

## Galatians, Chapter Three, Lesson Three

HAPPY IN FAITH Galatians 3:15-22

### STIMULATE

\*\* What a joy it was for us to see last week that we have been made "Holy by Faith". If we are genuine, that is, if we have asked Jesus Christ to forgive our sin and to become the Lord and Savior of our lives, what will that faith always produce in us?

True saving faith will always produce obedience to the Word of God!

\*\* Like our father, Abraham, what will be the four characteristics of our obedient faith?

- 1) Immediate obedience
- 2) Sustained obedience
- 3) Willing obedience
- 4) Contagious obedience

\*\* Did anyone experience, this past week, an opportunity to follow the Lord in "Immediate, Sustained, Willing and/or Contagious" obedience?

Our greatest joy comes from an awareness that we are striving to direct our thoughts, words and actions to remain in subjection to God's Word. We must remember the importance of our calling to represent God's Word to others in a Christlike manner, so they will see His love and authority in our lives first and then in their own.

### MOTIVATE

\*\* Having established the fact that true saving faith in Jesus Christ will always produce obedience to the Word of God, is that obedience lived out in a cold or stoic atmosphere? What emotions accompany the heart which has been trained to obey God's word?

For the answer, please join me now in Galatians 3:15-22, as Paul gives us the reason to be "Happy in Faith".

Read Passage (V.15-17) (V.18-19) (V.20-22)

Opening Prayer

### *Happy in Faith*

### INVESTIGATE

\*\* When compared to verses 1 and 3 in this chapter, how does Paul's opening greeting for today show the balance in his letter?

Even though he had to confront the error of their "careless or lazy" theology, Paul still had a great love for the "Brethren". cf. 4:12, 6:1 and 6:18

\*\* What example does Paul now draw from to establish his argument for the unchangeable character of God's promise?

"...terms of human relations..." He is going to use the covenants or contracts between men to show why God will not change His mind.

**\*\* What must happen to an agreement between men in order for it to become binding?**

It must be "...ratified..." [kuroo] lit: to make valid, Webster adds -"to approve formally, confirm"

**\*\* What are some of the ways that is done between two individuals in our world today?**

Shaking of hands, signing of contracts, giving an oath or issuing a court order.

**\*\* Once it has been ratified, should it be changed in any way?**

No, "...no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it." Remember, this is talking about a covenant just between men, and it is to be honored. How much more binding would be a covenant by God!

**V.16 \*\*** After giving us his example, Paul says, "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham...", what promises is he talking about?

Genesis 12:2 - "I will make you a great nation" and "I will bless you, and make your name great"

Genesis 12:3 - Promise of protection

Genesis 12:7 - Promise of land

Genesis 15:4-5 - An heir, according to the will of God and many descendants.

Genesis 15:6 - Promise of righteousness by faith!

Genesis 18:10 - The son of the promise, within one year!

**\*\* Besides Abraham, to whom were these promises spoken?**

"...and to his seed..." The One who would come, the seed of promise, Jesus Christ.

cf. Acts 3:25-26

**V.17 \*\*** How does Paul now clarify what he is trying to say about the promises of God and the impact of the Law?

By saying that the Law, which came after the covenant had been "ratified" by God, was not able to invalidate the promise.

**\*\* How did God "ratify" his covenant or promise to Abraham?**

Paul uses the word "prokuroo" which means; "to establish beforehand". It was more than a handshake, that's for sure! Let's see it together.

Read - Genesis 15:7-17, Men of Abraham's day would cut animals in half, and then walk together between them saying, "If I break my covenant with you, may the same thing be done to me as has been done to these animals!" This covenant was completely unique, in that God put Abraham to sleep (V.12) and walked through the animals alone (V.17), signifying that He was swearing by Himself to fulfill it and that it was totally dependent on Him.

cf. Hebrews 6:13-18

**\*\* According to Galatians 3:17, how much later did the Law come, after the giving of the promise to Abraham?**

Four hundred and thirty years!

\*\* Did it "nullify the promise"?

Absolutely not!

**V.18** \*\* Paul calls our salvation "the inheritance" here in verse 18, what is wrong with saying that it is based on the Law?

That would make it "no longer based on a promise".

