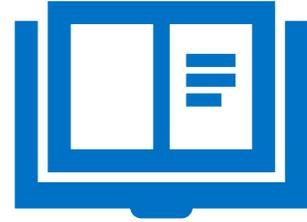


Lesson 3

GALATIANS

3:1-18 – SALVATION NOT BY WORKS BUT BY FAITH



Introduction

Evaluate the following statements and consider if they have a connection to your devotional life:

“Why read the Old Testament (OT) of the Bible, Jesus is in the New Testament (NT)?”

“OT = Law; OT = Gospel. I will focus on the NT.”

“The NT better applies to my life, so I usually do not read the OT.”

Galatians 3:1-5

Based on your study of Galatians thus far, consider which of the following statements best explains what Paul means by saying, “Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.”

The Galatians were there at Calvary when Jesus was crucified.

Paul’s statement underscores the reality and power of the preached message.

In verse two, Paul reminds the Galatians that they personally received the Spirit, not by works, but by believing what they heard (or by faith.) They had experiential knowledge that salvation is not by works but by faith. You do as well. Apply this experiential knowledge to the following situations.

When the devil continues to remind you of that big sin in your past...

When you feel like you don’t measure up...

When you are on your deathbed wondering if you have done enough...

In a group of two or three, discuss the following questions: What is the most foolish thing you have ever done? What is the most foolish thing you have ever seen someone do?

Galatians 3:6-14

Paul quotes a few passages from the Old Testament here. Now, I want you to break into groups to look at one of the following verses that Paul quotes: Genesis 15:6, Genesis 12:3, Deuteronomy 27:26, Habakkuk 2:4, Leviticus 18:5, and Deuteronomy 21:23. As you look at these verses, consider, do these verses say what Paul says they say?

Verse:

Context:

Paul's Use:

Is Paul right?

Evaluate this thought: Some assert that in the past, God saved people through their works, but then after Jesus died, God started saving people through faith.

Paul quoted the Scriptures to the Galatians to demonstrate that people are saved not by works but by faith. This is a good example. As people who benefit from having all the New Testament available to us, what passages would you share to demonstrate that God saves not by works but by faith?

Galatians 3:15-18

Let's take a moment to consider Paul's illustration of a last will and testament.

Verse 16 is a little tricky; let's talk about this one quickly.

Paul uses 430 years to speak about the time from Jacob moving to Goshen to when the Law was given to Moses, which agrees with Exodus 12:40, but Genesis 15:13 and Acts 7:6 speak of this period as 400 years. Can you explain the 'discrepancies'?

Conclusion

Today, through Paul's writing, we see that all God's inerrant Word teaches what important truth?