

GALATIANS

Chapter 3 Bible Study

Review of Chapter 2

1. Paul was writing to the Churches, that he had started in the Region of Galatia when he was on his first missionary. What issue was he addressing (what were people trying to do to the new converts?)
2. Peter was called by God to bring the Gospel message to the Jews. Who was Paul called by God to bring the Gospel Message to?
3. James, Peter and John confirmed Paul's call to preach the Gospel, what was the one thing they encouraged him to do in addition to preaching the Gospel?
4. What did Paul confront Peter about (what behavior did he see in Peter)?
5. How is a person made right with God, and how is a person "Not" made right with God?

The Law and Faith in Christ

¹ Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. ² Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. ³ How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? ⁴ Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it?

⁵ I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ.

⁶ In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." ⁷ The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. ⁸ What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would declare the Gentiles to be righteous because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹ So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

1. How do we "Not" receive God's Holy Spirit, and how "Do" we receive the Holy Spirit? (V2) _____

2. After receiving eternal life and forgiveness through the work that Christ did on the cross, what were the Galatians trying to go back to? (V3) _____

3. Does God give us His Spirit and work miracles through us as a result of our obedience to His Law? (V5) _____

4. How did Abraham become righteous (in “right-standing”) before God? (V6) _____

5. So how do we become “Spiritual Children” of Abraham, which causes us to inherit the blessings that God promised to Abraham? (V7) _____

6. What did God promise to Abraham as a result of his faith in God? (V8b) _____

7. So who else will share in the blessings that God promised to Abraham (as a result of their faith in God)? (V9) _____

¹⁰ But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God’s Book of the Law.” ¹¹ So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” ¹² This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, “It is through obeying the law that a person has life.”

¹³ But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” ¹⁴ Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

8. What is promised to those that try to observe and obey all the commands that are written in God’s Book of the Law (without trusting in Jesus)? (V10) _____

9. Is it possible to be made “Right with God” by keeping God’s Law? (V11) _____

10. What did Jesus do for us when He hung on the cross? (V13b) _____

The Law and God's Promise

¹⁵ Dear brothers and sisters, here's an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case. ¹⁶ God gave the promises to Abraham and his child. And notice that the Scripture doesn't say "to his children," as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says "to his child" — and that, of course, means Christ. ¹⁷ This is what I am trying to say: The agreement God made with Abraham could not be canceled 430 years later when God gave the law to Moses. God would be breaking his promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise. But God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise.

¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people. ²⁰ Now a mediator is helpful if more than one party must reach an agreement. But God, who is one, did not use a mediator when he gave his promise to Abraham.

²¹ Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. ²² But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.

11. Why did God give us the Law? (V19) _____

12. How long was The Law designed to last? (V19) _____

13. The Bible tells us that we are prisoners to the sin in our life (disobedience to God), how do we get set free from the control of sin? (V22) _____

NOTE: *The Law of God was given to Moses, by God, through Angels. When people broke the Law (in the old days) they had to sacrifice innocent blood so that there could be "Temporary forgiveness of sins", until another sin was committed, then another sacrifice needed to be made (They sacrificed the lives of innocent animals). Once Jesus came, He became that innocent sacrifice (He did no wrong), and so we receive forgiveness, once and for all time, as we believe in Him.*

God's Children through Faith

²³ Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed. ²⁴ Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ

came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. ²⁵ And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian. ²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

14. As we believe in Jesus's sacrifice, and surrender our lives to Him, what do we become? (V29) _____

Reflection/Application: What is the one thing that really stood out to you, and how can you apply it to your life? _____

Prayer Guide: Based upon the **third** part of the Lord's Prayer (*Give us today the food we need*), Pray to God and ask Him to provide for your needs in life (Food, clothing, shelter, healthy relationships, etc).

Review Question Answers from Chapter TWO

1. They were trying to take away their freedom in Christ, and enslave them again to Jewish regulations.
2. Paul was called to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles.
3. They encouraged him to keep helping the poor.
4. Hypocrisy (he would only eat with Gentiles when his fellow Jews were not around).
5. A person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, and not by obeying the law.

Chapter 3 Answer Key

1. We do not receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the Law of Moses; we do receive the Holy Spirit through believing the message about Jesus.
2. Becoming perfect by their own effort.

3. No.
4. It was because of his faith.
5. By putting our faith in God.
6. That all nations will be blessed through him.
7. All who believe in Jesus.
8. They will be cursed if they do even one thing wrong.
9. No.
10. He took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing.
11. It was given to show people their sins.
12. Until the coming of the child that was promised (Jesus).
13. By believing in Jesus Christ.
14. True children of Abraham, God's heirs, and receivers of God's promise to Abraham (Blessings).