

The Letter to the Galatians - Freed To Be Free.

Galatians 3:1-14 - Made Righteous Through Faith

Did you memorise Galatians 2:20?

Overview:

A unique Gospel Chapter 1-2	Made righteous by Faith Chapter 3-4	Freed to be Free Chapter 5-6
Biographical	Doctrinal	Practical
The Message of the Apostle	The Redemption of Christ	The Walk By the Holy Spirit
The Gospel is true!	The Gospel is superior!	The Gospel is freedom!
Grace Defended	Grace Expounded	Grace Applied
Key Verse: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal 2:20)	Key Verse: "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal 4:6)	Key Verse: "For freedom, Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (Gal 5:1)

Galatians 3:1-6

- Vs 1a: "Who has bewitched you?"
- Vs 1b: The Gospel message centres on the death of Jesus in our place.
- Vs 2-6: Paul asks a few rhetorical questions:
 - Vs 2 - Did you receive the Holy Spirit by your own efforts, or through listening with faith?
 - Vs 3 – If we had to depend on the Spirit to first be saved, must we then work by our own strength to complete the job?
 - Vs 5 - Did God work miracles and send His Spirit through your listening with faith to the Gospel, or by your own doing?

"The law requires works of human achievement; the gospel requires faith in Christ's achievement." (John Stott, *The Message of Galatians*, (Leicester: InterVarsity, 1984), page 71.)

We are saved, not by human reformation, but by divine transformation.

- Both conversion and our growing up in Christ (i.e. our progression as believers) is dependent on our exercising faith towards God in Christ.
- Vs 6: Just like Abraham, who believed God and God made him righteous as a result (see Genesis 15:6).

Galatians 3:7-9

- Vs 7,9: Paul says that just as Abraham the man of faith was blessed by God, so we who have faith are also sons of Abraham.
- Vs 8: We see something of the Gospel being foreshadowed in Genesis 12:3, that "all nations would be blessed through Abraham", and this through "justifying the Gentiles by faith."

- Previously contrasted works of law and faith. Here, Paul contrasts the blessing of faith with the curse of the law.

Galatians 3:10-14

- Paul's point in vs 10-14: If we try to be saved by our works, we will be cursed because we cannot keep them all. The just live (and are blessed) by faith.
- Vs 11: No one is justified before God by the law (i.e. by keeping it).
- Instead the 'just shall live by faith". It is in the present tense - by believing. We live by trusting in Jesus, through knowing him. It is true life that is eternal (see John 17:3).
- Through Christ, we receive both favour (justification) and fellowship (relationship) with God.
- Vs 12: The law by contrast demands not faith but obedience and keeping of the law. And if we fail, we are cursed.
- Vs 13: But Christ took the curse of our sin on Himself, so that we might receive the blessing of God.

"Christ is the bread of life; faith feeds upon Him.

Christ was lifted up on the cross; faith gazes at Him there."

John Stott, *The Message of Galatians*, (Leicester: InterVarsity, 1984), page 82

- Vs 14: So that we come into the blessing promised in Abraham and delivered by Jesus Christ – receiving the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

Application

2 Roads in Life, with 3 types of people:

- a) Road to destruction/hell - the self-righteous (legalists) and the un-righteous (lawless)
- b) Road to life/heaven - the righteous in Christ (faithful)

Which road are you on?