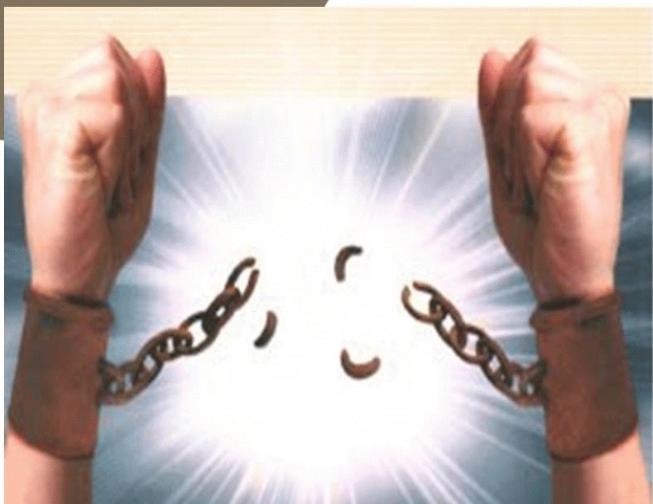


Written by Scott Barker



ALIVE IN CHRIST

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

The Letter to the
GALATIANS

WEEK 6

Day 1

Study: Galatians 3:15-29

Reading: Colossians 2:1-7, II Peter 3:11-14

Memory: Proverbs 3:9

What Does the Bible Say?

In chapter 3, Paul was taking time to give a detailed argument as to why a person can not be saved by their works. In verse 14, he had just finished declaring that God's plan of salvation was not just for the Jews, but it was also for the Gentiles.

Paul illustrated his point by referring to covenants that men make. Once they are officially ratified by the government, they can't be easily changed or added to (vs 15). When God promised that Abraham's seed would be blessed, He was referring to Jesus, the promised Messiah (vs 16). Paul was telling them that the law which came after Abraham was dead and didn't change the promise God made to Abraham (vs 17). Abraham's covenant was not based on works or the law, but it was based on faith. Abraham had to rely on the promise of God and nothing else. No man can rely upon works for their salvation, they must rely on the promise of God (vs 18).

After Paul had finished explaining that salvation was by faith and not by works, he wanted to explain why God had given the law in the first place. The reason God gave the law was to show man what the will of God was. God used a mediator, Moses, to write down the law that He wanted His people to keep. When the law was broken, a person was sinning and stepping out of the will of God. The law served its purpose until Jesus, who was the fulfillment of the promise that God had made to the Jews, died on the cross for the sins of all men (vs 19). Verse 20 is difficult to understand, but it seems that Paul was saying that no mediator is needed when a covenant is made one way. God made a one way covenant with Abraham, but a two-way covenant with Israel.

Paul then raised the question that would have been going through the minds of some of the Galatians. He wanted to make perfectly clear that the law and the promises of God didn't disagree with each other. The law wasn't given to bring life to the person who keeps it, but it was given to

them to show their way to God. The Scripture has declared that there is no man who is able to keep the law. Because of this, the only possible way to receive salvation was through the promise of God fulfilled by Jesus Christ (vs 21-22).

In Old Testament times, God had not fully revealed Christ to them. They had faith in God and His promises, but the full knowledge of Christ was not made known until after His death and resurrection (vs 23). The law was given as a “schoolmaster” to lead men to Christ. A “schoolmaster” was often a slave who was responsible to train a master’s son from age six or seven to puberty. This slave was a severe disciplinarian and was charged with guarding the children from the evils of society and giving them moral training (vs 24). After the resurrection of Christ, there was no longer a need for the law because every believer is a child of God and has been given the Holy Spirit to lead his steps (vs 25-29).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How is your life different from the world? Do people that you come in contact with on a daily basis know that there is something different about you? Galatians 3:27 says, “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” When you get saved, you become a “little Christ.” One of your main desires in life should be to live like Jesus Christ. Is that desire evident in your life? Is there something that you know that you need to change so that you can be more like your Savior?

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God that you don’t have to keep the law.
- * Ask God to show you any area of your life that is not Christlike
- * Praise God because He keeps His promises.

Thought for the day

Day 2

Study: Galatians 3:15-16

Reading: Genesis 12:1-9, 22:1-19

Memory: Proverbs 3:9

What example did Paul use (vs 15)?

What point do you think he was making by this example?

****Once a contract is made here on earth, it can’t just be voided if one party decides to change it. When God made His covenant with Abraham, it was a permanent covenant that would not be changed.*

Who did God give His promise to (vs 16)?

What argument is Paul using here in verse 16?

