

Gal. 3:6-14

- I. Faith, not Law is the means of Abraham's blessing of righteousness (6-12)
 - A. Faith/Trust in Christ is the means of Abraham's blessing (6-9)
 - 1. Those who trust Christ are following Abraham's example and pattern (6-7)
 - a Just as Abraham's example of believing God into righteousness (6)
 - Quoting Gen 15:6
 - 1) Abraham believed God (6a)
 - 2) And it was credited to him to be righteousness (6b)
 - b Those who trust Christ follow the same pattern (7)
 - 1) You know that (7a)
 - 2) What you know: These ones from the faith group¹ are sons of Abraham (7b)
 - i.e. have the characteristic of Abraham (faith) and can expect the result (righteousness/blessing) that Abraham received- including implied imputation of righteousness that came by faith in Abraham's case
 - The same with us who believe
 - 2. All who trust Christ will experience Abraham's blessing (8-9)
 - a God's promise and pattern is that all who respond with Abraham's faith would share his blessing (8)
 - 1) God promised to justify the nations who respond by faith (8a-b)
 - a) The Scripture saw beforehand (8a)
 - i.e. God foresaw/planned and made known through the Scriptures
 - b) Content: that God justifies the nations/gentiles from faith (8b)
 - 2) Scripture announced that all nations would be blessed through Abraham (8c-d)
 - a) It announced the good news in advance to Abraham (8c)
 - b) Content: that all the nations will be blessed in you (8d)
 - Quoting Gen 12:3
 - b Result: The ones from the faith group are blessed along with the faith of Abraham (9)
 - Salvation historical argument:
The true heirs of Abraham's promises and partakers in God's plan, are not by circumcision or following the law
(even though Abraham did these things, but not in this order
Abraham's obedience was in response to righteousness, not the cause-
The same should hold true for the Galatians)
but are by believing God – having faith like Abraham

¹ Not an actual group, but the subset of people who are characterized by faith

- B. The Law does not bring righteousness, only curse/condemnation (10-12)**
1. **Whoever tries to live by works of the Law is cursed/condemned (10)**
 - a **Those who live by works of the law are under a curse/condemnation (10a-b)**
 - 1) **Whoever is from the works of the law group² (10a)**
 Contrast “from faith” above
 - 2) **They are under a curse/condemnation (10b)**
 - b **Reason: Scripture curses/condemns everyone who lives by the Law but does actually do what the Law requires (10c-f)**
 - 1) **Quotation formula: It is written - (10c)**
 - 2) **Content: Everyone is cursed/condemned who does not continually do all the Law (10d-f)**
 Quoting Deut. 27:26
 - a) **Everyone is cursed/condemned (10d)**
 - b) **Those who do not actually continually do all that the law requires (10e-f)**
 - (1) **Those who do not continue in everything written in the Book of the Law (10e)**
 - (2) **Purpose: in order to (actually) do them (10f)**
 If you take on this burden, realize that it is a huge burden
 God does not grade on a curve
 It is 100% or nothing, pass or fail
 The desire to keep the Law is not bad
 But failure to keep the Law completely if that is your means of righteousness is disastrous
 Therefore, the desire to keep the law in order to be in right standing with God is stupid and bad
 Desiring to keep the law in order to be in right standing with God even when God has graciously provided a better way is blasphemous
 2. **No one is justified by the Law because righteousness is by faith (11)**
 - a **Clearly no one is justified in the viewpoint of God by the Law (11a)**
 This is clear/evident/blatantly true
 - b **Reason: Because the Righteous will live because of faith (11b)**
 Quoting Hab. 2:4
 Notice again the contrast between works of Law and faith
 3. **The Law is different/separate from the way of faith (12)**
 - a **Neg.: The Law is not by faith (12a)**
 Separating Law from believing God – to be elaborated later
 - b **Pos.: But the one doing them will live by them (12b)**
 Quoting Lev. 18:5
 Contrast with faith
 Notice this is about “doing,” not “believing”
 Notice also, those who do them will live –
 those who don’t do them (which no one perfectly will) will not live

² Nat an actual group, but the subset of people who are characterized by works of the law

II. Christ redeemed us from the Curse of the Law so that the blessing of Abraham may come to the nations through faith (13-14)

Penal/legal substitution

A. Christ redeemed us from the curse/condemnation of the Law by experiencing our curse/condemnation (13)

1. Christ redeemed us by becoming a curse/experiencing condemnation (13a-b)
 - a Christ redeemed/delivered/liberated us from the curse/condemnation of the Law (13a)
 - b Means: by becoming a curse/experiencing condemnation on our behalf (13b)
2. Reason: Scripture teaches that everyone hung on a tree is cursed/condemned (13c-d)
 - a Quotation formula: It is Written - (13c)
 - b Content: Everyone hung/crucified upon a tree is cursed/condemned (13d)

Quoting Deut. 21:23

Spoken of a man guilty of a capital offense and his body hung on a tree as a warning to all
“tree” and “cross” are the same Greek word in the NT

Christ took on the death penalty of our capital offense and the shame of our public punishment

The curse is gone because He took it

B. Purpose: So that the blessing of Abraham, which is the Spirit, may be to the nations through faith (14)

1. So that the blessing of Abraham may be to the nations in Christ Jesus (14a)

Salvation historical turning of the ages
The atonement opened up God’s planned blessing,
which could not be justly given without atonement,
but which always came as a gift, received by faith
2. And so that we may receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (14b)