



WNTCC
WHERE LOVE GROWS

Live by Faith

Learning Zone 3rd May 2020



Golden Text - (Gal 3:11) That no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for the just shall live by faith.



LESSON PLAN

1. Introduction – Theme
2. Receive the Spirit by Faith
3. Reject reliance on the Law
4. Receive God's Promise by Faith
5. What are the learning points?
6. Questions





INTRODUCTION

Christians are called to live by Faith in Christ.

Readings from

- Galatians 3

We will explore and proclaim the necessity of continuously living by faith in Christ



Paul introduces this theme by exposing the false teachers in Galatians 1 & 2. He defends his position as a minister and an apostle. His task in chapter 3 is to expose the fallacies and heresy. It is a tremendous undertaking, but Paul states his position clearly and effectively.

The Focus is that we should explore and proclaim the necessity of continuously living by faith in Christ.

The central truth is that Christians are to live by faith.

RECEIVE THE SPIRIT BY FAITH



Gal 3:1-9

Foolishness of Disobedience V.1

- Describe what bewitches believers today?

Law & Flesh or Spirit & Faith vs 2-5

- What does Paul call Foolish (v. 3)
- Answer the question in verse 5

Example of Abraham vs 6-9

- Who are the Children of Abraham (v 7)?
- Explain God's Promise about the nations(v 8)



Recive the Spirit by Faith

Foolishness of Disobedience – v1

Paul begins the chapter by identifying one of the primary marks for false teaching: those who believe it became foolish!! Foolish comes from the Greek word “without wisdom or thinking”. It meant that the Galatian believers clearly acted without considering the results of their actions. They acted without wisdom or spiritual discernment.

Paul exposed the Galatian church that they had been led astray by false teachers. The essential truth was that they were disobedient to God. As Christians today we should not be swayed by the smooth delivery of a preacher – we must test what they say through the scriptures. It is our responsibility to ensure that the word is from God and not just persuasive preaching!! We must guard ourselves from any doctrine that does not reflect the Biblical message.

Law and Flesh or Faith and Spirit – vs 2-5

Paul identifies the basic problem of the Galatians – they had moved from a life committed to faith and spirit **unto a life of bondage and the law and the flesh**. Paul asked a series of questions to probe the nature of their current walk in Christ. Vs 2 seriously questioned whether they are serving God by adhering to the mosaic law or were they serving God through their faith in Christ? Works of the Law clearly identifies that they were following tradition and thought that they were trying to find favour with God through the strict keeping of the Commandments. **Hearing of faith** identified the nature of the Gospel that Paul preached – which many were converted by. Paul appealed that they should be led by the spirit, so that they did not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.

Example of Abraham – vs 6-9

The false teachers at Galatia were judaizers who endeavoured to make Jewish law and traditions the requirement for Salvation. Paul uses Abraham (the Father of the Israelite nation) as an example. Before the law was written Abraham was found faithful before God. Without the law, Abraham lived a life of faith. Paul pointed out that the Law is not higher than the need for Faith. The priority lies with Faith – as without faith it is impossible to please God. It did not negate the law, but the law does not point to Christ as the only way to Salvation.

REJECT RELIANCE ON THE LAW

Gal 3:10-14

Curse of the Law (v 10)

- Who is cursed and why?

Justification by Faith (vs 11-12)

- What does it mean to “Live by Faith” (v 11)

Redemption from the Curse (vs 13-14)

- What did Jesus Christ do for us? (13)
- What was the result? (14)



REJECT RELIANCE ON THE LAW – Gal 3:10-14

Curse of the Law (10)

Paul poses that the Law demands perfection – and that is a problem. For anyone to live by the law, they had to do it to perfection. No one, except Christ, had done this. Since none of us had been able to keep every part of the Law meant we are cursed. So keeping the law perfectly is impossible!!! As a result we are under God’s judgement for what we have not kept, no matter how small. Paul then proceeds to explain what can be done with the curse.

Justification by Faith (vs 11-12)

The only answer to defeat the curse brought on by disobedience of the law – is by having faith in Christ. We are not justified by God through the law! Paul then shifts the problem of judgement to the solution of faith and declares the answer that the just shall live by faith!! This is a direct quote Habakkuk 2:4. This verse showed the connection between righteousness and faith. It is a gift from God and righteousness is also a fruit from the life of faith. Paul went on to explain that no one can receive salvation through the law. No one can depend on the works of the law and claim to live by faith...Dependence on the law brings the curse... a life of faith brings righteousness!!!

