

Date: 16 Apr 2023

Scripture Passage: Galatians 3:26-4:7

Title: The Fulfilment In Christ

Introduction

- There is only one way of salvation, and that way is by faith in the promised savior, namely Jesus Christ. And that one way of salvation had been revealed to Abraham, and God gave that promise of salvation to Abraham through a covenant. And that covenant has been sealed with Abraham. And since the covenant has been sealed, it cannot be broken. The law which came later could not cancel what God had sealed with Abraham by Covenant. If God had entered into an agreement, then he would keep what he has promised. So the law which was given after the promise of Abraham served a certain purpose.
- We saw in the previous passage (3:15-25), that “The True Purpose Of The Law” was because of sin. Sin was in us all and the law was given to curb sin, to restrain us so that we do not sin worse than we are sinning. If there was no law, God's people would have seen worse. The law was to restrain sin so that his purpose of fulfilling the promise to Abraham may take place. The purpose of the law is therefore to drive the Jews to Jesus Christ. The need for them to repent and believe in the savior that is to come.
- This week, we come to see how the promise given to Abraham was fulfilled by the coming of Jesus Christ in Galatians 3:26 – 4:7

I. The manner of fulfilment (3:26-29)

- Through faith in Christ Jesus (26-27). We learn of this truth that the fulfillment was through faith in Jesus. The promise of salvation to Abraham had to be fulfilled by faith in Jesus Christ. When Abraham received the promised, he not only believed God who will fulfill his promise, but he believed the content of that promise. Abraham was saved not only by trusting God, but by believing in content of that promise. He knew that the promise was that a savior will come from among his descendants. The seed will arrive and through him. Blessing of God through Abraham will come through this seed. So the seed is Jesus Christ, as has been told us in Gal3:16. That same seed is also promised to Adam and Eve. When Adam and Eve's sin against God, God pronounce that through the seed of the woman, will crush the head of the serpent, while he'll be wounded in the heel. When Abraham believed the promise of God, he believed in the savior that was promised. He was saved by faith in Jesus Christ. So if we today have faith in Jesus Christ, we actually have the same faith as Abraham. We become sons of God, i.e. accepted by Him, through faith in Christ.
- Faith is shown by baptism. You don't get baptized to have be saved, but you are saved therefore you are baptized. The Bible is very clear, but we make it not clear. When Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission by saying to his disciples “Go into the world and make disciples of all the nations and baptize them in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all I have commanded you. And lo, I shall be with you to the end of the age. Amen.” The Great Commission is the command given by the Lord. A command cannot be unclear. Otherwise, why? Why should it be called the Great Commission, the great mandate, an important command that is given to us for all time. In the original Greek, it simply means immersion, completely going underwater and coming out of it. To completely submerge. That is what it means to get baptized. When the person believes he becomes a disciple, then you baptize. We don't baptize babies because babies cannot be disciples yet. Not all who grow up and hear the word of God are converted and saved. Even if you have grown up in a Christian home, don't think that you are Christian. You are not yet a Christian until you yourself repent and believe in Christ. All those who have faith in Christ, they are baptized in Christ. And that is what it means in verse 27 “for as many of you us were baptized into Christ, have put on Christ”. And if you have been baptized without faith in Christ, that baptism is not true Biblical baptism. Why does it say “baptized into Christ” in v27. It is because you are already united to Christ by faith, then you get baptized. It is because you have “put on Christ” righteousness. Once you have faith in Christ, then the spirit of God begin to transform you from within. And the moment you trust in Christ, you are regarded as righteous before God. **1 Cor 12:12-13**. Your faith and your Union with Christ is shown by baptism. Baptism doesn't save. Baptism cannot save. But when you have faith in Christ, you show it by baptism. So baptism is now used as a symbol. As a reference, to your Union with Christ.

- To become Abraham's seed, and heirs according to promise (28-29). God looks upon us as equally sinners who need salvation in Christ. Whoever you are, you need Jesus Christ to be saved. When we come to faith in Jesus Christ, we are equally loved by God. We all are heirs. Of the promise that God has given to Abraham, we are regarded as the seed of Abraham. If you belong to Christ, then Abraham's seed, & heirs according to promise (29). Anyone who shared the same faith as Abraham, namely faith in Christ. They received the promised blessing. God promised Abraham to be a blessing to many nations. Now it comes to all those who have faith in Jesus Christ. So the blessing of God to Abraham was fulfilled in Christ to all the nations, and we become heirs of the promise of God. Faith in Christ the only way to be saved from judgement, to received promised blessing (3:10, 9).

