

## Galatians 3:1-14

### Point: It is through our faith we are saved.

This summer, we've been going through Galatians. Last week we learned from Zach that Paul calls out Peter and the Jews on their hypocrisy. Peter would dine with the Gentiles, or those of non-Jewish backgrounds, until the Jews would come around – as back in the day, eating with Gentiles was considered unclean or unholy. Paul calls Peter and these Jews out on deciding to follow the Law, rather than abiding by faith. Tonight, the message will be pretty similar. However, last week was more story-based whereas tonight's message is more based around the principles behind it all and is very straight-forward.

I got to start out by saying, God is so funny. Isn't He? Tiara asked me to speak weeks ago and I was so excited to let God use me! She didn't know what date I would be speaking, so she told me to be reading Galatians 2 and 3 in order to prepare for... preparing. I'm telling you. I was SO excited for this incredible opportunity that I decided to sit down that day and read those two chapters. And then at the end of reading it all, I was SO disappointed! The things I read about seemed like redundant ideas that I had grown up my whole life knowing. I remember sitting there on the BCM couch talking to God and thinking, "Oh my goodness. I am not passionate about this at all. How am I supposed to speak on this? How am I supposed to talk about something that I'm not passionate about? Is it too late to tell Tiara that I can't do it? That she has the wrong person for this? Holy cow. I am not the right person for this."

And then I took a deep breath.

I talked to God some more and asked, "God... What do you want to say?" At that moment, I felt like a little toddler having their parent kind of smack their hand. I could hear His response of, "I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?" So I asked again, "God, what do you want to say?" And I'm telling you, I could feel the sass of God's grin at that moment. He told me, "Lol. You just read it. It's not about what you have to say. It's about what I have to say." I was just like, "I see what You did there, God." After that, now that I was on the same page as Him, I reread the passages and God was so cool about it! He began to give me this growing and burning passion for what He had to say!

So, that said, I am really excited to share with you what God has been sharing with me the last few weeks and last few days.

### Galatians 3:1-14

V. 1-5: Here lies the issue. Paul is being very straightforward about calling them out. Source of salvation

!O you foolish Galatians!

Let me stop there. This already isn't looking good. Now, the word "foolish" in our daily usage might sound like, "Ahaha. You fool!" But no, this is serious. Paul is ripping his hair out!

Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

"clearly" = certainty

Bewitched - cast a spell on and gain control over (someone) by magic.

<sup>2</sup>This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Define “the Spirit” - “the Helper”

- Brings us comfort (John 14:18)
- Brings us peace (John 14:27)
- Helps with recalling information that we've learned about our faith (John 14:26)
- Counselor/convicts us (John 16:8)
- Helps us in prayer (Romans 8:26)

This is Paul asking the Galatians a very important question. He is literally asking, “How did you receive the Spirit?” Because of your actions? Or because of your faith?”

Ephesians 1:13 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup>In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise”

This is a very fundamental question, you guys. And we have to get this one right.

<sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? <sup>4</sup>Have you suffered so many things in vain-if indeed it was in vain?

Now, this one kind of made me laugh, y'all. That would be like you guys graduating college, and instead of seeking out a job, you decide to go back to middle school. Literally the worst time in our lives. Like, really? That doesn't make any sense? Who wants to be in middle school again? Paul is basically telling them that they have had the opportunity to graduate to this point, have taken five steps backwards.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, *does He do it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? – [kind of echoes the same question as before] <sup>6</sup>just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Now, right here is a very important part as well. Why? This verse just made mention of Abraham. So who is this guy? Why is he so important? Abraham is the epitome of faith.

Hebrews 11:8-12

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith Abraham dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise; <sup>10</sup>for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

<sup>11</sup>By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude – innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.”

OT reference -> Shows that the fact that faith is what makes you righteous is fundamental and even applied before Jesus came and died for our sins.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

Now, don't freak out here. This really means spiritual sons. We are all related through Christ. And only those that are believers share this sort of unity.

<sup>8</sup>And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "*In you all the nations shall be blessed.*" <sup>9</sup>So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Again, this is edifying that this idea of justification through faith is not new. This was there in the beginning. BEFORE the beginning. God FORESAW THIS HAPPENING.

Vs. 10-14

<sup>10</sup>For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.*"

Verse 10 references Deuteronomy 27:26. This is saying that everyone that doesn't continue observing the law to a T is cursed. It is impossible to do this. But thankfully, the story doesn't stop there.

<sup>11</sup>But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "*the just shall live by faith.*"

This comes from Habakkuk 2:4, another OT reference. Again, telling us that this is not a new concept.

What does it mean to live by faith?

- We say, "God, I need you."
- Lean on Him for guidance. Like Abraham.
- We glorify God. (Col. 3:17)
- Cause and Effect takes place. (Prov. 16:3) Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.
- We have a relationship with God -> We experience God

<sup>12</sup>Yet the law is not of faith, but "*the man who does them shall live by them.*"

This verse tells us that when you live by the law, you become a slave to the law. Literally, if you messed up, your life was on the line. You'd be killed. Your life depended on your actions. No matter how seemingly small. Dishonored your parents? Stoned.

<sup>13</sup>Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*"),

So, if you don't know what this verse is talking, it's talking about the moment that Jesus Christ died for us; where He sacrificed Himself for us.

<sup>14</sup>that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Now this, this is where that moment of sacrifice turned into grace. This is how we, as Gentiles, can be seen as righteous and holy before God. It doesn't matter what you do. You cannot earn your way to Heaven.

You can't do everything perfectly, no matter how hard you try. But what if, just what if, there was another way? Would you take it? Guys, you don't have to do it alone. God wants a relationship with you. It doesn't matter what you did. He foresaw all of it. And He still chose to love you.

And you want to know the best part?! We don't have to do this alone. Stop stressing yourself for nothing. Stop fighting a fight that God already won for you!