

Galatians 3:1-20 – 17 July 2022

“Consistency Of Justification By Faith”

Introduction

*Theme of Book: Self-merit can never justify man, who is sinful by nature, in the presence of God, who is holy by nature

*Galatians Outlined

*Chap 1-2 – **Jockeying** for justification by faith

*Chap 3-4 – **Basis** of justification by faith

*Chap 5-6 – **Fallout** from justification by faith

*Chap 1-2 we saw that in every epoch of time (Creation, Law, Christ), God initiates & completes the work, we just need to contend for and preach it

*Now in chap 3, Paul shows the consistency of God’s plan for all people to live in justification by faith in God’s work

*He’s consistent throughout our life & history

***So today, here’s 3 examples of the consistency of God’s plan of justification & salvation**

1st example of this consistency is: the way we began in salvation is the way we're to continue (Vs 1-7)

Read Vs 1

1. It's either Christ's work, that is complete or we're still in a system of work...it can't be both
2. Did His death put to death works or not? Yes!

Read Vs 2-3

1. If you've accepted Jesus as the Savior, you've received the Spirit (Read I Cor 12:2-3)
 - a. It's the Spirit that stirs our hearts to accept & believe Gospel (Read I Cor 2:14 & John 16:13)
 - b. The Spirit's ministry in our life is to speak of & exalt Jesus (Read John 15:26)
 - c. It's the Spirit that gifts & empowers us to speak & act for Jesus (Read Act 1:8)
2. What are you led by?
 - a. You're either led of the Spirit that centers you on Jesus' completed work
 - b. Or you're centered on your own futile continuing effort to be complete yourself

3. Made perfect in the flesh? We've already been made complete in Christ, no work of our flesh can change or add to perfection

a. Read Eph 2:8 & Col 2:9-10

Read Vs 4

1. You begin to read in Act 13 of the strife given to the believers in Galatia; was it all for nothing?

Read Vs 5

1. The God that began doing great things in your life, did it b/c of Jesus' life in us, not b/c of us

2. Read Phil 1:6 – If the Spirit ever leaves us, it's not b/c Jesus abandoned us, but b/c we've returned to works

Read Vs 6-7

1. Story of Abe is in Gen 12-23 but it's way back in Gen 15:6 that Abe is declared right w/ God

a. This is long before his works of offering of Isaac in Gen 22

- b. The works of Abe are simply proof of his authentic saving faith (see John 8, Jam 2)
- 2. Trusting in God's work has *always been* the plan of God as Abe demonstrated
 - a. Abe isn't the father of Jews, he's the father of believers (Read Rom 4:16)
 - b. This is how Abe is known as the father of many nations in Gen 17:5
- 3. From start to end of Abe's life; he had relationship w/ God by faith in what God was doing

2nd example of this consistency is: Abraham's faith in God is the example for all people & time (Vs 8-14)

Read Vs 8-9

- 1. In the 1st verses of Abe's story (Gen 12:3) God prophecies that it's having the faith of Abe that will bless or make all the difference for many people in many lands (Read Rom 4:12-13)

Read Vs 10-11

1. Bible has always declared that the Law leads to cursing and also that faith leads to righteousness
 - a. Read Deut 27:26 – whole Law or nothing
 - b. Read Hab 2:4 – Always looking to another

Read Vs 12

1. Law & Faith are different; Law depends on us & faith depends on Jesus
2. Law is good (Psm 19:7) & it's capable, but we're not

Read Vs 13-14

1. Everything is put together in these verses
2. Jesus took on the Law & won on the cross so the fulfillment of Abe's faith could be realized
3. Now the long-promised Spirit of God can be poured into us as new wineskins
 - a. See Isa 32:15, Eze 11:19 & Joel 2:28

3rd example of this consistency is: the Person & method of its fulfillment has never changed (Vs 15-20)

Read Vs 15

1. “Even in everyday life once someone agrees to a thing, no one else can change or cancel it”
2. Insinuation is: How much stronger & better is the promise of God to save us by our faith in Him?
3. Jesus has always been the plan

Read Vs 16

1. This is Gen 22:18 promising the in the Seed (or descendant) Jesus all the nations shall be blessed
2. The work of the Seed Jesus has always been the plan (see Gen 3:15)

Read Vs 17-18

1. Law had to come for a *different reason* rather than bringing justification b/c God’s promises of the Seed to come were already made to Abe

2. The Law can't change the promise of believing in God's Seed for righteousness
3. A promise that God makes can't be changed

Read Vs 19-20

1. So the Law wasn't brought for justification but *to show what transgression is* & only til Jesus
2. Read John 1:17 – Law given to Moses by angel mediators; the cross was given by the Son Jesus the Mediator
 - a. B/c of our sin, we can't approach God
3. Vs 20 – The Mediator
 - a. Angels mediated God & us in giving Law
 - b. Jesus mediated God & us
 - c. This explains God is one (I Tim 2:5)
 - d. Now we can come boldly to throne of grace as we're told in Heb 4:16

Conclusion

So there's a consistency to God's plan of redemption

- 1. The way we begin our new life in Christ is the way we continue and enter eternity**
- 2. Abraham's faith in God is the example for all people of all time**
- 3. The Person & method of its fulfillment has never changed**

Sending Jesus wasn't some "Plan B". He's prepared this salvation for us since the foundation of the world

1. He loved Jesus since foundation (Joh 17:24)
2. He chose us since foundation (Eph 1:4)
3. We were redeemed w/ precious blood of Christ that was foreordained since foundation (I Pet 1:20)
4. Jesus is seen as slain since foundation (Rev 13:8)
5. He's prepared His kingdom for us since foundation (Matt 25:34)