

6-26-22

## Galatians 3:6-14.

Most of us like to earn our way, right?

The theme of Galatians is that living under the Law enslaves us but living in grace sets us free. So, why would anyone who had been saved by grace, go back, and start living like a legalist? Performance-based religion makes us feel good about ourselves.

The word "evangelism" means to "share the good news." I came to realize as I studied this passage that as Paul wrote to these Christians, he was re-evangelizing them. And we need to be constantly re-evangelizing each other, reminding ourselves that salvation is by grace instead of by works.

Paul gives a few points to Peter, Barnabas, the Galatian believers, and all future followers of God. We are to live by faith in the shed blood of Jesus, the work He did on the cross for man.

### I. Abraham's example.

- The "**certain men from James**" that Peter allowed to push him back into his old racist ways, that Paul called "**false brethren**" always went back to Moses and the Law. Moses was their go-to ace.
- So, Paul went back before Moses, he went back to Abraham, the first Jew, Father Abraham.
- **Read verses 6-9.**
- Paul points out that Abraham is a believer's example of living after God by faith.
- **Verse 7, "Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham."**
- All of us who believe as Abraham did are children of Abraham. He is called the Father of faith. (Father Abraham song)
- God told Abraham to leave his home in Ur (Iraq) and head toward a land that He would show him. It took major faith for Abraham to leave without knowing where he was going. (Can you imagine just blindly following, not making any plans, no GPS coordinates to put in.)
- It took enduring faith for Abraham to believe God's promise that he would have so many descendants they would outnumber the stars. He had to keep on believing God for decades because when he and Sarah were both approaching 100 years of age, they were still childless. But God kept his promise, and a little baby named "Laughter" was born Isaac.

- But the hardest act in Abraham's life was when God tested Abraham's faith. He asked him to take his only son, Isaac, and to sacrifice him to God. That required radical faith!
- Abraham with the knife in his hand ready to take the life of his precious son. At the last moment, God sent an angel to stop Abraham. In addition, God sent a ram, caught in a thicket, to be a substitute for Isaac. Although Isaac walked up the hill to die, he walked back down alive because a lamb was sacrificed in his place.
- This is an important prophecy of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The hill of Calvary where Jesus died was only a stone's throw from where Abraham took Isaac. Like Isaac, Jesus walked up the hill. But He had no substitute; He WAS our substitute. But like a living Isaac, Jesus walked down the hill after God raised Him from the dead.
- "What kind of God would ask a Father to sacrifice his son?" The short answer to that is, "The same kind of God who would also sacrifice His Son on the same hill." But remember, God knew Isaac wasn't going to die.
- "What kind of father was Abraham, to even consider killing his son?" I don't have to answer that question because the New Testament answers it.

**Hebrews 11:17-19, *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup> of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>19</sup> He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.***

- Radical faith was believing that even if Abraham killed his son, God would raise him from the dead.
- **Galatians 3:6 says, "just as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted (credited) to him for righteousness."**
- What if when you checked you bank statement it said you had 40 million dollars in it? What would you do first? How would you feel?
- When you believe God, He credits to our account something a billion times more valuable than money; He credits the righteousness of Jesus to our spiritual account. Will you believe Him and act on it? Abraham did and so should we!

## **II. Living under the Law is impossible.**

- **Read verse 10-12.**
- Trying to earn goodness by keeping the Old Testament Law was like trying to scale two massive walls. The first wall was that you had to **CONTINUE** to obey the rules. It couldn't be hit and miss; you had

to obey every second of every day of your life. The second massive wall you had to obey **EVERYTHING**, not just the Ten Commandments, but all the hundreds of tedious, obscure rules as well.

- Paul argued that the only thing the Old Testament Law does is show us we CAN'T keep it!
- Legalism has no wiggle-room for our mistakes. If you break the rules, you're broken on the rules. The law is hard and fast and never takes into consideration any exceptions.
- That's a sad picture of the Old Testament law. It was life lived strictly by the rules, with no wiggle room.

### **III. Jesus took our curse upon the tree.**

- **Read verse 13.** Notice the word "**us**" used twice in that verse. Who is the us?
- Does that mean everyone on the planet will be redeemed? No. Jesus died for the sins of everyone in the world, but the Bible teaches that **ONLY** those who trust Him are redeemed.
- So, are you in the "**us**" who have been redeemed? Ask the person next to you, "Are you in the "**us**?" If you're not in the "**us**," you'd better get on the bus that goes to the cross, because that's the only way to be saved.
- Disobedience to the law carries a curse, so without Jesus we're all cursed. At the cross, the only man who ever lived a sinless life chose to take our curse upon Himself when He bore our sins.

**1 Peter 2:24, who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose <sup>[9]</sup>stripes you were healed.**

- Does anyone remember what the last words of the O.T. are?

**Malachi 4:4-6, "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. <sup>5</sup> Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."**

- What is the last word? "**Curse**"
- I'm thankful for a God who takes care of every problem in the world. When we come to the very last chapter of the Bible, we read these powerful words: "**And there shall be no more curse, but**

***the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.” (Revelation 22:3)***

### **Conclusion**

Most of us struggle with the pure grace of God because we feel better about ourselves if we can do something to earn God’s favor.

One theologian writes: “Grace is counter-intuitive, beyond price and yet totally free. Left to ourselves we hate it. When I say grace is counter intuitive, I mean the idea of grace goes against our human nature. Everything in our nature says, “Try hard. Work hard. Earn acceptance with God. But salvation is not by trying; it is by trusting.”

In **Genesis 3** God pronounced that part of the curse of sin was that thorns and thistles would grow and infest the ground. Thorns represent the broken relationship between God and man. And then when Abraham was getting ready to sacrifice Isaac, there was a Ram caught in—guess what? Thorns. The ram that became a substitute for Isaac was literally wearing a crown of thorns. And then 2,000 years after Mt. Moriah, what was Jesus wearing as He walked up another part of Mt. Moriah? A crown of thorns. And 2,000 years later, we realize that in wearing that crown and dying on that cross takes away the curse of sin.

How far is the curse found? It’s universal, but thank God, so is His grace. **Romans 5:20 says, “Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” (KJV)** The curse is worldwide, but the Bible says that God can remove our sins as far as the East is from the West!”

Will you stop your religious trying, instead of aiming to earn something that God offers for free, how about you start trusting God to save you today?

Christians, will we stop religiously trying, repeatedly trying to earn, half-heartedly attempting, instead allow God to proclaim the victory through you