**** Paul is quoting from Genesis 12:7 and is emphasizing the fact that the promise was not to all of the descendants of Abraham. God was not referring to many descendants, but to one descendant. Paul is claiming that the nations of the earth would be blessed through the one son of Abraham, the Messiah.*

Genesis 12:1-9

What did God call Abraham to do (vs 1)?

What promise did God give to Abraham (vs 2)?

What did God say would happen to those who dealt with Abraham (vs 3)?

How did Abraham respond to this call of God (vs 4-5)?

Where did God lead Abraham to (vs 6)?

****Shechem was somewhat in the middle of the land that God was going*

to promise to Abraham and his descendants.

What did God promise to Abraham (vs 7)?

****It should be noted that the Hebrew word for “offspring” (ESV) was translated as both singular and plural, depending on the context. When Paul made his argument in Galatians, it was the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that directed him to understand what God had originally meant.*

What did Abraham do in response to the covenant that God had made with him (vs 7-8)?

Genesis 22:1-19

What did God ask Abraham to do (vs 1-2)?

How did Abraham respond (vs 3)?

What did Abraham appear to be sure of (vs 5)?

What was Abraham’s response to Isaac’s question (vs 7-8)?

How did Abraham display his faith and obedience (vs 9-10)?

What did God do for Abraham (vs 11-13)?

What did Abraham learn about God from this (vs 14)?

What was God going to do for Abraham as a result of his obedience (vs 15-18)?

What promise is made in verse 18 that was made in chapter 12?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Day 3

Study: Galatians 3:17-18

Reading: Genesis 12:1-9, 22:1-19

Memory: Proverbs 3:9

What could not be cancelled (vs 17)?

What did the 430 years mentioned in verse 17 refer to?

****There is debate among commentators about the exact meaning of the 430 years. Exodus 12:40 says that the Israelites were in Egypt for 430 years. In Genesis 15:13 God told Abraham that his descendants would be in Egypt for 400 years. In Acts 7:6, when Stephen was giving his speech, he declared that the Israelites had been in Egypt for 400 years. There was no way that only 430 years passed from Abraham to the Exodus. Most likely, Paul is referring to the time that would have passed since God reaffirmed the promise to Jacob (Abraham’s grandson) shortly before he died.*

What would God be doing if he canceled the promise to Abraham when the law was given (vs 17)?

What argument did Paul make in the first part of verse 18?

What did God give to Abraham (vs 18)?

How was this promise given (vs 18)?

****The law did not exist when the promise was given. It was given by the grace of God to Abraham long before the law was ever given. The law did not nullify or change the promise. The promise was that all the people of the world would be blessed through the Messiah, Jesus Christ.*

Genesis 46:1-7

Who is this narrative about (vs 1)?

****Beersheba was one of the southernmost cities in the land of Israel. It is often referenced to in many places in Scripture as the southern border of Israel.*

Why did God tell Jacob not to be afraid (vs 3)?

What promise did God make to Jacob (vs 3)?

What promise did God make in verse 4?

Where did Jacob travel to (vs 5-7)?

Romans 4:13-25

How did the promise come to Abraham (vs 13)?

What was the point made in verse 14?

What does the law do (vs 15)?

****The law reveals what is sin. It helps show us that we have sin and that we need a Savior.*

What depends on faith (vs 16)? Why?

How was the faith of Abraham expressed (vs 18)?

How was Abraham's faith described (vs 20-21)?

What does verse 22 say about faith?

Why did Paul say this was written (vs 23-24)?

Why did Jesus have to die (vs 25)?

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Day 4

Study: Galatians 3:19-20

Reading: Genesis 15:1-21

Memory: Proverbs 3:9

What question did Paul ask at the beginning of verse 19? Why do you think he asked this question?

Why did Paul say the law was given (vs 19)?

How long was the law mean to last (vs 19)?

What do you think the end of verse 19 means?

****The angels played a role in delivering the law to Moses. We are not told exactly how this happens or the extent of their role. We do know that many times in the Old and New Testaments that angels were used as messengers to interact with men while delivering God's message.*

What do you think verse 20 means?

****What Paul appears to be saying is that when covenants were made, they were made between more than one person and they normally had a mediator to affirm the covenant. Similar to using a legal contract and having it notarized in our society today. By stating that "God is one" at the ends, seems to indicate that a mediator was not present when God made his covenant with Abraham. It was a one sided covenant, a promise that God was going to keep regardless of how Abraham and his family kept their part of the covenant.*

Genesis 15:1-21

What did God tell Abraham (vs 1)?

What was Abraham concerned about (vs 2)?

What did God assure Abraham of (vs 3-4)?

What did God use to illustrate His promise (vs 5)?

What does verse 6 say about the belief of Abraham?

