

Galatians: “Freed by Christ, to Follow the Spirit”

Galatians 3:1-14 “A Dangerous Decision”

10/09/2016 : Phil de Martimprey

Key Truth

Jesus was cursed so that we might be blessed

(Gal 1:1-9) Paul get straight to the problem as he addresses these churches in the region of Galatia. These Judaizers had come into these churches teaching that the Gentiles must come under the law of Moses and be circumcised in order to be Justified, aka. made right with God. It was a mixture of faith in Jesus AND following the law that would set people free, and make them part of God's family. As this teaching quickly took root in the lives of the believers, it drove a wedge between the Jews and Gentiles, and ripped at the foundation of the gospel. Paul's command is to get these false teachers out of their churches immediately!

(Gal 1:10-2:14) In an attempt to make their message seem more “true” these agitators attacked Paul's character and apostolic authority, as well as the authority of the Gospel Paul had preached. Paul answered this two pronged attack with an autobiographical section reminding and reinforcing the truth that both his authority and the gospel's authority came directly from God.

(Gal 2:15-21) Not only did this false teaching drive a wedge in the churches, but Paul revealed that it had some devastating repercussions if it were indeed accurate. Namely, that Christ is not able to justify anyone; that Christ actually promotes sin, and that Christ died for no purpose.

(Gal 3:1-5) Now Paul will begin the more explicit teaching part of this letter. He begins by recognizing the importance and reality of the holy Spirit in the lives of these believers. Reminding them that they had received the person of the Spirit into their lives by faith, not by any works of the law. Not only had they initially received the Spirit by faith, but their very sanctification process was also by faith! For them to think they could receive the Spirit by faith, but then turn to works of the law for their spiritual growth was foolish! They had begun by the Spirit and would continue by the Spirit.

(Gal 3:6-9) Paul turn his attention to the question “who are the sons of Abraham”? This seems to have been one of the issue these false teacher were using to support their claims. They were saying that these gentiles needed to become “sons of Abraham” to be part of God's family, and the only way they would be able to do that would be to come under the law! Paul corrects this teaching by arguing and supporting the claim that all who have faith in Christ are sons of Abraham, because they have received the “blessing” of Abraham, namely, justification.

(Gal 3:10-14) To bring contrast to the truth that “all who have faith” are sons of Abraham and blessed, Paul has some strong things to say about “all who rely on works of the law”. They are under God's curse! If they desire to seek justification by any work of the law, they must abide by ALL the works of the law, or else they will fall under the curse of the law and most certainly not be justified! This should be so evident to them! The only way out of the curse of the law, is to rely fully upon what Christ has done in becoming the “curse for us” through his crucifixion. Christ is able to stand in our place and be cursed for us, because he lived perfectly

under the law, so no curse fell on him until he took the curse for our disobedience, to make a way for us to be justified. Paul brings both Jew and Gentile back into one family in **vs 14** as he shows how justification came to the gentiles by faith, and that now “we” (Jew and Gentile alike) might receive the Spirit through faith. Paul will continue to unpack more about the Holy Spirit in our lives as we continue our study through this incredible book.