\*\* Which is more dependable, your ability to keep the Law or God's ability to keep His promise?

Obviously, God's promise is more dependable!

\*\* How was this inheritance granted to Abraham?

Not by keeping the Law, but "God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise."

\*\* Emotionally speaking, how does your heart respond to the wonderful truth that your salvation is not based on you keeping the Law, but rather on God's promise to save you by His grace through faith?

Our hearts should be joyful, thankful, full of praise and happy to be children of "the faith".

**V.19** \*\* Why, then, do we need the Law?

"...because of transgressions..." or "for the sake of defining transgressions".

\*\* Paul says that "it was added", but to what?

To the Abrahamic covenant of salvation by faith, the Law was added to define our sinful nature.

\*\* The Law, beginning with the Ten Commandments, was ordained through angels by the agency of a human mediator, who was that?

Moses! cf. Deuteronomy 5:1-5

\*\* What is the job of a mediator?

To stand between two parties and communicate from one to the other, precisely what Moses did for God and His people Israel.

\*\* How long was a need for the Law going to last?

"...until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made."

None other than Jesus, Himself!

\*\* Now that Christ has come, do we need a mediator like Moses between us and God, whether it be a priest or any other human being?

Most definitely not! "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus!" (1 Timothy 2:5)

**V.20** \*\* What is the main difference between the mediator, Moses and the mediator, Jesus Christ?

Unlike Moses, Jesus (as God incarnate) is a mediator for us to God, in that God made the covenant with Himself! Remember Genesis 15:17, cf. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (God, in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself).

**V.21** \*\* By now we might be asking ourselves, "Is the Law set against the promises of God"?

No, "May it never be" or "Unthinkable"!

\*\* Who gave the Law to Israel?

God!

\*\* Who gave the promises to Abraham?

God, also! He does not work against Himself, so the Law could never be considered contrary to the wonderful promises of God.

\*\* What would be the impact on you and me if the Law which was given, could impart eternal life?

We would be having to work under the heavy burden of earning our own righteousness while never breaking even one point of the Law. Not a happy thought!

**V.22** \*\* Well, instead of being capable of earning our own righteousness, how does Scripture describe humanity's spiritual condition?

It has "...shut up all men under sin..."  
cf. Romans 3:9 with 3:23

\*\* Being found to be in this deplorable state, what is there to be happy about?

The fact that Scripture did not leave us there, but brings us to the understanding "...that the promise of faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe." Now that is something you can be happy about every day.

\*\* Who is Paul aligning us with when he calls us "those who believe"?

From last week, he is saying that we have become like "Abraham, the believer". (V.9)

\*\* When a sinner comes to understand his or her sinful condition and accepts the good news of salvation by grace through faith, they have acquired the "wisdom from above". What are the two sources of wisdom?

That which comes from God or above and that which is earthy, natural and demonic. To see a portrait of these wisdoms, look with me to James 3:13-18

Read text - (V.13-15) (V.16-18)

\*\* Would you join me in Proverbs 3:13-18 and we will see why we should live each day "Happy in Faith".

## **How valuable is wisdom from God?**

It is better than the profit of silver (V.14)

It is better than the gain from gold (V.14)

It is more precious than jewels (V.15)

Nothing else you desire compares to it (V.15)

## **What will God's wisdom add to your life?**

Longevity (V.16) Pleasant ways (V.17)

Riches and honor (V.16) Paths of peace (V.17)

## **How is the wisdom of God's saving truth described in verse 18.**

"...tree of life to those who take hold of her..."

## **If you "hold fast" to God's truth and live your life according to His wisdom, how will you live every day?**

"Happy"

## **EXTRICATE**

\*\* How do we know that the promise of God for salvation by grace through faith will never be broken?

Because He ratified the covenant with Himself and "it is impossible for God to lie".

(Hebrews 6:18)

## **DELINEATE**

\*\* Do we need another human being to act as mediator between us and God?

No! "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and man, the man Christ Jesus!"

## **EVALUATE**

\*\* How happy are you, every day of your life, for the fact that God has accomplished your salvation and given you the faith to believe in His Son?

## **ACTIVATE**

\*\* Let's strive to live everyday as joyful, thankful, full of praise people, who are "Happy in Faith".

Closing Prayer