II. The outcome of fulfilment (4:1-7)

- Redeemed, to receive the adoption as sons (1-5). Illustration of guardians & stewards (chief servants) cf. "tutor" (3:24). An underage child, though master of all, is unable to enjoy full benefits till time appointed by father. The Jews at that time were like children. They can't wait to be free. They don't want the shackles of the law. Similarly today, after Christ has come, in so far as our personal salvation is concerned, many must be still like that. When we hear the law, we are condemned by it, we feel restrained by it. But when we preach the law, the need to be live a righteous life, we are not saying you are safe by keeping the law. Rather we are pointing out to you that you cannot be saved because you are sinner before God. You fail to keep his law. Don't try to become righteous by your own effort. Rather, recognize that you have broken God's law. You're guilty in his sight. You deserve damnation. That is why the purpose of the law is drive you to Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ is the only way by which we will be saved. The way of faith in Christ. You come to receive this free gift by faith in Him. So it is not dependent on your effort at trying to make yourself righteous. It is not reliant on your effort to produce enough good works. But rather it is just simply trusting in Jesus Christ, who has done everything necessary to set sinners by his death on the cross. So that is the teaching that Christ came to redeem us.
- At God-appointed time, the Son sent, born of woman, under law. We have sinned against God. We deserve damnation. Christ came by being born of a woman. The Eternal Son of God has come to be born of a woman. He has taken on human nature, except without sin. He has to be without sin to be the perfect sacrifice. But he's truly man. The son of God has come to take upon himself perfect human nature. He has to be born under the law. We failed to keep the law. He came to keep the law on our behalf, and he kept it perfectly. He committed no sin, he never broke any of God's law. He's the only one who could keep God's law perfectly. So he fulfilled the requirements of the law and he died as the perfect sacrifice for his people. In theology that is called the active obedience of Christ and the passive obedience of Christ. We summarize it as "Christ and Him crucified". But it can be broken into two parts. His active obedience meant he kept the law perfectly on behalf of his people. So that the demands of the law have been fulfilled in Christ for those who believe in him. Then there is the passive obedience of Christ. Christ laid down his life on the cross to make up for what we owe to God because of our sins. We deserve damnation in hell for our sins, but Christ paid for the sins of His people, so they don't have to die and be plunge to hell to suffer forever. This is the effect when we are redeemed. We are justified or declared no more guilty. Instead, we are adopted as sons and daughters. We become the children of God. When you finally come to realize that you cannot use your effort to save yourself, then you come to appreciate the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. The moment you turn to trust in Christ, you are liberated and set free from having to keep "Do's and don'ts". You're liberated from relying on your own effort, which you will never succeed. You are set free now to become children of God and enjoy the blessings in Christ.
- Indwelt by the Spirit as a son and an heir (6-7). Salvation is not merely external, involving do's & don'ts. It is internal, spiritual, thorough. It is the work of the spirit in you, the giving of the spirit. The spirit will come and live in you. It is a work that is from within. And it is a work that is spiritual. It is a thorough spiritual work. It is a divine work, a work of God in the soul of man. It is not just merely giving you a set of clothes and performing a ceremony of adoption. No, instead it is the giving of the spirit who come and live in you. And the spirit who is God, begins to transform you from within.

- **Eph. 1:13; 4:30** And the presence of the spirit is like a guarantee, the seal, that you belong to God. The Holy Spirit gives us new desires. You begin to love God. You begin to love his people. You begin to love his law. If you love God, you will come regularly to worship God. And if you love his people, you will come together and not just worship at home. You will be part of the church and you will serve the Lord with his people together. And if you love his law, you will not only study his word, but you will want to obey his word and the spirit of God gives you that desire, and the spirit of God enables you to carry out all these. And that is why you begin to live a holy life. You are able to live a holy life because the spirit lives in you and works in you. When you come to faith in Christ, the spirit come and dwell in you, and you're so certain you are now forgiven by God and that you are accepted by God, and you call our Father Abba. You don't have to be eloquent in your prayers, but if you can call out to God father from your heart, that is the indication that you have entered the Kingdom of God. At last, you are born again. The Holy Spirit is a seal of your salvation. A seal that shows you belong to God. God is your father. The assurance of salvation will be there to some measure. You have peace with God. You know that God will protect you. No one can snatch you away from his hand. Not even Satan. People can only destroy your body, but God can destroy body and soul in hell. And this same God, who is all powerful, He has chosen you to be his. He has brought you with the blood of his son. You belong to him. He will not allow anyone or anything to snatch you out of the palm of his hand. He will ensure that you arrive safely in heaven. By the power of his spirit in you, he will make sure that you arrive safely home. All your needs to live out the Christian life will be provided for you. These are the privileges that belong to those who are truly God's children. And how do we enter into all this blessing? We are redeemed, set free by God, justified, and adopted, and we are filled with his Spirit. We truly belong to him. And we will be guided until we arrive safely home. How does all this happen? Through faith in Jesus Christ.

Summary and Application

- Calls for gratitude to God, for salvation is by grace, justification is by faith, not works. Do not be drawn away by those who insist on works. Instead, live righteous life, by faith. As the years grow by, we grow not only in knowledge, we grow not only in usefulness in service to God, but we grow in our appreciation of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to save his people. If you appreciate that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, how grateful you will be.
- Calls for appreciation of Christ's love, accomplishing our redemption, justification, & adoption. It means that you must show your acceptance of his word, of his people, of the salvation you have given to you. You want to give your life to him. You no longer belong to yourself. Don't think in a selfish way. Don't think of just your own benefits. Think of how you are to give yourself to Christ. How you are to serve God together with these people. This is where your regular attendance at church is not just to show that you were present, but rather your love for God shown by your love for his people and your love for his work.
- Calls for repentance & faith, since there is only one way to be saved. This message calls for repentance and faith. Since there is only one way, and that way is by faith in Christ alone. No color of skin will exempt you. You still are a sinner, guilty before God. No creed. Whatever you believe in will not save you. You need to come to Jesus Christ to be saved. No color, no creed, no class! Whatever status in life, however highly you think you are in society, you still need Jesus Christ. You must come to him. This applies to all without which you will be condemned for your sins. This is the way of salvation taught in the Bible. It is the way given by God to everyone. Wherever you are from, whatever background, come to Christ. God alone can have mercy on you. And as the word is preach, you must respond. Respond to the call of the gospel. Repent of your sins and come to Jesus Christ. Let this be the day of your salvation. May God deal mercifully with us all.