

# Galatians – Part 5 | 9/30/18

- We are justified by faith and not our works. | Galatians 2:15-3:9
  - **Read Galatians 2:15-3:9**
  - The truth of the Gospel tells us that we are justified by our faith and not our works. This is the premise of Paul's letter to the churches of Galatia.
  - This is the primary reason for His letter was to make it clear to others how one is justified (to be saved).
  - **That this is not a work or action, but it is through faith.**
  - **Paul begins his commentary on justification by faith with his rebuke of Peter.**
    - Paul had previously called out Peter's hypocrisy because he had pulled away from the Gentiles and began sitting with the Judaizers.
    - His actions were showing others that he was validating their false beliefs that one had to become a Jew to be a Christian.
    - After Paul called Peter out on his hypocrisy he then gave a passionate discourse on how we are justified by our faith and not our works.
  - Important terms and statements to understand
    - Justified or justification
      - To be "justified" is the word used when a judge would declare someone to be "not guilty" or innocent.
      - When it is used in the Scriptures it describes how **God declares one to be righteous** and who has had their sins forgiven.
        - This is how one becomes a Christian.
        - **God declares the sinner to be justified and therefore "not guilty" of their sins.**
      - His **righteousness is transferred** (imputed) to the person and their **sins are transferred** (imputed) upon Christ.
        - Even though the sinner is truly guilty, God takes or imputes the sins upon Himself.
          - 1 Peter 2:24
            - "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."
        - Because of the sinner's faith God will justify them which is a free gift because of His grace.
          - Romans 3:23-25b
      - **Salvation comes to those whom God has justified.**
    - Works of the law
      - Used in the context of this passage the "works of the law" are going to be the things that the Judaizers had been declaring were necessary for one to be saved.
        - Salvation through legalism.
      - **This was for one to become a Jew and so consisted of circumcision, the food laws and observance of the Sabbath.**
      - When we talk of the law and works in general this also reflects the **Mosaic Law**. This is the commands given to Moses for how the Israelites were to live their lives, this also included the 10 commandments.
        - These can be found in Exodus chapters 19-23



- Paul was refuting to the Galatians that works were required for justification and appealed to their salvation.
- He asked them how they came by their salvation, was it works or through hearing the Gospel and having faith.
  - Galatians 3:1-3
- **Why is it that the Scriptures tell us that if righteousness was through the law then the cross was unnecessary? What then was the purpose of the cross?**
- **Why is it common for people to think that salvation has to be earned?**
- Salvation is a free gift that God bestows through faith.
  - God did not want us to earn our salvation because it is impossible for us to do.
  - There isn't anything that we can do in works or actions that would void our sins.
    - No matter how many good deeds we may do it will NEVER makeup for our sins.
    - **So, no matter what works we do or obedience to God's laws once we have sinned we are guilty.**
      - Romans 5:12
        - "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—"
  - **The ONLY way our sins could be forgiven** was for Jesus to nail it to the cross and to sacrifice himself for us.
    - Colossians 2:13-14
      - "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, **by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.** This he set aside, nailing it to the cross."
  - **This is why God gifts it to us because it is NOT anything that we can earn on our own. It is a free gift.**
    - Romans 6:23
      - "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
    - Romans 4:4-5
      - "Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness."
      - Our salvation is never DUE to use because we deserve it.
  - **God made it a free gift so that we would see his grace and righteousness.**
    - Romans 4:16a
      - "That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace..."
    - Romans 3:25b-26
      - "...this was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

- **Our part is to believe that the gift is real, that Christ is who He says He is. To have faith in Him. This is no work, this is something within our hearts.**
  - **Why else do you think God made salvation a free gift?**
  - **Why does He not make us work for it?**
  - **What do you think of Romans 4:16a and 3:25b-26?**
- The Scriptures concerning Abraham shows us that Salvation has always been by God's grace through faith even at the beginning of the Old Testament.
  - **Another important truth that is provided to us here in Galatians is that salvation by faith was not something "new".**
    - Sometimes we can look at the Scriptures and think oh that to be saved by grace through faith is new and before that there was a "different" way to be saved.
      - It is easy to see how we might think this, but we find that this is not the case.
  - Abraham was not justified by his works.
    - One might think that Abraham was justified to God through his works as he did many good things and is seen as the Father of the people of Israel.
    - But the Scriptures tell us otherwise that his actions did not make him justified before God.
      - Romans 4:1-2
        - "What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
  - Abraham was justified just as we are through faith.
    - Now he didn't have faith in the effects of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross, but he had faith in the promises of God and it did NOT come from the law.
      - Galatians 3:6
        - "just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"?"
      - Genesis 15:6
        - "And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness."
      - Romans 4:13
        - For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith".
        - The law was given some 460 years after we have recordings in Scripture of Abraham's salvation through faith
    - **In Romans 4 we have a detailed breakdown as to why Abraham was deemed righteous because of his faith.**
      - Romans 4:18-22
  - **When you look at Romans 4:18-22, how does Abraham's faith compare to our own for salvation by believing in Jesus Christ?**
- God's promise of salvation by grace through faith was always going to be available for both the Jews and the Gentiles.
  - While God chose the people of Israel to bring Jesus into the world and to be His "chosen people". God from the beginning was going to make salvation through grace available to everyone.
    - Galatians 3:8-9

- “And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.”
- Genesis 22:18
  - “and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed by voice.”
  - Offspring = Christ
  - Nations = Everyone including Jews and Gentiles.
- Romans 4:23-24
  - “But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who **raised from the dead Jesus our Lord.**”
- **The “blessing” that was given to Abraham and that would be passed to the nations is salvation through faith.**
  - Galatians 3:14
    - “so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.”
  - Salvation has ALWAYS been by God’s grace through faith.
- **What are examples of seeing this saving faith throughout the Old Testament?**
  - **Hint: Hebrews 11**