

## Experiential Knowledge Rooted in Truth

### 3:1-14

The good news (gospel) is complete with Jesus. The Law does not need to be added to it.

Paul will move into three areas of explanation.

1. Experience (vs. 1-5).
2. Scripture (vs. 6-14).
3. Theology (vs. 15-18).

We will look at the first two this morning.

1. Who has cast a spell on you?
2. Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by believing what you heard?
3. Are you so foolish? After beginning by the Spirit, are you now finishing by the flesh?
4. Did you experience so much for nothing?
5. Does God give you the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law?
6. Does God give you the Spirit and work miracles among you by believing what you heard - like Abraham (faith)?

The Judaizers insisted on Jesus plus the law.

Step One -> What you experienced with Paul is good, but it is incomplete.

Step Two -> To bring salvation to completion, you also have to accept at least the minimum requirements of the law in order to fulfill your commitment to God.

Jesus crucified has done away with all forms of legal righteousness before God.

- This is true both in initial acceptance and in on-going lifestyle.

What is your experience with the Holy Spirit? What has taken place in your conversion?

To be a follower of Jesus, a child of God, means you have received the Spirit.

**Romans 8:9-11** You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. **10** Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. **11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

When the law had run its course, God sent his Spirit.

**Galatians 4:4-5** When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

If you live by the Spirit you are not under the law.

**Galatians 5:18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

**Question:** If you are a child of God, have you wrestled with the truth that the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you? What does this mean for your everyday life? Are you “tuned in” so that you notice the miracles of God all around you?

Paul now moves from experience to scripture.

**vs. 6**, just like Abraham

Paul brings up the much esteemed Abraham (Genesis 15:6 / 12:3)

Deuteronomy 27:26

Habakuk 2:4

Leviticus 18:5

Deuteronomy 21:23).

## Judaizers argument #1

Trusting God and obeying the law were without distinction.

**Genesis 26:4-5** I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky, I will give your offspring all these lands, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring, **5** because Abraham listened to me and kept my mandate, my commands, my statutes, and my instructions.”

To the Judaizer this was proof Abraham fulfilled the Torah (he followed the law).

Faith + Circumcision

**Genesis 17:10-11** This is my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you, which you are to keep: Every one of your males must be circumcised. **11** You must circumcise the flesh of your foreskin to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and you.

Righteousness = Obedience to the Law

Paul-> Righteousness is a fruit of faith (believing in the promises of God).

Righteousness = Believing God (faith) -> the end! (Romans 4)

## Judaizers argument #2

You must be rightly related to Abraham and God's covenant to Israel. Who really are the sons of Abraham? Those who rely on the law.

**Paul** -> those who have faith are Abraham's sons (**vs. 7**).

Judaizers - You become his descendants by being circumcised.

**Genesis 28:14** Your offspring will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out toward the west, the east, the north, and the south. All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

## Paul

**Genesis 12:3** all the nations will be blessed through you (**vs. 8**)

Those who have faith receive the blessing of Abraham who had faith (**vs. 9**).

## Judaizers argument #3

**Deuteronomy 27:26** 'Anyone who does not put the words of this law into practice is cursed.' And all the people will say, 'Amen!' (**vs. 10**)

**Leviticus 18:5** Keep my statutes and ordinances; a person will live if he does them. I am the Lord. (**vs. 12**)

You are accepted on the principle of law proved by your conduct (lifestyle).

**Paul** -> the law does not highlight faith, righteousness, and blessing.

The law only highlights if you don't abide you are cursed.

- By taking up the works of the law you are placing yourself under the curse.
- We aren't just talking about a few minor observations (circumcision, sabbath, dietary), we are talking about the entire law.
- It can't be done! No one is capable.

**Habakuk 2:4** But the righteous one will live by his faith. (**vs. 11**)

**vs. 13**, Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming the curse for us.

**Deuteronomy 21:23** for anyone hung on a tree is under God's curse.  
Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree (Paul's quote)

Early Christians understood Jesus as both Messiah and accursed.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Question:** Have you considered the enormity of what it means to be a person who is redeemed? Are you celebrating your redemption through thankfulness, grace, and generosity?

**vs. 14,** We are accepted by God through faith.

And because of Jesus we become part of the family by receiving the promised Spirit through faith.

**Question:** Do I need to ponder the mystery of salvation? Am I willing to embrace the fullness of Jesus' presence in my life? What habits need to change? What lies need to be destroyed? What support needs to be put into place?