

WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016-2017

THEME: CREATION AND SALVATION

UNIT THREE – THE CHURCH IS BORN

“TRANSFORMED TO LIVE WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER”

(Understanding Law and Grace)



Sunday School Lesson No. X – February 5, 2017

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Galatians 3:19 – 4:7

Required Reading: Galatians 3:6 – 4:7

Motto Text: Galatians 3:28, *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

Reliable Resources: Precepts for Living by UMI; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Libronix Electronic

Library; H. L. Wilmington’s Bible Handbook; Key Words of the Christian Life by Dr. Warren Wiersbe; Galatians Commentary by Lehman Strauss.

INTRODUCTION

Beloved, the Apostle Paul continues his argument to convince the Galatians that there is no need to return unto the fulfilled practices of the Mosaic Law! He gives them the untold history lesson of how God saved the progenitor of the Hebrew race (Abraham) in Galatians 3:6-9: *“Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”* This history lesson should give leverage to the half-taught lessons of the Judaizers. They tried to teach the Gentile Galatians that the ceremonies of the Mosaic Law must be kept, along with belief in Christ, but Paul is adamant that salvation is fully of Grace without the deeds of the Law! (Must read Romans 3:19-31, NLT)

Now beloved, with these truths, some were still confused, thinking that Paul was saying we could live lawless, but such was totally contrary. Paul wanted the readers to see that the law was holy, and it should lead a person to see his utterly depraved, helpless condition to please God. Therefore, the Law pointed to the individual to receive God’s free gift of Grace in order that one might be justified in His sight. Titus 3:5, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”*

Anticipated Power Points:

I. The Law Defines Sin. Galatians 3:19-20

II. The Law’s Deficiency to Save. Galatians 3:21-22

III. The Law’s Duty. Galatians 3:23-26

IV. The Law is Substituted by Grace. Galatians 3:27 – 4:7

OUTLINE

I. The Law Defines Sin. Galatians 3:19-20

A. To expose sin. vs. 19a

God gave the written Law to Moses so that Israel as well as the Gentiles would have an explanation of the specifics of sin and the weakness of man to keep the law. The Law was given as a temporary measure to enlighten men to their failures until the coming of Abraham’s seed, Jesus Christ!

B. The Exalted Saviour. vss. 19b-20

As we read in Galatians 3:13-18, God sent His Son Jesus Christ to be the redeemer of the promise made to Abraham before the Mosaic Law. Paul makes it clear in verse 15 that God’s promise (Genesis 12:3 or Galatians 3:8) was as binding as a civil contract made in man’s courts. It was totally binding and dependent upon our Lord and not on man’s word. The Law of Moses was not given to disannul the promise of God, but it expresses Abraham’s seed, our Lord Jesus Christ, as God’s exalted Saviour and Mediator. (The Mosaic Law was mediated by Moses (John 1:17a) but the promise of Justification is mediated through Jesus Christ (John 1:17b.) Moses mediated the Law among the Jews, but Jesus is God’s Mediator for all men, both Jew and Gentile. I Timothy 2:5-6, *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”*

II. The Law's Deficiency to Save. Galatians 3:21-22

Paul now expresses what the Law could not do! He makes it clear that the Law was so holy that it could only expose God's perfect expectation. But in exposing God's perfect expectation, the Law gave no remedy for an already perishing humanity. Through the knowledge of the Law, we learn that we have an incurable disease called sin, which is leading us to external death. It leaves one in a hopeless state, but according to verse 22, God did not leave us comfortless and without hope. He has made it possible to have redemption through His promised seed and our Saviour Jesus Christ! Romans 10:4, "*For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*"

III. The Law's Duty. Galatians 3:23-26

A. It confined us to guilt. vs. 23

Before the opportunity to exercise faith in Christ's finished work was available the law kept us confined to a guilty conscience of despair! It was our jailor and we were hopelessly confined.

B. It constrained us under a guardian. vs. 24

Like children under a schoolmaster or guardian, we were constrained to the monitoring of the Law. It kept us in check and placed definite perimeters within which we were to walk. This was to happen until we became of age to receive faith in Christ's finished work for our sins.

C. It convinces us of our need of faith in Christ. vss. 25-26

Now once the believer has come to faith in Jesus Christ, he no longer needs to walk under the tutoring of the schoolmaster of Law, but under the leadership of the Holy Spirit of God!

IV. The Law is Substituted by Grace. Galatians 3:27 – 4:7

Paul now expresses that when a believer has embraced faith in Jesus Christ, he no longer needs the hand-holding limitations of the Law, but he is a new creation in Christ. II Corinthians 5:17, "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*" The believer is set on the course of God's grace and all things have become new.

A. A new conformity (To be like Christ). vs. 27

He has been clothed in Christ's righteousness and makes no more provisions for the flesh. (Read Romans 6:1-5, 12-14.)

B. A new community. vss. 28-29

Through the finished work of Jesus Christ, there is a new community in Grace. There are no differences in the body as it relates to nationality, social structure, or gender. All who embrace Christ over the Law are justified and are given an external citizenship in the Kingdom of God. The Blood of Christ is applied to all the same, no matter who they are, so the Gentile is not a second class citizen under a Jew, or a male is not better than a female in relationship to Christ. Grace has given us all access to the Father through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ!

C. A new chronos (time). Galatians 4:1-7

Paul established elsewhere in scripture (I Corinthians 13:11) that there comes a time when God's people must put away childish things. So here we see Paul impress upon the Galatians that the Mosaic Law was given as a school master to the Jews in order to bring them from adolescence to the fulfillment of the Law in Christ's finished work, which brought them to adulthood by faith. Note, "Whether a person came to Christ from Jewish or a Gentile background, he could look upon his former life as a period of spiritual infancy...Whether coming from a strict Jewish background as was the case with Paul (Phil. 3:3-7), or being rescued from paganism, as was the situation with many of the Galatians...Before obeying the gospel, all people are in some sense bound by the 'elements of the world'." (Expositor and Illuminator). The law was at best as a guardian to an adolescent who could not make his own choices as an adult. But thank God that's not the final destination!

The Judaizers wanted the Gentiles to convert to Judaism as a part of accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour. But Paul declares in Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT), "*But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.*" Christ came under the curse of the Law as 100% human and yet in the full DNA of His Father, making Him 100% divine, He paid the price to release all by faith who would receive Him as their Lord and Saviour. Now all who have received Him are redeemed and fully adopted into God's family, having the full rights of heirs with adult status. God even confirms this in the believer's life by allowing all to call Him "*Abba, Father.*" This term was forbidden of any slave to use toward his master in Paul's day, but a true child could refer to his father by this term of endearment which meant "Daddy." Thank God that we who now walk in Christ have all the great rights and privileges of total sonship under God's umbrella of justification!

CLOSING

Who's your daddy? Many wonder and wish, but when Christ Jesus is our Lord and Saviour, we stand under the umbrella of God's great justification and the Creator of the universe is our Daddy! (Read Romans 8:15-17, NLT).

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Looking Ahead:

February 12, 2017

Galatians 4:8-20