

GALATIANS 3:1-14

REVIEW...

- **GALATIANS 1:1-24 - THE GOSPEL OF GRACE - A BETTER GOSPEL...**
 - The message of the Gospel - Grace and Peace through the cross of Jesus...
 - Rejecting Legalism - Paul commanded them to reject any other gospel!
- **GALATIANS 2:1-10 - THE COUNSEL OF JERUSALEM...**
 - After the first missionary journey - men came teaching Gentiles had to become Jews...
 - Paul went up to Jerusalem to defend the Gospel of Grace before the church...
 - The Counsel stood with Paul - Jews were saved the same as Gentiles - by grace!
- **GALATIANS 2:11-21 - CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST...**
 - A double standard - Peter would only eat with Gentiles when no Jews were around...
 - All of the other Jews - even Barnabas - followed his poor example...
 - So Paul openly rebuked Peter's Hypocrisy before them all!
 - Having been saved by Grace - why bring try and grow in Jesus through the Law...
 - The law cannot keep you from sinning - it only show you are a sinner!
 - If try and make perfect our walk in Jesus through the Law - we tear down grace!
 - If the Law can make us holy - then there was no reason for Jesus to die on the cross!

GROWING BY WORKS OR FAITH... (3 THINGS)

- **1st - FOOLISH GALATIANS... vs. 1-5 (5 QUESTIONS)**
 - 1st - Paul gives 5 questions to the Galatians regarding legalism...
 - Foolish Galatians – (*not understanding / unwise*) - who has confused you...
 - The Galatians had rejected the Gospel of Grace - missed THE truth...
 - The message of Jesus Christ - that had been very clearly presented to them!
 - Jesus had finished the work on the cross – nothing needed to be added!
 - They missed that truth because they had been charmed...
 - The word actually means the 'evil eye' - as though someone had duped them...
 - They had been convinced the Law/rules could make them right with God...
 - **All of us - even though we are saved - still struggle with sin in our lives...**
 - **The question becomes how to do we overcome that sin...**
 - **We have two choices on how we choose to live – two resources we can rely upon...**
 - **We can chooses to live our lives dependent on our own abilities or strength - Law...**
 - **We can choose to live our lives in dependence on the Holy Spirit - Grace...**
 - 2nd - Did you receive the Holy Spirit through - good works or through faith...
 - The Holy Spirit has several roles in our lives...
 - The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin - even before we believe in Jesus - **John 16:7-8**
 - The Holy Spirit come to live in us when after we receive Jesus - **I Corinthians 6:19**
 - The Holy Spirit is also the gives us the power to live boldly for Jesus...
 - **We need the Holy Spirit to be able to live for God - the power to serve the Lord...**
 - The question is how did we get the Holy Spirit - through works or hearing by faith...
 - **In Acts 9 - a man called Simon wanted to purchase the gift of the Holy Spirit...**

- Peter told him 'you money perish with you - thought the gift could be purchased...'
- **We cannot pay to receive the Holy Spirit - and we can not earn His anointing...**
- **Luke 11:9-12** - "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you... how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"
- **We simply go to Jesus – He will freely by faith – and fill us with the Holy Spirit!**

o 3rd - Having begun in the Spirit – are you now matured through your own efforts...

- Often we struggle with our walk in Jesus...
- We know what our lives should look like (Jesus) - but how...
- Paul found the same struggle – knowing what to do - but not how to do it...
- **Romans 7:15** – "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do..."
- **We know we cannot be saved by keeping the God's Law – we cannot be perfect...**
- **But we think perhaps God's Law - once saved – can keep us from sin...**
- **If we look to our best efforts to keep us from sin - to help us grow - we will fail...**
- **We 'know' what God wants – but we cannot change our heart to do 'want' to do it...**
- **Therefore we keep right on sinning – instead of doing things that are pleasing to God**
- Until we understand - there is nothing good in us...
 - **Romans 7:18** - "I know that in me (*in my flesh*) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find..."
 - **When we understand we need to cry out to Jesus – who can change our heart!**
 - **Jesus changes our desires so we do not want to do the things that are wrong...**
 - **Only then do we mature and want to do those things that please the Lord!**

o 4th - Have you suffered so many things in vain...

- The trials and challenges of life are meant to teach us...
- **Romans 5:3-5** – "We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope..."
- We face trials/tribulations in life – so we learn to depend on the Grace of God...
- **When we have no money – and we see the Lord provide for all our needs**
- **When we are sick – and we see the Lord miraculously heal**
- **If there were never any challenges – we would never get to see God do a work!**
- **But as we experience God taking care of all our needs – looking out for us...**
- **We gain confidence that He will take care of us the next time as well...**
- **Our confidence in the Lord's faithfulness – gives us a godly character...**
- **Men who trust in the Lord – who have learned to depend on Jesus!**
- But if go back to legalism/works - all our suffering had no purpose...
 - **We pride ourselves in our strength - but what is our strength compared to God's...**
 - **Strength does not come from money / power / influence / even who you know...**
 - **True strength comes when we realize we cannot depend on ourselves...**
 - **If we miss that point - all the trials we have been through were for nothing...**
 - **The missed the one lesson all the challenges of life were meant to teach us...**
 - **That we might learn to stand in Grace! We are to depend on Jesus!**

o 5th - Does the Spirit work in our lives - because of the law or faith...

- We often get the impression God uses us because of something we have done...

