

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

September 5, 2021

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Galatians 3:6-14

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Special Music: Rachel Stalter

Message: *God's Contract With Abraham* (Gal. 3:15-18)

Announcements

A blessed Labor Day to All! “In all labour there is profit” (Prov.14:23). God bless all who labor or are retired from it!

Linda Huff was hospitalized last week with a heart attack. Please keep her and Dwain in prayer.

Next Sunday is Picnic Sunday! Come to church dressed to picnic and bring a main dish, side dish, salad or dessert.

Next Sunday's guest speaker will be *Berean Bible Society's* president Kevin Sadler. He will teach Sunday School and church, and picnic with us so you can get to know him!

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone
Galatians 3:6-14 *The Comparison of Abraham*

Paul just finished reminding the Galatians that they'd received the gifts of the Spirit by faith *without having to keep the law* (v.5), gifts that proved they were saved. This happened “even as Abraham” received salvation by faith without the law (v.6) the moment he believed (Gen.15:5,6).

The legalists were citing Moses to insist they keep the law, as they did in Acts 15:1,5, so Paul cites a source legalists revered more—*Abraham!* They would object that a Jew's salvation could have no bearing on the salvation of Gentiles like the Galatians, so Paul adds in Galatians 3:7 that any man who shared Abraham's *faith* was his child (Rom.4:9-13).

Galatians 3:8 says the Scriptures foresaw this. But *books* can't foresee things, only men can (Pr.22:3). But God often identifies Himself with *His Book* (Ex.9:13,16 cf. Rom. 9:17). So Galatians 3:8 is saying God knew He'd justify Gentiles “through” faith *without works*, just as He justified Jews “by” faith *plus works* (Rom.3:30). God *foreknew* that, but He didn't *foretell* it in the Scriptures because it was part of the mystery revealed to Paul (Col.1:26,27).

But to prepare for it, God preached the gospel to Abraham, saying the world would be blessed in him (v.8cf.Gen.18:18). But how? There were two answers—one the Scriptures fore-told, and one they didn't. They foretold the nations would be blessed in a *son* of Abraham (Ps.72:17)—in *Christ*, the *ultimate* son of Abraham, in the kingdom (72:8,9,11,14,17, 18). But if the nations want Abraham's blessing of *salvation* in the kingdom, they'll have to keep the law (Isa.56:3-7). But according to the mystery, Gentiles are saved *without* the law, as Paul is

pointing out here. The word “faithful” in Galatians 3:9 means *full of faith*, not *full of faith and the law*.

The law *curses* men (3:10) because they can’t keep it perfectly (James 2:10,11). Paul is quoting a verse (Deut. 27:26) where *the law itself* curses men if they can’t keep much more than just *the ten* commandments (15-26). They had to *continue* to keep all 613 commands in the law (Gal.3: 10) or be cursed, i.e., *all your life without ever breaking one!*

But God doesn’t curse men *just so they walk around feeling cursed*. He curses men to get them to see they need a Savior! But after the Savior saves you, *the law doesn’t stop cursing you*. So if you put yourself under the law, you’re going to *feel* cursed by the law *instead of blessed with Abraham*.

To prove his point, Paul quotes *another* verse (Ps.143:2cf. Gal.3:11), then quotes Habakkuk 2:4 to prove that even under the law men could “live” by faith alone. We know “live” means *live eternally* because in quoting it Paul doesn’t say, “We’re not justified by the law, we’re *justified* by faith.” He says, “We’re not justified by the law, *we live* by faith.”

“The law is not of faith” (Gal.3:12) because if you could keep it well enough to be saved, you wouldn’t *need* faith. But when Paul tries to prove his point by quoting Leviticus 18:5, that verse makes it sound like men *could* be saved by keeping the works of the law, and so do Nehemiah 9:29 and Ezekiel 20:11,13. Even the Lord sounded like He thought that too (Lu.18: 25-28)—*even Paul sounded that way* (Rom. 2:6,7). But those verses are just saying God is fair. If any man *can* earn eternal life by never breaking the law, God will give him what he earned! But there are no takers to that offer.

And because there are no takers, all of us need the cross Paul mentions in Galatians 3:13. Christ redeemed us on the “tree” (cf.IPe.2:24) by being made a curse for us, by being made the thing that the law curses—*sin* (IICor.5:21). God did that, “that the blessing of Abraham might come on us” (Gal. 3:14), i.e., the blessing *of eternal life*. Not through Israel or the law, as Gentiles were saved in the Old Testament, but “through Jesus Christ.” We also get the Spirit God promised Israel as well. What an unfathomable spiritual deal!

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

September 5, 2021

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Dave Stewart

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

Myrtle Harrison

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger

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