

**Galatians: *Be a Bear, not a  
Horseshoe Crab!***  
**Galatians 2:20-3:29**  
**“Saved on the Strength of a Promise”**  
**November 5, 2023**

**Genesis 12:3** “. . .in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

**Genesis 15:5,6** “Then he believed in the LORD, and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.”

**Genesis 22:18** “And in your seed all the nations of earth shall be blessed. . .”

**Galatians 3:1-3** The Holy Spirit is the power of our sanctification, not works of law. HE is a gift. Our sanctification is by faith, the same way our justification is by faith.

**Vv 4,5** Does your confidence in your salvation depend on your performance, or on the promises of God?

The best antidote to misunderstanding your sanctification is to fully understand your justification.

**Vv 6-8**

**John 8:56** “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”

**Vv 9-14**

Abraham believed God and he was declared righteous.

We believe God and we are declared righteous.

We are justified the same way Abraham was justified, and that promise came 430 years before the law did. The Law brought a curse, not a message of eternal life.

**Vv 15-18** The promise of justification by faith in the Seed (Jesus Christ) was not superseded by the promises in the Law. Any law is performance-based. Our eternal life is based on promise, not performance.

**Vv 19,20** A mediator is not needed for a unilateral covenant, ie, salvation, wherein only one party makes a promise, that being God. A covenant that uses a mediator means each party has a responsibility; the Law required a mediator. It was inferior.

**Vv 21-25.** See **Romans 5:20** The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

**21** so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Law was given, primarily, to show us our need for a Savior, by showing us how sinful we are, not to provide us a way of salvation. Like a schoolmaster that leads a child to class, the Law leads us to Jesus.

**Vv 26-29** Our heirship is based on a promise, by God, to declare us righteous when we believe the Gospel, that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures. *Nothing* that happens in our lives, be it personal failure, disappointment, personal tragedy, etc, changes the fact that God has declared us righteous when we believed the Gospel.

This four-part Galatians study is in our series of the epistles of the Apostle Paul entitled *Letters that Changed the World - Making my life a letter that changes the world.*