

Galatians 3:10-20 – Christ Redeemed Us

After appealing to the Galatians personal experience, Paul argued from the scriptures that both Jews and Gentiles are justified by faith. Abraham was justified by faith. The true children of Abraham are those who have faith just as Abraham had faith. The object of our faith is Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection as preached in the gospel. We believe by the grace of God. Jesus said in John 6:37, “All that the Father gives me will come to me.” God is working in the true believer’s life and God’s work will produce fruit in our lives. As John Calvin said “It is therefore faith alone which justifies, and yet the faith which justifies is not alone”.

Read Galatians 3:10-14.

In verse 9, Paul said “So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham”. Verse 10 is a contrast to that statement. What is true of “all who rely on works of the law”? What scripture did Paul quote to support this claim? See Deuteronomy 27:26. What is the context of this quote?

Why is it evident that no one will be justified by the law? What scripture did Paul quote to backup this statement? See Habakkuk 2:4. What would you say to someone who thought that they were “good enough” to be accepted into God’s presence based on their works? (3:11)

How does verse 12 argue against someone who thinks that justification can be by both faith and works? What Old Testament verse did Paul quote in verse 12? See Leviticus 18:5.

We are all lawbreakers and therefore under a curse. How are we freed from the curse? What does the word “redeem” mean? It is also used in 4:5. What scripture is quoted in verse 13? See Deuteronomy 21:23. (Galatians 3:13)

Based on verse 14, what do we receive as a result of Christ’s work on the cross? Do those redeemed by Christ suffer the curse of the law?

Read Galatians 3:15-20.

In verse 15, what type of covenant do you think Paul has in mind? Look at verse 18. What is true of this human covenant once it has been ratified or confirmed?

The word “promise” appears eight times in chapter 3 and twice in chapter 4. Who were the recipients of God’s promises to Abraham? Can Gentiles be the recipients of God’s promises to Abraham? If so, how? (3:16)

When the law was given, hundreds of years later, it did not change or nullify the promises which God gave to Abraham. What is the significance of this statement to the Galatians? (3:17)

What inheritance is Paul talking about in verse 18? How was the inheritance given to Abraham? How does someone receive an inheritance? Someone can try to influence the person making their will by what they say and do but the decision is ultimately up to the person making their will. My siblings said that I was our father’s favorite but we all got an equal share in his inheritance. My “favorite” status did not earn me a larger share of the inheritance. We received our inheritance based on my father’s wishes documented in his last will and testament. See Genesis 22:16-18 for the surety of God’s promise to Abraham.

The obvious question is why did God give the law to the Israelites? Is the law a permanent law? Are parts permanent and other parts temporary? If so, which are permanent and which are temporary? What occurred which brought about the elimination of the temporary parts of the law? How was the delivery of the law different from the giving of the promises to Abraham? (3:19-20)

What is the meaning of verse 20? F. F. Bruce, in his commentary on Galatians, said that there are about 300 interpretations of this verse.

I grew up going to a United Presbyterian Church in Western Pennsylvania. When I went to college and someone asked me what is a Christian, I said that a Christian was someone who followed the teachings of Christ. When they asked me how someone becomes a Christian, I had a harder time answering that question. I thought that Christianity was based on works. Why do you think many people who grow up going to church think that we get to heaven based on what we do or don’t do?