

The Gospel in Galatians Lesson 5 4Q 2011

Old Testament Faith

SABBATH

Memory verse – Galatians 3:13, read – thoughts?

What does this mean to you? What does it mean to be cursed of God? How did Christ become a curse for us?

Read paragraphs 1-3, “A little boy...” thoughts?

What are the strengths of this story?

- God did build us
- The human race was stolen by deception
- God did redeem us at great cost to Himself

What are the weaknesses of the story?

- The plan of salvation was not a simple bartering with the devil
- The plan of salvation was not a purchase or payment to a holder of some legal debt
- The story could cause misunderstanding as to what was necessary to redeem
- What was the purchase price? Why?
 - What holds us in bondage? The lies of Satan that we believe and our carnal nature – so what is the price to free us?

SUNDAY

Read top dark section, thoughts?

What do you understand legalism to be?

Here is a traditional definition of legalism:

Legalism refers to any doctrine which states salvation comes strictly from adherence to the law. It can be thought of as a works-based religion. Groups in the New Testament said to be falling into this category include the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, Judaizers, and Nicolaitans. (Wikipedia)

Thoughts?

What about the idea of God having to fulfill legal requirements in order for God to have the legal right to save us? Would that be legalism?

What about God having to pay legal penalties in order to appease the law in order to save us? Would that be legalism?

Isn't legalism anything which makes the plan of salvation a legal issue?

One form of legalism has us trying to achieve legal outcomes and the other form has God trying to achieve legal outcomes, but both are legalistic.

Read first paragraph, "Several modern..." thoughts?

Who has bewitched? The devil of course, so how has the devil tried to obstruct God from saving mankind and bringing an end to sin? What specific actions has he taken, or methods has he employed?

1. Tried to prevent Christ from coming to earth by getting every human being to close their heart to God – why would this have obstructed the plan of salvation?
 - a. Because God would not force a person against their will to be the vessel for Christ's incarnation – thus Christ could not have become human and the earth would have been lost.
2. Tried to destroy Christ as an infant?

- a. Why would this have obstructed the plan?
 - b. Christ would have been born a human. He would have been sinless. Herod would have had shed His innocent blood, and if the problem was merely the legal need to have a blood payment, why didn't God permit it? Why would the death of Christ as an infant obstructed the plan of salvation?
 - i. Because the problem was not a legal one and the shedding of blood to pay a legal penalty would have done nothing to fix the actual problem of sin – specifically:
 - ii. No evidence of God's character revealed
 - iii. No evidence of Satan's character exposed as a murderer and fraud
 - iv. No evidence that keeping the "law" behaviorally results in becoming God's enemy
 - v. The real reason sin results in death not revealed
 - vi. God's law of love not restored into a human being by the freewill choice of that human brain
 - vii. A perfect human character not developed
 - viii. The infection of selfishness not eradicated in the human brain by the free exercise of the human will to love perfectly
3. Tried to get Christ to choose to act selfishly. Why would this have obstructed the plan of salvation?
- a. Christ would have misrepresented God as selfish and sustained Satan's allegations against God.
 - b. It would have resulted in a failure to procure the remedy to sin, a revelation of truth to destroy lies and a developing of a perfect human character.
4. Tried to destroy the early church through persecution
- a. Why would this have obstructed the plan of salvation – it would not have prevented the end of sin and sinners since Christ had achieved His victory, but it would have prevented the spread of the remedy and thus reduce the number of sinners eventually saved.

5. Tried to turn the mind away from the Cross to have the Cross forgotten.
 - a. Lost the knowledge of God deforms the character, hardens the heart, and destroys the faculties that respond to truth and love.
6. Tried to twist the meaning of what Christ achieved at the Cross replacing in with a false understanding.
 - a. The creation of legal reason by changing the nature of God's law from natural to imposed, and the purpose of the Cross was not to reveal truth and achieve remedy, but to pay legal penalty to the imperial authority of the universe.

