

TO EMPOWER US TO LIVE BY FAITH

Wednesday Gathering; Galatians 3:1-14; Week of Sunday, August 1, 2021; Steve Thiel

God made a way for sinful people to be reconciled to a holy God through Christ's substitutionary death on the cross. So we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, not by works; and the gracious gift of the Spirit empowers us to live for God's glory!

I. Salvation by Faith Alone – Read Galatians 3:1-9; Genesis 12:1-3 and 15:1-6

- A. Paul makes it clear in Galatians 2:15-16 that a person is justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law. As Paul addresses the Galatians in 3:1-9, what seems to be their experience?

- B. Why do you think Paul appeals to Abraham in verses 6-9? As you think about Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-6, and 17:1-14, how did God's promises to Abraham highlight the need for faith? In what ways is Abraham the perfect example of salvation by faith alone?

- C. What is the relationship between faith and obedience? What do you think it looks like for faith to be the motivation for all that you do? What might it look like regarding your time, your money, your priorities, and your relationships?

II. Salvation Not by Works – Read Galatians 3:10-12 and 19-24

- A. After reading Galatians 3:10-12, what are the three reasons that Paul gives to argue that salvation is not by works of the law? Paul quotes Deuteronomy 27:26. What's the context of this passage? How does this passage demonstrate that the law requires perfect obedience?

- B. In Galatians 3:11, Paul quotes Habakkuk 2:4 which says that the righteous shall live by faith. The context of that quote is the Babylonian judgment with God promising a future deliverance. How is Habakkuk 3:17-18 an encouragement to trust God even in the midst of difficulty?

- C. After reading Galatians 3:19-24, why did God give us the law? What's its purpose? As you evaluate your own situation, is the law having its good effect on your heart and life?

III. Salvation in Christ Alone – Read Galatians 3:13-14

- A. Jesus is the only person to keep the law perfectly, which means He is perfectly righteous. How is his active obedience to the law absolutely critical to his substitutionary death on the cross for our sin? What do you think it means that Jesus became a curse for us?

- B. Verse 14 says that in Christ, the blessing of Abraham might come to us. What does it mean that we have a great name, are a great nation, and are a blessing to others? What does it look like to never get over the gospel and live free for the glory of God?