

“Galatians 3:1-29” – sermon 1

All Scripture is KJV: Galatians 3:1-29

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

Today we continue with the preaching series on the **Book of Galatians 3**.

Galatians addresses following.

Paul refutes and exposes the false way of salvation. He exposes the Jews for their lies and rebukes them for trying to get Christians to return to the way of the mosaic & moral laws which was never able to save.

- **In the 6 Chapters of Galatians, 3 themes of rebuke run like a golden thread through each and every chapter.**
 1. False- Works based salvation - Salvation is by faith alone.
 2. Exposes the Jews for their lies about the law saving. Jews, trying to get Christians to follow Jewish customs, feasts days etc..for salvation.
 3. And people trying to please people rather than pleasing God.

Galatians is a letter of stern rebuke, to anyone who thinks that reentering into Judaic laws or customs can somehow make them more spiritual, and turn them into a Christian believer. There is no such thing as a Christian Jew, or a Jewish Christian. You are either a Jew or a Christian. Because each one of them is a religion.

In Mark 7 we see Jesus scolding and rebuking the Jews even to a greater degree.

Mark 7:8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. (9) And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. (13) Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

- ❖ So according to Jesus they knew full well that they were rejecting God.

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

1. So here is the reason why Paul is stepping into the churches at Galatia, so that he can correct the false doctrine of these Jewdiasers.
2. Then as we read Acts 15 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.
 1. Well Jesus as well as Paul calls the Jews liars. Because they do not have Abraham as their father. (John 8:42)
 2. And if they did have Abraham as their father then they would be saved in Jesus Christ. Because that is what the scripture teachers.
 3. The Jews do not believe that at all.

Genesis 12:2-3 King James Version (KJV)

² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Romans 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

Romans 4:12-14 King James Version (KJV)

¹² And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. ¹³ For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

✚ Again the whole story of Abrahams faith.....

Romans 4 King James Version (KJV)

1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? ² For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. ³ For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

⁴ Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. ⁵ But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. ⁶ Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, ⁷ Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. ⁸ Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. ⁹ Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

¹⁰ How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

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:

¹² And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

¹³ For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

¹⁴ For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

¹⁵ Because the law worketh wrath: **for where no law is, there is no transgression.**

¹⁶ Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

¹⁷ (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

¹⁸ Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

¹⁹ And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

²⁰ He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; **but was strong in faith, giving glory to God:**

✚ And so again.....

Romans 9:7 Neither, because they are the **seed** of Abraham, are they all children: **but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.**

Romans 9:8

That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

✚ Again more verses proving Gods chosen are in Christ. Not the unbelieving Jews.

Galatians 3:16

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Galatians 3:19

Wherefore then serveth the law? **It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made;** and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

Galatians 3:29

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

✚ Again this verse proves that if you are Christ's.....then are you Abrahams seed.

Hebrews 2:15-17 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

¹⁶ For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; **but he took on him the seed of Abraham.** ¹⁷ Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a **merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.**

- As we continue today in Galatians 3.
- ✓ Firstly to understand the Book of Galatians we should have a good knowledge also of the OT; without which we would not be able to interpret the NT correctly.
- Galatians 3 today : So what is Galatians 3 going to tell us?

Lets break down these verses into manageable sections of scripture to try and understand what rebuke was all about.

Galatians 3:1-5 King James Version (KJV)

¹ O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

1. When we look at the first 5 verses of Galatians 3 they are all asking questions?
2. When we look at the subsequent verses they are all answers to those questions except for verse 19 and 21 which asks and additional two questions.

To be called a fool, because you have allowed someone else to come into your congregation and bewitch you (sorcery is the word); which is a message from the devil is another way of saying it.

3. To have allowed the devil in disguise to come into your midst and change the way you worship and what you believe, into lies and deceitfulness.

✚ Can you imagine for a moment what that must have been like?

- There are many churches today, who having started off correctly have strayed from the word of God, into false doctrine, and most of the time it started off innocently in changing the small thing which led to many small things being changed, and eventually they are so far from the truth.
 - Sometimes a small change can seem harmless, but remember when Satan is behind it; it is never a small thing anymore.
4. In verse 1 of our text it says that they were being “bewitched” and **that ye should not obey the truth.** They were being led away from the truth, and did not want to obey the truth anymore.
 5. They knew that Jesus Christ had been crucified for their sins. They knew about the death burial and resurrection of Jesus because Paul had preached the gospel message to them. They did not physically see the Lord being crucified, but yet by “faith” without seeing they had believed in the beginning.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

1. When Paul asked the question in verse 1, he knew that he would only know of their salvation by asking this question. Was their salvation in the “law” or was their salvation in “faith”.
2. This is today still a very valid question to ask people. Because people still think that you have keep the 10 commandments of the law to be saved. And that if you don't you won't be saved.
3. When Paul talks of receiving the “Spirit” he is talking about salvation.
4. Today it is the same. You will only know whether a person is saved if they tell you what they believe salvation is.