Thoughts? Do any of these infect Christianity today?

Read second paragraph, "What baffles..." thoughts? Do Christians today know salvation is rooted in the Cross? Does that mean all Christians who know this will be saved? Why not?

MONDAY

In Paul's day when he refers to the Scripture, to what is he referring?

Do Christians today value the Old Testament as Paul did? What impact has it had on our theology to forget the Old Testament?

How has the Old Testament been demeaned? Two dispensations, the dispensation of law and the dispensation of grace idea, rather than seeing the Old Testament is the dispensation of grace as well. This is what Paul is teaching when he teaches Abraham was saved by grace, not by law.

Read bottom pink section, "Do you at..." thoughts?

What portion of scripture is inspired? What does it mean? Does it mean all portions of scripture tell the truth?

- When the devil said, “you will not surely die” in Eden, was he telling the truth.
- When Job’s friends said he must have done something awful for God to punish him the way He was, were they telling the truth?
- When the Pharisees said Jesus had a devil were they telling the truth?

The Scriptures are inspired, but we must be careful to understand who is speaking as the Scriptures give us a history of the controversy between Christ and Satan and as such have portions which document the enemies allegations and actions.

TUESDAY

Top question, “Why do...” thoughts? Could it be because the people confusing everyone were Judiazers and they were introducing Jewish traditions, circumcision which started with Abraham? And, because they misunderstood the entire purpose of what was going on it was important to go to the origin and show its true meaning.

What was the position of the Jews Paul was opposing? And how is that different from modern Christianity?

- The Jews took the position – Abraham obeyed and therefore God recognized him as righteous.
- Modern Christianity’s position – Abraham believed and therefore God credited him righteousness, even though he wasn’t.
- Paul’s position, Abraham trusted God with all his heart and therefore God recognized Abraham’s heart had changed from one of distrust, unright with God, to trust or right with God. Abraham was righteous.

Thoughts?

Read third paragraph, “Whereas....” Thoughts?

Does the bank, credit to your account with funds that are not in your account? So, if we use the “credit” idea, then we still must differentiate between fiction and fact.

Are funds credited on paper, but don’t actually exist in the bank? Or, when the bank credits the funds to your account has their been an actual transfer of funds into the account?

Does God credit us righteousness on books in heaven, when no righteousness exists in the heart? Or do the record books of heaven get the notation of righteousness when such righteousness is experienced in your heart?

The Greek imputed is:

3049 λογίζομαι [*logizomai* /log·id·zom·ahee/] v. Middle voice from 3056; TDNT 4:284; TDNTA 536; GK 3357; 41 occurrences; AV translates as “think” nine times, “impute” eight times, “reckon” six times, “count” five times, “account” four times, “suppose” twice, “reason” once, “number” once, and translated miscellaneous five times. **1** to reckon, count, compute, calculate, count over. *1a* to take into account, to make an account of. *1a1* metaph. to pass to one’s account, to impute. *1a2* a thing is reckoned as or to be something, i.e. as availing for or equivalent to something, as having the like force and weight. *1b* to number among, reckon with. *1c* to reckon or account. **2 to reckon inward, count up or weigh the reasons, to deliberate. 3 by reckoning up all the reasons, to gather or infer. 3a to consider, take into account, weigh, meditate on. 3b to suppose, deem, judge. 3c to determine, purpose, decide.** *Additional Information: This word deals with reality. If I “logizomai” or reckon that my bank book has \$25 in it, it has \$25 in it. Otherwise I am deceiving myself. This word refers to facts not suppositions.*

