

IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ABRAHAM, . . .

Galatians 3:6-14

Confusion concerning gospel; Not New!

Ironside, 1941: "I've received letters from people, indignant because I've said salvation is by faith alone. After all our gospel preaching, many haven't learned that salvation is absolutely of grace through faith." H.S. shuts us up to this: salvation is either altogether by grace or it is altogether by works"

Illustration of row boat with 2 oars: faith & works—it takes both. "People say that's an illustration that salvation is by faith & works. *It would be if we were going to heaven in a row boat, but we're not.*

We're going through the grace of Jesus; like the lost sheep that went astray & was found by the shepherd, we're being carried home by the Saviour. It isn't a question of working our way there. This is essence of **GOSPEL!**"

Responses to questionnaire:

"Why should God let me into His heaven?"

"I'm a really good person."

"I try to live based on His teaching."

"I believe what I'm supposed to believe"

13% didn't know why God would or wouldn't let them in

Some of life's issues have to be "either/or" issues.

You can't be both married & single.

It's one or the other.

Spiritual life is either by faith or by works; it can't be both.

They are mutually exclusive!

Religions are "do-it-yourself"

–you work to be acceptable

Gospel says you can't do it yourself

–what we could never do,

Christ has done.

People try to live by 10 commandments, Sermon on Mt, or a rule book. *“If we're good enough, God will accept us!”*

They don't realize God's standards are absolute.

You can't get there by “trying to do better next time!”

Salvation is all by faith, or it's all works.

That's how it is with **daily living** also: It's *all* based on trusting Christ or it's based on doing our best!

It's *all* grace, or not grace at all!

Paul raises that issue with the Galatians

Last week: **3:1-5** raises issue: Having begun our new life by *trusting Christ*, how can we expect to grow to perfection by our effort?!! =>

Pagans receive God's blessing by faith 6-9

Proof from Blessing of Abraham

Judaizers claim O.T. supports their view.

They consider selves “sons of Abraham.”

Paul's view is affirmed by authority they claim to defend.

Paul responds from OT

> Even Abraham's justified by faith

God reveals to Abraham that pagan peoples will be blessed in him **by faith**, **NOT** by obedience to law.

So how did **Abraham** receive blessing God promised? **6**
“Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Abraham’s accepted by God because he trusts Him
6

[explains relationship of Abraham’s faith to us pagans ...]

7-9 Everyone who trusts God receives God’s blessing

People who trust God are true sons of Abraham **7**
*“Understand, then, that those **who believe** are children of Abraham.”*

Real “sons of Abraham” aren’t physical children

Real “sons of Abraham” are people who trust God!

Obeying law doesn’t make us Abraham’s children

Trusting God sets us apart as Abraham’s children!

People who trust God receive God’s blessing **8-9**

8 *“The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, & announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”*

Pagans are promised blessing through Abraham
8

Inheritance based on faith extends to pagans also!

Although Jews consider us “pagans,” God promised to offer blessing *to all* through Abraham.

That blessing is received by faith 9 *“So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.”*

Everyone who trusts God, Jew or pagan, receives blessing God promises, based on faith

People who want to be identified with Abraham follow in his footsteps.

Goes back to Hebrew expression: “son of...”

“Son of ____” is “chip off the old block”

–like his “parent.”

“Sons of Abraham”

=> do what dad does

=> **trust God!**

People who aren't like Abraham aren't “Abraham's sons,”

no matter what race!

People who trust God are Abraham's sons;

People who don't trust God aren't his sons!

Law can't produce blessing because no one continually does everything it demands 10-12

Everyone who doesn't continually DO everything law requires is cursed. 10 *“All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it's written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”*

Deut. 27:26: “Cursed is the man who doesn’t uphold the words of this law by **carrying them out.**”

James 2:10 “Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

To be lawbreaker, you don’t have to break all laws!

Rob 1 bank—doesn’t matter if you kill –you’re a lawbreaker!

From God’s perspective,
even our thoughts count!

Rom. 3:12: “No one does good,
not even one!”

God’s perspective:

no “big sinners” & “little sinners!”

Only lawbreakers

& people declared righteous by faith!

According to the law, we’re ALL condemned because none of us obeys everything written in God’s law all the time!

Curse pronounced on all,

because no one keeps ALL its demands.

That’s why Christ struggles with Pharisees.

They never understand how serious our problem is.

They assure us they never commit adultery.

Can’t control desires—what we look at in bookstore/internet!

Law’s curse applies to all;

no one obeys *all* demands
all the time!

No one is declared righteous by obeying the law.

11-12 “Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because **“the righteous will live by faith.”** ¹²The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who **does** these things will live by them.”

Law can't make anybody righteous. 11

We aren't made righteous by law because, ...

Hab. 2:4 “The righteous will live by his faith!”

Law principle contradicts faith principle

Faith doesn't depend on works.

Works aren't based on faith.

Faith has nothing to do with works!

Eternal life is based on trusting Christ alone.

Abundant life is based on trusting Christ alone.

Christ paid price to free us from curse of law & make God's blessing available to pagans 13-14

Christ paid price we should pay to free us from curse. 13

By becoming a curse for us,

Christ bought our freedom from curse.

13 “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree”

Pagan people who trust Christ receive blessing God promised to Abraham. 14 *“He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”*

Through Christ we receive blessing promised to Abraham by faith.

Judaizers: to enjoy blessing we must be “sons of Abraham.”

Paul: those who *trust Christ already* qualify as “sons of Abraham.”

Presence of Holy Spirit confirms that position.

In Christ, it’s possible for people who used to be pagans—outside looking in—to be transformed into “sons of Abraham” by faith!

Eph. 1:3: *God “has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”*

There’s nothing left to seek!

HS lives in us; produces everything needed to enjoy God’s blessing by faith! –we trust in **JESUS!**

We lack nothing!

To go back under law would be giant step backward!

Why go back to road which leads to *a curse*,

When you’re on road leading to *blessing*?!!

Stop wasting time trying to earn what God has given us in Christ.

We’re sons of Abraham.

We’re heirs of God’s promises!

We've received *every* spiritual blessing in Christ!

We lack nothing!

Wiersbe: "How could Judaizers convince Galatians that the way of Law is better than the way of grace? Why would any believer choose bondage instead of liberty? What is there about legalism that so fascinates us that we'll turn from grace to law?"

Yes there's a fascination to law, but it's only bait that leads to a trap; once a believer takes the bait, he finds himself in bondage. Far better to take God at His Word. We're saved by grace through faith; we live by grace through faith.

Free from the law, O happy condition!

Jesus hath bled,
and there is remission.

Cursed by the law
and bruised by the fall,
Christ hath redeemed us
once for all

=>DOXOLOGY

What more could we ask for?

It's ALL ours in Christ!

**PRAISE GOD
FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!**