Redemption from the curse (vs 13-14)

In verse 13 Paul presents the answer to the curse of the Law. Christ’s work on Calvary satisfied the demand the law placed on sinful people. Christ was able to redeem us by being “**made a curse for us**”. His work was to take on the sins of men and to be that sacrifice “the lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world”. He took the curse for us – hallelujah!!! And now we have access to the throne room of God. Having given us the solution to the curse of sin, Paul showed us that we now inherit the blessings of Abraham and the spirit of promise. Both of these are received through the faith in Christ!! The blessings of Abraham refers to having righteousness credited to us through faith in God. The promise of the spirit emphasises the new life we receive through the power of the spirit once we trust in Christ. Faith in Christ and his works, brings us the blessings of justification and new life.

RECEIVE GOD'S PROMISE BY FAITH



Gal 3 : 15-22

Inheritance by Promise (vs 15-18)

- Explain what verse 18 means to you?

The Law and the Mediator (vs 19-20)

- Why is Jesus called the “seed”? (19)

Righteousness by Faith (vs 21-22)

- What could not be accomplished by the Law? (21)
- What is promised “to them that believe”? (22)



RECEIVE GOD'S PROMISE BY FAITH (Gal 3: 15-22)

Inheritance by Promise (vs 15-18)

Paul confirms that the inheritance if Abraham did not come by works. Abraham received the Promise before the law was even in existence. Neither was circumcision instructed then. When the covenant and promise were initially given to Abraham, all that existed was the promise of God. The essential truth was that God made the promise and God fulfilled it. Abraham accepted the promise by faith (remember that Abraham didn't know where he was going when God told him to leave the land where he grew up) and Abraham remained faithful to God. In essence the promises of God to Abraham were: 1) Guidance, 2) Divine Action in his life and his descendants lives, 3) blessings upon his sphere of influence, 4) divine favour for those who blessed him and a curse on those who cursed him. 5) Other nations would receive divine blessings through him. What is a promise? It certainly is not hope? It is a declaration of an event which is to come – it will happen!! The inheritance promised to Abraham was graciously given. Abraham remained faithful to God. But Abraham's acts did not earn him his inheritance it was his faith only.

The Law and the Mediator (vs 19-20)

Paul explained what was the purpose of the Law. The law identified transgressions for what they were. There were elements in the Law to handle human guilt, but these were only shadows of the complete work to be done in Christ. Pauls reference to the “seed” is to Christ. He is the one who would become the mediator between man and God. He would enable man to become joint-heirs of the promise. The two uses of “one” in verse 20 indicate that – 1) no one can mediate for himself and 2) Only God can stand for himself. Christ is the perfect mediator for us.

Righteousness by Faith (vs 21-22)

Paul describes the manner in which the Law related to the promises of God. It was to make people's sin apparent and reflect the need for accepting the promises of God by faith. Christ made this possible for us – and that is why the Law does not bring about Salvation – this is only made possible by having faith in Christ who makes us one with God. Only faith in Christ can bring about redemption and forgiveness of sins. It is foolish to think that we could earn our own freedom though our own acts of following the law!!



LEARNING POINTS

1. You must – Receive the Spirit by Faith
2. You must – Reject reliance on the Law
3. You must – Receive God's Promise by Faith

Golden Text - (Gal 3:11) That no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for the just shall live by faith.



Conclusions

Many people think that they can earn their way to heaven. Their heart is set in earning favour with God by obeying certain traditions and rules. Little do they realise that God's standard is perfection – a standard they cannot reach!! Others ignore the standards given in God's word, feeling that they deserve heaven once they have prayed the "sinners prayer". They live any way they wish and then expect God to allow them to enter Heaven!!

The only way we can gain freedom is faith in Christ. He is the perfect one!!

Once we accept the Salvation of Christ through faith – then we are duty bound to Live by Faith. This embodies a daily personal time of bible reading and prayer. Faith comes from reading the bible and learning about God's power over all the universe. Faith gives us the confidence to enter the throne room of God. There is no grater lifestyle than the life of Faith.

QUESTIONS



- Describe what bewitches believers today?
- What does Paul call Foolish (v. 3)
- Answer the question in verse 5
- Who are the Children of Abraham (v 7)?
- Explain God's Promise about the nations(v 8)
- Who is cursed and why?
- What does it mean to "Live by Faith" (v 11)
- What did Jesus Christ do for us? (13)
- What was the result? (14)
- Explain what verse 18 means to you?
- Why is Jesus called the "seed"? (19)
- What could not be accomplished by the Law? (21)
- What is promised "to them that believe"? (22)



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The just shall live by faith.

GALATIANS 3:11

“Faith and Works are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God trusts God: and he that is without works is without Faith”

▪ *CHARLES SPURGEON*