- Abundant grace has been provided that the believing soul **may be kept free from sin**; for all heaven, with its limitless resources, has been placed at our command. We are to draw from the well of salvation. . . . In ourselves we are sinners; but in Christ we are righteous. **Having made us righteous through the imputed righteousness of Christ, God pronounces us just, and treats us as just.** He looks upon us as His dear children. Christ works against the power of sin, and where sin abounded, grace much more abounds. -- God's Amazing Grace, pg. 181.4
- But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18). Beholding Christ means studying His life as given in His Word. We are to dig for truth as for hidden treasure. We are to fix our eyes upon Christ. When we take Him as our personal Saviour, this gives us boldness to approach the throne of grace. **By beholding we become changed, morally assimilated to the One who is perfect in character. By receiving His imputed righteousness, through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, we become like Him.** The image of Christ is cherished, and it captivates the whole being. -- God's Amazing Grace, pg. 96.4
- We aim too low. The mark is much higher. Our minds need expansion, that we may comprehend the significance of the provision of God. **We are to reflect the highest attributes of the character of God. . . . The law of God is the exalted standard to which we are to attain through the imputed righteousness of Christ.** - - Our High Calling, pg. 364.2
- He would have us comprehend something of His love in giving His Son to die that He might **counteract evil,**

remove the defiling stains of sin from the workmanship of God, and reinstate the lost, elevating and ennobling the soul to its original purity through Christ's imputed righteousness. -- That I May Know Him, pg. 206

When your heart has been changed from distrust of God, to genuine trust, such that you willingly follow where He leads, you are righteous! Such a heart is not achieved by works, but by trust, or faith, and it is received through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who reproduces Christlikeness within!

Thoughts?

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, "And the Scripture..." thoughts?

Thoughts?

Would Abraham have had the gospel preached to him at Mt. Moriah? Wouldn't that experience have been the experience in which Abraham was able to comprehend what the good news of God and the plan of salvation are truly about?

Read second paragraph, "The basis..." thoughts?

The lesson states, "We usually promise we will serve Him, if only He will do something for us in return. But that is legalism."

What if we changed the sentence to say this, "We usually say Jesus promised to serve Him, if only He will do something for us in return. But that is legalism."

Is this any less legalism than the first? Isn't this what Christianity often teaches? What does the Bible teach?

- God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself
2Cor 5:19 ASV
- For God so loved the world He gave His only son..." John
3:16
- If God is for us who can be against us...Romans 8:31
- As the Saviour is lifted up before the people, they will see his humiliation, his self-denial, his self-sacrifice, his goodness, his tender compassion, his sufferings to save fallen man, and will realize that the atonement of Christ was not the cause of God's love, but the result of that love. **Jesus died because God loved the world. The channel had to be made whereby the love of God should be recognized by man, and flow into the sinner's heart in perfect harmony with truth and justice.** {RH, September 2, 1890 par. 7}
- The atonement of Christ is not a mere skillful way to have our sins pardoned; **it is a divine remedy for the cure of transgression and the restoration of spiritual health. It is the heaven-ordained means by which the righteousness of Christ may be not only upon us, but in our hearts and characters.**--Letter 406, 1906. {7BC 464.2}

What is the basis of the covenant to Abraham? It is salvation by grace through faith – it is the same covenant as given to Adam after the fall, the same covenant as confirmed by Jesus' life, death and resurrection. It is the covenant written in Jeremiah and Hebrews, of writing the law of the heart and mind. It is the promise of God that through Christ He would provide remedy to our terminal condition and would apply that remedy to the hearts and minds of all who allow Him.

THURSDAY

Read Galatians 3:10-14:

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” ¹¹ Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” ¹² The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.” 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.” 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. (NIV)

Thoughts?

Read second paragraph, “Paul is contrasting...” thoughts?

How would you describe what Paul is saying? Is Paul describing a legal process of salvation or is Paul attacking the fallacy of a legal process of salvation?