3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

1. Just as Paul tells the Galatian churches. That having begun in the Spirit, are you now made perfect in the flesh.
2. Pauls question carries the answer in it also. By the way he asked the question he is already telling them that they were wrong.
3. Firstly they did start off with faith in Jesus for their salvation, but then they started adding things of the flesh to complete that salvation.
4. The problem with that is this. If you add anything to the grace of Jesus Christ for salvation, then you don't have salvation. Salvation is either Jesus alone, or there is no salvation.

✚ The Jews had started teaching them that they needed to observe the Law to get saved, and one of these laws was circumcision.

4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

1. Do you think that by believing in Jesus it was worthless, is another way of putting that question.
2. When the gospel was preached to you, and the miracles that it brought, was it by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith?
3. This is the question of what Galatians 2:21 left us with in the end of Galatians 2.
4. **21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.**
5. So “if righteousness could have come by the law then it would not have been necessary for Jesus to have been crucified, and to have died for the sins of the whole world.

✚ Get this.....

- ✚The relationship of the gospel is always likened unto the relationship that God had with Abraham in Genesis 12. If we can understand the relationship that God had with Abraham then we can better understand the gospel message as well.
- ✚ The relationship with Abraham was that God made a promise to Abraham.
- ✓ This is something that the Jews do not want to understand, and neither do many Christians and churches today.
- ✓ Understanding the promise God made to Abraham is the key to understanding the NT promises. If you don't understand that promise God made to Abraham then you will not be able to understand what God's purpose was.
- ✓ Churches would rather have a great relationship with the Jews than have a great relationship with Jesus. **Why?** Because they simply ignore Jesus and what he had to say about the Jews; and don't want to believe that what Jesus said was true about them, or that he really meant what he said and what he taught about them.
- ✚ Let's take a look for ourselves. (Genesis 12:1-3 ff and Genesis 22:17ff.)
- ✚ To understand this scripture let's look at the OT in Genesis 12:1-3 and also Genesis 22:17-18.

Genesis 12 King James Version (KJV)

¹ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: ² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 22:17-18 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁷ That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; ¹⁸ And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

1. So according to God in these verses in Genesis **who is God going to bless?**
2. He is going to bless **"all families of the earth?"** Not the Jews – **right or wrong?**
3. He is going to bless **"all the nations of the earth?"** Not the Jews **right or wrong?**
4. Because how can all nations or all families of the earth be talking about the Jews?
5. Not only that, we have the NT to clarify this for us again.

- ✚ The greatest commentary to the bible is the bible itself, please remember that. And please also remember that the NT has priority over the OT revelation. Especially when you see Jesus or the Apostles teaching the revelation.
- ✚ So let's look at the balance of the scriptures in Galatians 3 to understand Genesis 12 and 22.

Galatians 3:6-14

⁶ Even as **Abraham believed God**, and it was **accounted to him for righteousness**.

⁷ **Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**

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.**

⁹ **So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.**

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.**

1. **Deuteronomy 27:17-26.**
2. Who is involved in works?
3. If you do resisting the things in Deuteronomy then you are still doing works?

²⁶ **Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.**

Galatians 3:11-14 continued.....

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.**

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

1. Those that try and live by the law cannot and will not ever be saved.
2. The Jews cannot be saved by the law either.
3. For by the Law can no flesh be saved. (Galatians 2:16) also (Romans 3:20ff)

¹³ **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law,** being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

¹⁴ **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

1. The Jews are NOT the children of God, or the children of the promise as the bible puts it.
2. **No, the children of the promise are those that believe in Jesus.**
3. **The children of Abraham, are not the Jews, the children of Abraham are those that believe in Jesus.**

Galatians 3:15-26

¹⁵ Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

✚ Now that he has used an example of a covenant Paul goes onto to give us that real covenant confirmation in Galatians 3:16. Let's check it out.....

16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. (Gen 12 & Gen 22)

18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

²⁰ Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

²¹ Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: **for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.**

22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

1. To understand who Abrahams seed is, Galatians 3:16-29 clearly demonstrates that to us.
2. It is very clear from these scriptures that Abraham's seed is **ONLY** those that believe in Jesus Christ.
3. **The Jews are not Abraham's seed spiritually**, even though they are physical decedents of Abraham by flesh. Jesus acknowledged their physical descent but not their spiritual.

John 8:37 I know that ye are **Abraham's seed**; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

John 8:39 They answered and said unto him, **Abraham** is our father. **Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.**

John 8:44 ⁴⁴ **Ye are of your father the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

4. So to confirm what Genesis 12 and Genesis 22 is talking about is spoken of here in Galatians 3:29.

The unbelieving Jews are not Gods people. They are unbelievers, just like every other person who is not a believer.

✝ Why would the Jews be Gods people if they are Christ rejecting Jews?

Matthew 21:42-46 – taken and given to another people.

⁴² Jesus saith unto them, **Did ye never read in the scriptures**, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

⁴³ Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**

⁴⁴ **And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.**

⁴⁵ **And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.**

⁴⁶ But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

PRAYER.....CLOSE