- As if God does a work in our lives - because we were obedient to the Law...
- If I read four chapters of the Bible - God will fill me with His spirit today...
- Then I will be able to do 'great works' for the Lord - powerfully used by God...
- The reality is God uses us in spite of us - even if we have a 'bad day'...
 - Many times when I have been struggling with sin - did not read my Bible...
 - And have thought there is no way God will be able to use me today...
 - That God pours out His spirit and does some of the most amazing things!
 - I think God does that some times just to mess with us - reinforce the idea...
 - It is not about 'earning' the right to be used by God - it is about His Grace!
- **2ND - GRACE - THE BLESSED LIFE... vs. 6-9**
 - 1st - The sons of Abraham by faith...
 - Abraham believed in God - and God counted it to him as righteousness...
 - Paul uses the word 'counted' – an accounting term – paying a debt that is owed...
 - It is not question if we have sin – 'how do we pay the sin debt we owe to God'...
 - We tend to think of our sin in reasonable terms – I owe God 1000P – I can pay that...
 - But Jesus clarifies – our sin debt to God is more like – 8 billion pesos – **Matthew 18**
 - In other words we cannot 'work off' our sin – do enough good to counter the bad...
 - Yet Abraham was counted righteous by faith...
 - **Genesis 15:5-6** – "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed in the **LORD**, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."
 - The Bible does not say he was made righteous by his good works – but by faith...
 - God made him a promise – and Abraham believed God by faith...
 - His faith was 'counted' (*as payment for the debt of sin*) as righteousness...
 - When something is freely given to you – you did not earn it – it is a gift
 - We do not 'earn' (*work for*) our salvation – God gives us salvation (*gift*)
 - God justifies – the ungodly – not because they deserve it – but as a free gift!
 - Abraham was saved before he was a Jew...
 - Abraham was not circumcised (*became a Jew*) until **Genesis 17**...
 - Meaning he was saved - counted righteous by faith - while still a Gentile!
 - God knowing this told Abraham 'In him ALL the nations would be blessed'...
 - But only those who believe by faith are sons of Abraham...
 - Jews assumed because they were 'Israelites' they were the children of Abraham...
 - **Matthew 3:9** - "Do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father...' God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones."
 - Just because someone goes to church - does not make them a Christian...
 - We can sound like a Christian - come to church every Sunday...
 - It is not about what we say – it is about the actions from our lives...
 - **John 8:39, 44** - "Abraham is our father' Jesus said, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham... You are of your father the devil..."
 - If you live like the devil - then it is a good bet you are not a child of God...
 - The Blessed life - being like believing Abraham...
 - Abraham was not blessed because of what he had done - his works...

- He was blessed because of what God had given to him - salvation through faith!
- If we have to stand before God accountable for all our actions - works - thoughts
- It will be a VERY bad day - we will not be happy (*extreme understatement*)
- But if we stand before God - our sins / mistakes are not remembered - forgiven
- That is a VERY good day - we will be very blessed cause it means we go to heaven!

- **3rd - THE LAW - THE CURSED LIFE... vs. 10-14**

- Anyone who tries to live by the Law - is under a curse...
 - Because no one can be justified by the Law - **Romans 3:20...**
 - When Israel entered the Promised Land - stand between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim...
 - Mt. Ebal - 'rocky' - a barren 1000m mountain covered in rocks - represented no life...
 - Just across a short valley - easily within sight of Mt. Ebal - is Mt. Gerizim...
 - Mt. Gerizim - is a well forested 1000m mountain - represented the fullness of life...
 - The Priests stood in the valley between the two - and read the Law to the nation...
 - **Deuteronomy 27:26** - "Cursed is anyone who does not obey the terms of the Law."
 - Therefore the Law was not a blessing - but a curse - because you had to keep it all!
 - A lot of people think they are 'super Christians' because they keep certain laws...
 - They think because they never miss a church service / give money every week...
 - Because they do not eat certain foods / or listen to certain music - they are better...
 - What they tend not to talk about at all - is the areas where they make mistakes...
 - It only takes one sin to make us a sinner - **Romans 3:10**
 - **James 2:10** - "Whoever keeps the law, yet stumble in one point, is guilty of all."
 - But the just shall live by faith...
 - The only ones who are justified - are those who believe by faith in Jesus...
 - If you are trusting in your works - then you do not believe by faith...
 - I know a lot of Christians that have a lot of rules they try and live their life by...
 - And even though they have been saved for many years - they have not matured...
 - All they have is their unchanging rules - the problem is they do not change either!
 - They are under the curse of the Law - and cannot grow in Christ...
- Christ became cursed for us...
 - **Deuteronomy 21:23** - "He who is hanged is accursed of God."
 - If a man commits a sin deserving of death - he is to be hung on a tree...
 - To let others see his fate - and discourage them from following his example...
 - Because anyone who hangs on a tree - is cursed...
 - We were all deserving of death - we were all under the curse of the Law...
 - We all should have been hung up on a tree - we should have paid our penalty...
 - Jesus took our curse - He put Himself in our place - He hung on the Cross of Calvary...
 - So that we could receive the blessings of Abraham - the promise of the Spirit!
 - Jesus was put up for the whole world to see the consequences of sin - death...
 - So that the whole world might believe - and be saved through His sacrifice!
 - So that we could receive the blessing of salvation - the hope of the Spirit!