



2017 Q3 The Gospel In Galatians Lesson 5 Old Testament Faith

SABBATH

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree’ ”(Galatians 3:13, ESV).

From the Lesson:

“A little boy had made a little boat, all painted and fixed up beautifully. One day someone stole his boat, and he was distressed.

In passing a pawnshop one day he saw his boat. Happily he ran in to the pawnbroker and said, ‘That is my little boat.’ ‘No,’ said the pawnbroker, ‘it is mine, for I bought it.’ ‘Yes,’ said the boy, ‘but it is mine, for I made it.’ ‘Well,’ said the pawnbroker, ‘if you will pay me two dollars, you can have it.’ That was a lot of money for a boy who did not have a penny. Anyway, he resolved to have it; so, he cut grass, did chores of all kinds, and soon had his money.

“He ran down to the shop and said, ‘I want my boat.’ He paid the money and received his boat. He took the boat up in his arms, and hugged and kissed it, and said, ‘You dear little boat, I love you. You are mine. You are twice mine. I made you, and now I have bought you.’

“So it is with us. We are, in a sense, twice the Lord’s. He created us, and we got into the devil’s pawnshop. Then Jesus came and bought us at awful cost—not silver and gold, but His precious blood. We are the Lord’s by creation and by redemption.”—William Moses Tidwell, *Pointed Illustrations* (Kansas City, Mo.: Beacon Hill Press, 1951), p. 97”

What curse were we redeemed from referenced in the memory text? I’ve hung from a tree before – am I cursed? What does Paul mean?

What may we discern from the above passage? What’s the first question we must ask ourselves or others regarding this or passages like this? How is this illustration helpful? How is it harmful? Is it diagnostic of the author / editor / etc.? What’s the diagnosis?



SUNDAY

The Foolish Galatians

What does Paul characterize as “foolish” with regard to the Galatians [see Galatians 3:1-6]?

What is it about fallen human nature that makes us want to “work” our way in to God’s grace?

The lesson asks a poignant question as well:

“In what sense could we be in danger of falling into the same spiritual pitfall of starting out right and then falling into legalism?”

Another great question from the lesson:

“How often, if ever, do you find yourself thinking, I’m doing pretty well. I’m a pretty solid Christian, I don’t do this and/or I don’t do that . . .and then, even subtly, thinking you’re somehow good to be saved? What’s wrong with that picture?”

I think the lesson wants us to see the focus on works, but the problem is much bigger. Where’s the real focus? **ON SELF!**

MONDAY

Grounded on Scripture.

Considering our “Integrative Evidence Based Approach” to discerning Truth, should we be wary when we see statements like “grounded in Scripture” or “Scripture, and Scripture only”?

For review: What are the 3 primary avenues of discerning Truth?

1. Scripture
2. Nature / Science
3. Personal Experience / Relationship.

We have seen what happens when we marry ourselves to only one avenue of searching for Truth.

Scripture Only – 34,000 different sects of Christianity all using the same book to defend their mindset, and beat others over the head with.

Nature Only – Evolution, Atheism, Survival of the Fittest.

- Experience Only – Mysticism, Spiritualism, Elevating Feelings/Emotions to dethrone reason and judgment.



For certain, Paul's presentation of the gospel was grounded in Scripture, however, it was not the only anchor. He had a deep personal relationship with his Savior, and observed / obeyed the know laws of Nature.

Paul's only Scripture was the Old Testament. His support for Christ's position as Messiah / Savior, and the intent of Heaven for the gospel to go to the Gentiles are found throughout the OT. What about his view of God the Father? Is He the same in the OT as well as the New Testament?

TUESDAY

Reckoned as Righteous.

"Reckoned as Righteous" How many times have you heard that phrase? Which Law lens are you hearing it through?

Many authors use synonyms "accounted", "credited", "counted" and "imputed" instead of "reckoned". What do these terms mean? Some say it's a legal metaphor.

Some say it's a business / Accounting metaphor. Even from a business/Accounting perspective, it makes more sense than from a legal one. In my practice book keeping, I don't "credit" myself with money that I don't have. If I have the \$\$\$, it goes in the credit column. If I'm owed money, I can't call the bank and tell them "just put it in my account – it's coming eventually."

Could we come up with a healthcare version of this?

Could we say "Abraham believed God and was diagnosed as righteous"?

Too many "scholars" would have us believe that God's voicing of Abraham's righteousness made it so. I believe that's backwards. Abraham trusted God, opened his heart to the Spirit of Truth and Love, and his character was transformed, so God declared him righteous –

BECAUSE. HE. WAS.

God accurately diagnosed Abraham's character as healed. God didn't have to speak him in to righteousness, nor did he declare him righteous – even though he wasn't. God didn't lie about Abraham's character, and He doesn't lie about ours.

From the lesson:

"The Bible is clear: Abraham's obedience was not grounds for his justification; it was, instead, the result. He didn't do the things he did in order to be justified; he did them because he already was. Justification leads to obedience, not vice versa."

Thank You. Well said.



WEDNESDAY

The Gospel in the Old Testament.

Are there any differences between the “gospel” in the Old and the New Testaments? What constitutes the “gospel” in the Old Testament? What about the New Testament? How are they similar/different? What “gospel” did Paul have? Was some of Paul’s audience *claiming* that the OT gospel was different?

From the lesson: “The basis of God’s covenant with Abraham centered on God’s promises to him.”

I respectfully disagree. The basis of God’s covenant with Abraham centered on God’s *trustworthiness*. God’s promises are *manifestations* of His trustworthiness that we sometimes need to take on faith. God’s *fulfilled* promises are *evidence* of His trustworthiness.

Again, from the Lesson:

“Some mistakenly conclude that the Bible teaches two ways of salvation. They claim that in Old Testament times salvation was based on keeping the commandments; then, because that did not work very well, God abolished the law and made salvation possible by faith. This could not be farther from the truth. As Paul wrote in Galatians 1:7, there is only one gospel.”

Again, well said. How could God “abolish the law” when it’s the design template for life itself?

THURSDAY

Redeemed From a Curse

What was the “Curse”? Who was responsible for the “Curse”? How was mankind redeemed from the “Curse”?

Which Law lens are you looking through?

From the Lesson:

“The word redeem means “to buy back.” It was used to refer to the ransom price paid to release hostages or the price paid to free a slave. Because the wages of sin is death, the curse of failing to keep the law was often a death sentence. The ransom paid for our salvation was not insignificant; it cost God the life of His own Son (John 3:16). Jesus ransomed us from the curse by becoming our sin-bearer (1 Cor. 6:20, 7:23). He voluntarily took our curse upon Himself and suffered in our behalf the full penalty of sin(2 Cor. 5:21).”



FRIDAY

“Upon Christ as our substitute and surety was laid the iniquity of us all. He was counted a transgressor, that He might redeem us from the condemnation of the law. The guilt of every descendant of Adam was pressing upon His heart. The wrath of God against sin, the terrible manifestation of His displeasure because of iniquity, filled the soul of His Son with consternation. All His life Christ had been publishing to a fallen world the good news of the Father’s mercy and pardoning love. Salvation for the chief of sinners was His theme. But now with the terrible weight of guilt He bears, He cannot see the Father’s reconciling face. The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 753