

GALATIANS 3:6-12

A. Galatians 3:6 - Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

1. Paul now uses Abraham as an illustration of faith with **out** the law. Abraham had set the pattern, the **stand**ard for all to follow.
* | How was Abraham saved? It was by just believing in what **God** said. It was by faith alone.
2. Abraham's faith alone resulted in God giving him **His** righteousness. Thus, the standard for salvation, being justified, is always by **faith**. Abraham is mentioned 9 times in this passage.

3. Paul quotes:

Genesis 15:6 - And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

* Abram was **called** in Genesis 12, but was not saved until he believed in Genesis 15:6. God does work in a **lost** person that helps bring them to salvation.

Romans 4:3 - For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

- a. Abraham was saved **430** years **be**fore the law was given!
- b. Abraham was a Gentile, uncircumcised and lost. Then God called him out to become the father of Israel and of the **faith**. He is saved in Genesis 15:6, and circumcised **14** years later (Genesis 17:9-27).
- c. Romans 4:9-11 - *Cometh* this blessedness then upon the circumcision *only*, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. Rom. 4:10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. Rom 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had yet* being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

This is the first time and first mention of faith and the **imputed** righteousness of God. So, this is the first time righteousness is being imputed to someone as a result of one's **faith** in what God said.

**That is what Paul is dealing with here. Righteousness is not by the works of the law!

4. [accounted] It means imputed, meaning to **put** to one's account. When a sinner trusts Christ, **God's** righteousness is put to his account. Even more, one's sins are no longer on their account. Their record is always clean with God, **never** to be brought into judgment for their sins!
5. The believers and unbelievers from the Jerusalem Church were claiming Abraham for their message. Then they tried to **force** the Galatian Gentiles to go to the law.
 - a. Acts 15:5 - But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.

Where did circumcision come from? It is the sign - **seal** of the Abrahamic Covenant. It was called the (covenant of circumcision).

Acts 7:8 - And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so *Abraham* begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac *begat* Jacob; and Jacob *begat* the twelve patriarchs.

- b. Galatians 2:3 - But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

*That is what these Jews were trying to do to the Galatians. They were telling them they were not complete **until** circumcised and following the law.

- c. These Jews were trying to get the Gentiles to follow Abraham and then **Moses**. But Paul says:

Galatians 5:2, 6:12 - Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. Gal. 6:12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

6. Paul here goes back to the **source** that the Jewish attackers held as the **basis** for their argument - program they wanted the Gentiles to follow..Abraham! **Paul shows Abraham is exactly the **opposite** of what these Jews were teaching!

*God has done something very special, **unique**, so as to include us in the issue of justification by faith alone, plus **nothing!**

B. Galatians 3:7 - Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

1. Paul's logical conclusion, then, was since one is saved like Abraham by faith **alone**; like righteousness being credited to him by faith alone; **we**, too, have believed and received God's righteousness.
2. We, by believing in Christ, have become children of Abraham. This is not physically, but **spiritually**. We are children of faith, **as** Abraham. We identify with salvation that is by faith alone.
3. Abraham believed what God told him. What did God tell him?

Answer: You are going to have a son, and your seed will be as the stars. In your old age, you cannot do this on your own. So, **I am** going to make this happen.

*Abraham knew that for him and Sarah to have a son was **impossible**, but he believed it could happen. With God, **anything** was possible.

C. Galatians 3:8 - And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

1. [forseeing] This is not foretelling because it was a **secret** about the Body. God knew the Mystery Program was coming, but He did not tell it. He kept it **unknown** until **Paul**. Remember, He planned it!

Titus 1:2 - In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

2. *It is God foreseeing "the dispensation" by which **we** would be justified by faith in His **Son's** finished work.

Ephesians 2:12-13 - That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: Eph. 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

3. [preached before the gospel (good news) unto Abraham]

- a. This means God gave Abraham some "good news." Remember, there are **several** gospels (good news) in the Bible.

*Some try to say there is only **one** gospel in the Bible. Then here they try to say Abraham knew about the DBR of Jesus Christ. There is **no** way of that.

- b. What was the "good news" to Abraham? [In thee shall all nations be blessed.]

*The way Abraham is the blessing to all nations is the standard, the example of **faith**. (Romans 4:3, 9-11)

- c. God did predict the justification of Gentiles. That was possible even through the Jewish program. What was kept secret was that He one day would create a one-body wherein **both** Jews and Gentiles would be equal.

Ephesians 3:3, 6 - How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Eph. 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

D. Galatians 3:9 - So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

1. How are we blessed like Abraham? Answer: We also by faith alone have had imputed (**credit**ed to our account) righteousness **given** to us.

II Corinthians 5:21 - For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Philippians 3:9 - And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

2. Paul has been saying, if God promised to save the Gentiles by faith, then the Judaizers are **wrong** in wanting to take the Gentile believers back into the law.

E. Galatians 3:10 - For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Salvation could **never** come by obedience to the law, because the law brings a **curse**, not a blessing.

*It is as if a sword is hanging over one's head by a thin thread; and one false **slip** (disobedience to the law) cuts the string, and down comes the sword!

James 2:10 - For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

F. Galatians 3:11 - But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is evident*: for, The just shall live by faith.

1. Paul says it is clear that obedience to the law does not save. The reason being is that one's obedience does not **pay** for the wages of sin. It is only the **blood** - death of Christ that does that!
2. The Judaizers wanted to seduce the Galatians into religion of legal works, while Paul wanted them to enjoy their relationship with Christ of love and liberty by **faith** in Christ.
3. Even today, many try to convince others they are saved by their outward works, performance, appearance, practice of rules, and even law following. *But God knows the **heart** and what one is trusting. If it is following the law or a works program, then they are **not** justified.
 - a. It is only our faith in God's gospel of grace that saves us. With our mind of **under**standing and our heart of faith, **only then** are we leaning totally upon who Christ is and His completed work to save us.
 - b. These two systems Paul speaks of are both of God. The law system was - will be part of the Jewish Kingdom program to Israel. Whereas, the gospel by faith in the DBR of Christ is for today's Body of Christ.

G. Galatians 3:12 - And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

1. The law was to be obeyed, and if one did this trying to obtain salvation - sanctification, they need to keep the **whole** law (**613** laws!).
*If one wants to keep the law, they need to: build the **temple**; find themselves a **priest**; buy a flock of sheep for sacrifice and offerings; and keep the feasts! You have to keep the law to its last iota, which is **impossible** (3:10).

To live under the law is to be under a system where one is **doomed** to failure. You cannot even slip **once**!

2. Since the law operates on the basis of completed works, faith has nothing to do with it. Law and faith are **exclusive** from one another. They are diametrically **opposed** to each other.

3. Note the different messages:

The Jews: Romans 10:3 - For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

The Gentiles: Romans 10:4 - For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. Rom. 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

*| So Galatians, **why** in the world would you ever place yourselves under the law?