

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH (continued) Galatians 4:1-31

Introduction

Paul continued to deal with the doctrine of justification by faith in chapter four. He wanted to show the Galatian Christians the weakness of the Law to save them and its utter poverty to enrich them. Instead of looking to the Law to help them, they needed to believe the Promise of God for salvation and riches. Paul pleaded with the Galatians to stand with him in this doctrine as they had at the first and not to count him as their enemy. Then he warned them of the danger of mixing God's Law with God's Promise to obtain God's blessing.

Aim of the Lesson

Teach the blessings of the doctrine of justification by faith; love it and defend it.

Outline of the Lesson (Use the Study Notes to develop the lesson outline as the Spirit leads you.)

A. Explanation of God's Promise Continued (4:1-7)

1. **Children of God are under the Law (4:1-3)**

Who are the children (infants) that are heirs of God? (1, 3) Old Testament saints under the Law

Who do the tutors and governors refer to? (2) The Law of Moses

What did the Law do to the children? (3) It put them in bondage

2. **Sons of God are free from the Law (4:4-7)**

How did the children of God (young ones) receive the adoption as sons of God? (4-5) Christ redeemed them from the Law

Name one blessing that the sons of God receive. They are redeemed from the Law (v.5)

Name another blessing that the sons of God receive. They receive the adoption of sons (v.5); are given the Holy Spirit (v.6); become heirs of God thru Christ (v.7)

Receive God's blessings by faith in Christ. The Law cannot bless; it causes bondage.

B. Expression of Paul's Concern (4:8-20)

1. **The possibility of laboring in vain in Galatia (4:8-11)**

Why was Paul concerned about his converts? His converts were trying to keep the Law to be saved

2. **His present relationship with the Galatians was uncertain (4:12-16)**

How did the Galatians show their respect for Paul in the past? (14-15) They considered him to be an angel of God and were ready to pluck out their own eyes, if possible, to give to him

What had Paul done that may have turned some Galatians against him? (16) He told them the truth about their freedom in Christ; or, maybe they felt that he had not told them the truth about keeping the Law

3. **The Jews were turning the Galatians away from him (4:17-18)**

How did the Jews win the Galatians to their views? They zealously sought them

4. **He wanted Christ to be formed in them, but had doubts about their faith (4:19-20)**

What must we do to have Christ formed in us? Allow the Spirit to produce His fruit in us (5:22-23)

We should be concerned about our converts' welfare and desire that they act like Christ.

C. Example from Abraham's Wives (4:21-31)

1. **Information from history (4:21-23)**

Who were the children that were born by the two wives of Abraham? Ishmael and Isaac

2. **Interpretation of the allegory (4:24-27)**

How did these two women illustrate the covenants of Law and Promise? Hagar was a bond slave under the laws of her mistress. She represented Mt Sinai and bondage, the earthly Jerusalem which was under the Law. Her son was born by the flesh. Sarah was a free woman and represented the Jerusalem above. Her son was born by the Promise of God.

Who is the "desolate" in Isaiah's prophecy (Isa 54:1)? Sarah

3. **Application to the believers (28-31)**

Who are the children of the Promise (4:28, 31)? Believers in Christ

Who are the persecutors and the ones being persecuted (4:29)? Unbelievers persecute believers

What should be done with the persecutors (4:30)? Remove them from the congregation of believers

Let this allegory teach you that believers must separate themselves from unbelievers.

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH IS JUST WHAT WE NEED