What did Abraham want confirmation of (vs 7-8)?

How did God choose to confirm the covenant (vs 9-10)?

****God told Abraham to bring animals to sacrifice on an altar. The sacrifice was to be cut in half. It was common in that culture when a covenant was made for both parties to walk between the two halves of the sacrifice and share in the sacrifice as a confirmation of the covenant.*

What happened to Abraham (vs 12)?

What did God tell Abraham about the immediate future of his descendants (vs 13)?

How was God going to keep his covenant during this difficult time (vs 14)?

What was going to happen to Abraham (vs 15-16)?

****By stating what God did at the end of verse 16, God was telling Abraham that the land was going to be his, but it was not the right time just yet in history for Abraham and his descendants to fully possess the land.*

How did God confirm the covenant (vs 17)?

What did God promise to Abraham?

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Day 5

Study: Galatians 3:21-25

Reading: Romans 7:1-12

Memory: Proverbs 3:9

What question did Paul ask (vs 21)? Why do you think he asked this?

****The law and the promises God gave to Abraham were not opposite. They didn't contradict each other, just as the law and faith were not contradictions.*

What was the law not intended to do (vs 21b)?

What does the Scripture reveal about the condition of all men (vs 22)?

****The law could not set people free. The opposite of this was true. The law enslaved people revealing that all men are sinners and are trapped in their sin with no way out.*

Why was the law so important to faith (vs 22b)?

****Without the law, people would not have a full understanding of their sin. They would not see their need for Jesus Christ.*

What was the status of all men before Jesus Christ came (vs 23)?

What was the law to men before Christ came (vs 24)?

****The law was described as our "guardian," "tutor," "school-master," or by a few other terms depending on which translation you use. The Greek word described a slave who was responsible for the education of the master's children. These slaves would ensure that the child was attending classes at school and given all they needed to succeed in their schooling. This guardian would watch over them until it was time to graduate.*

When was the law no longer needed (vs 24b)?

****Once Christ came to justify all men, the law was no longer needed to help keep men in order. We “graduated” from the law unto faith through Jesus Christ.*

What are we not under any longer (vs 25)?

****The law established rules and regulations that would help point people to God. It would remind people of their sin and their need for forgiveness. Since Jesus has come, we don’t need the law to remind us because we have the cross to remind us of our need for Christ.*

Romans 7:1-12

What did Paul compare the law to (vs 1-3)? What was his point?

What have we died to (vs 4)? What does that mean?

Why did God deliver us from the law (vs 4b)?

What condition are men in when they live by the law (vs 5)?

Why were we released from the law (vs 6)?

What did the law reveal (vs 7)?

What do you think Paul was saying in verses 8-9?

What had the commandments done (vs 10)?

What was the result of sin (vs 11)?

What was Paul’s conclusion about the law (vs 12)?

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Day 6

Study: Galatians 3:26-29

Reading: John 1:6-18

Memory: Proverbs 3:9

What are we through faith (vs 26)?

Why do you think Paul stated “in Christ” (vs 26)?

****We are not children of God through the law, but through Christ. Those who have faith in Christ are found to be “in Christ.”*

Who are those who have put on Christ (vs 27)? What do you think this means?

****The term baptism here does not appear to be referring to the physical baptism by water. The Greek word means “to immerse.” It is used as a metaphor to describe how a person has been immersed into Christ. The context reveals the idea that believers are no longer clothed with their sinful flesh, but are clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Today, we would say things like, “they immersed themselves into their work” or “they immersed themselves into that culture.”*

What three groups of contrasting people did Paul mention in verse 28?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why do you think he specified these three groups of people?

****In those days, there were strict lines among many of the social classes. In many modern countries like the United States, the middle class is the dominant class and the societal distinctions aren’t as strong. Each of the groups mentioned in verse 28 often avoided each other or looked down on each other. The fact that Jesus came for all classes of*

people, regardless of ethnicity, financial standing or sex was revolutionary in that time.

Do you see in any way that we still set up societal divisions in our churches or world today? Why should we not be part of this as believers?

What are you if you belong to Christ (vs 29)?

Why do you think this was a very significant statement to that culture?

What does being the offspring of Abraham make us (vs 29b)?

Why is this a very important truth for all believers to cling to?

John 1:6-18

Why was John the Baptist sent into the world (vs 6-8)?

Who was the true light going to give light to (vs 9)?

What significant truth is found in verse 10?

How did many of the Jews respond to Jesus (vs 11)?

Who can become a child of God (vs 12)?

How does salvation come (vs 13)?

Who was verse 14 talking about?

What did we receive (vs 16)?

What does verse 17 state about the law and Jesus?

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Bible Memory

Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;