Gal 3:10 All who try to get well and experience unity with God by observing certain rituals or following a written script or obeying a set of rules are abandoned to their own fate, for it is written: “Abandoned to your own choice is everyone who fails in the slightest to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” ¹¹ Clearly no one is healed and set right with God by working to follow a set of rules, because “Those set right with God live by trust.” ¹² The written law, as applied by the Jews, is not based on trust; on the contrary it is based on individual performance, on attempts to heal oneself, as it is written: “The man who works to save himself will live in fear and only get worse.” ¹³ Christ saved us from where the law leaves us – diagnosed as terminal and abandoned to die, by being abandoned on the cross in order to restore us to trust and purge humanity from the infection of selfishness and death, for it is written: “Abandoned to die is everyone who is hung on a tree.” ¹⁴ He saved us from

a futile self-focused works system so that the blessings of love, life and freedom given to Abraham and achieved through trust might come to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, so that by trust we might receive the full enlightenment, renewal and regeneration of heart and mind that comes by the Spirit.

Thoughts? What do you think about my use of “Abandoned” for “cursed”? What is God’s curse?

What actually happened to Christ on the Cross? What did God actually do to Him?

“Because of our sins he was **given over** to die...” (Romans 4:25 – GN)

“My God, my God, why have you **forsaken me?**” Matt 27:46

Wouldn’t this be the “curse” God letting go?

When a patient is dying of a terminal condition does the doctor have to kill the non-compliant patient?

God doesn’t have to inflict death or is death what happens if we refuse God’s remedy!

Read last paragraph, “Paul introduces..” thoughts? What does this mean?

Who did Christ buy us back from? Who was the price paid to?

Does the language of “a death sentence” help or confuse? Could we say, a person with terminal cancer, who refuses the remedy is under a death sentence? Yes, but who imposed the death sentence? Is it the same as a prisoner on death row?

When we hear descriptions of sinners under a “death sentence” do we hear it as God imposing a judicial punishment, or do we hear it as a terminal condition? Which is more accurate to the problem of sin?

So what is it we are redeemed from? What is the price paid? To whom is it paid? What does a ransom do? It frees, what holds us in bondage? The lies of Satan that we believe and our terminal condition, our carnal nature. What is the price necessary to free us from this bondage? The truth about God which destroys the lies and wins us to trust PLUS a new character, a new humanity, received freely as a gift, achieved solely by Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus loves His people, and when they put their trust in Him, depending wholly upon Him, He strengthens them. He will live through them, giving them the inspiration of His sanctifying Spirit, **imparting to the soul a vital transfusion of Himself.** He acts through their faculties and causes them to choose His will and to act out His character. With the apostle Paul they then may say, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me:** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).
 . . . {TMK 78.4}

We actually become "partakers of the divine nature."

Thoughts?

FRIDAY

Read first two paragraphs, "Upon Christ..." thoughts? What was placed upon Christ? What did He take upon Himself? It was our terminal condition!

What does it mean the guilt of every descendent of Adam was pressing upon His heart? Does that mean he felt the guilt of each individual sin, or that He was aware of our experience of guilt?

What is the significance that the psychological pain obscured the physical pain? What implications are there for our consideration of the wicked in the end?

Was his fear that He would be separated from the Father forever, the same as being separated from the Father forever?

Will the wicked be separated forever? Why was Christ not separated forever? If the legal penalty is eternal separation from the Father, has that penalty been paid merely because Christ felt like that might happen?

Amid the awful darkness, apparently forsaken of God, Christ had drained the last dregs in the cup of human woe. In those dreadful hours He had relied upon the evidence of His Father's acceptance heretofore given Him. He was acquainted with the character of His Father; He understood His justice, His mercy, and His great love. **By faith He rested in Him whom it had ever been His joy to obey. And as in submission He committed Himself to God, the sense of the loss of His Father's favor was withdrawn. By faith, Christ was victor.** {DA 756.3}

Is this the experience of the wicked in the end? The legal, penal substitution model is flawed, seriously. It gives a false hope because it removes the problem from our condition, to our legal account in heaven, and moves the solution from transforming us to adjusting records in heaven.

Christ redeemed humanity when He recreated humanity in His own person. In Jesus humanity was freed from the infection of sin/selfishness and rebuilt into God's original ideal!