

Save through faith—God’s promise to Abraham—was through ceremony performed by God alone (Genesis 15). It could not be canceled or changed 430 years later when God gave the Ten Commandments. If obeying those laws could save us, then it is obvious that this would be a different way of gaining God’s favor than Abraham’s way, for he simply accepted God’s promise (Galatians 3:16-18).

LAW-WORKS - UNDER THE CURSE OF THE LAW (Galatians 3:10-14)

No one could obey the law to it’s fullest extent, so the law became a curse. Jesus took that curse on Himself when he died on the cross for our sins.

Yes,

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law; being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree :

That the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (II Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13,14, LB; 4:5; Deuteronomy 21:23; Acts 2:33; 5:30).

THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE LAW (Galatians 3:19-24)

1. Why was the law added? (Galatians 3:19)

2. How long was the law to be in force? (same verse) _____

THIRD STUDY

ARGUMENT - BY FAITH AND NOT LAW

HOLY SPIRIT RECEIVED BY FAITH (Galatians 3:1-4; John 7:37-39)

This third Chapter begins by Paul referring to some of the Galatian believers with a word showing they were blind to spiritual reality (Galatians 3:1; ref. 1:6).

1. What word did Paul use in Galatians 3:1,3 that refer to the spiritual reality of some of the Galatian believers? Foolish

Foolish, here, means unintelligent; unwise and senseless.

2. Paul asks the Galatian Church a series of questions in Galatians 3:1-4. List them:

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

3. Be ready to discuss the above series in class.

Paul is saying here:

“Oh, foolish Galatians! What magician has hypnotized you and cast an evil spell upon you? For you used to see the meaning of Jesus Christ’s death as clearly as though I had waved a placard (poster) before you with a picture on it of Christ dying on the cross. Let me ask you this one question: did you receive the Holy Spirit by trying to keep the Jewish laws? Of course not, for the Holy Spirit came upon you only after you heard about Christ and trusted Him to save you. Then have you gone completely crazy? For if trying to obey the Jewish laws never gave you spiritual life in the first place, why do you think that trying to obey them now will make you stronger Christians? You have suffered so much for the Gospel. Now are you going to just throw it overboard? I can hardly believe it!” (Galatians 3:1-4, LB).

GIFTS - EXERCISED BY FAITH (Galatians 3:5; I Corinthians 12:1-31; 14:1-40; Romans 12:3-8)

Paul is talking here, about how he ministers the gifts of the Holy Spirit to them.

1. (a) What gift of the Spirit does Paul use as an example in Galatians 3:5? _____

(b) Answer the question Paul asks in this same verse of Scripture? _____

Of course, it is by the hearing of the Spirit, and

not by the works of the law.

ABRAHAM AND CHILDREN - JUSTIFIED BY FAITH (Galatians 3:6-9, 15-18; Romans 4:1-25; Genesis 12)

Abraham was justified by faith 430 years before the law was given (Galatians 3:17).

1. What was the result of Abraham believing God? (Galatians 3:6) _____
2. According to Galatians 3:7, who are the children of Abraham? _____
3. What did the Scripture foresee, and was preached before the Gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all the nations be blessed? (Galatians 3:8) _____

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

Dear brothers, in everyday life a promise made by one man to another, if it is written down and signed, cannot be changed. He cannot decide afterward to do something else instead (From Galatians 3:15, LB).

Now, God gave some promises to Abraham and his Child. And notice that it doesn’t say the promises were to his children, as it would if all his sons—all the Jews—were being spoken of, but to his Child—and that, of course, means Christ. Here’s what I am trying to say: God’s promise to