins, Christ has paid for us. So that is why the word “redeem” is used.

- How does that happen? “Redeem” is to make payment to secure freedom of slaves. Christ by His death on cross became curse for us, i.e. He was our substitute, His death was our death. Christ died in the place of his people so that they don't have to bear the curse of the law. And in that way we are spared. We are set free from having to pay for ourselves. Confirmed by 2:20, “He gave Himself for me”.

3. Faith in Christ leads to the reception of the Spirit (14 cf. 2).

- The moment we have faith in Christ, the spirit comes to live in us. The Spirit is the token/sign that seals our salvation. Everyone who has faith in Christ finish work is indwelt by the Spirit (2, 5). The spirit is promised to all, to those who turn from their sin to trust in Jesus Christ. This promise was given when the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead, that whoever hears the gospel and believe, the spirit will be given. On the day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter stood up and he proclaimed that truth. **Acts 2:38-39** cf 18. If you believe, if you are called, you will be saved. The way of salvation is the same for everyone, Jew or Gentile. The way of salvation is the same for you and your descendants. The way for of salvation is for those who are near as well As for those who are far. There is only one way of salvation. It is justification by faith. God declares you not guilty, but treats you as righteous only when you have faith in Jesus Christ.
- Christ delivers us from the curse of the law (v13) and faith in Christ leads us to the reception of the Holy Spirit (v14). Paul is saying salvation is by faith. Living a holy life is the fruit of faith.
 - Sanctification or the process of growing holier is one thing. But being accepted by God is another thing. You must first be accepted by God. Your sins must be dealt with. You must have righteousness in you. Since you don't have righteousness, you must find righteousness in Christ. Since you need to be condemned for your sins, somebody has to take your place. Therefore, you must have faith in Christ when you have faith in Christ, your sin is regarded as taken by Christ, and Christ's righteousness is counted as yours. In that way you are treated as righteous. Justification is by faith. And you continue your Christian life by faith.
 - Confirmed by **2 Cor 5:21, & 19** “imputation” & “reconciliation”. Repent from your sins and trust in Christ. His death has paid for the curse that you deserve. And His righteousness is now counted as yours. That is what it means by imputation. To be counted as no more guilty and counted as righteous.
- The new age has arrived, the covenant promise to Abraham is being fulfilled (14). Are you sure you are saved? Is the Spirit in you? Have your believed, trusting in Christ alone? Experience changes in you (cf. 4, 5)?

Summary and Applications

- “Justification by faith alone” is the article of the standing or falling church. “Justification by grace, through faith, in Christ alone” battle cry of the Reformation. Seek out church that preaches this. You really must go to a church that preaches the true gospel. That is the core of the Christian faith.
- Are you sealed with the Holy Spirit? True faith in the Lord, who died to save? We know that the moment we repent and believe in Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the seal of our salvation. Are you a true Christian? Do you have the spirit of God in you? Make sure that you are sealed with the spirit. Make sure that you have repented of your sins, and you're trusting in Christ and Christ alone for salvation. If you are not a true Christian, make today be the day when you repent, the

day when you confess your sin, the day when you trust in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to save sinners. Make today be the day when you come to Jesus Christ. May God deal mercifully with us all.