

Fake News: Combating Fickle Faith  
(Galatians 3:1-29) “*Defining The Work Salvation*”

**~ GOOD MORNING ~**

IF YOU'RE HERE VISITING TODAY...

- My name is Justan...
  - One of the Assistant Pastors

AS I MENTIONED LAST WEEK...

- Pastor Jeff is taking a few weeks off...
  - And I have the privilege of teaching us through *Galatians!*
- Turn to the book of (*Galatians 3:1-29*) NKJV

**~ INTRO ~**

**REMEMBER WITH ME...**

- We've introduced Galatians as...
  - A letter written to people who had a reputation of being fickle...
    - And who were quickly departing from the faith.
- They had accepted a lie about the gospel...
  - Thinking they had only been partially saved...
    - By believing in Jesus as savior.
      - This was not the “good news”

THEREFORE...

- The title of our series is...
  - “*Fake News: Combating Fickle Faith*”

AND... GALATIANS TEACHES US...

- The balance of the gospel: Grace & truth
  - The balance of a grace-choking legalistic Christianity...
  - OR a truth rejecting loose Christianity.

SO FAR...

- We've looked over...
  - (*Chapter 1*) – Paul has...
    - Defended his Apostleship
    - Identified the problem of Galatian Church's new theology
    - Defended his original gospel message

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- (Chapter 2) – Paul has...
  - Defended his ministry
  - Spoke about Peter’s hypocritical behavior
    - (Reverting to legalism)
  - Introduction to justification by faith

~STUDY~

TODAY...

- We’re diving into (chapter 3)...
  - Where Paul gives some foundational doctrine...
    - For the Christian faith.

HE WAS COMBATTING FICKLE FAITH...

- By confronting legalistic Christianity...
  - With those who had reverted to...
    - Practices in the law of Moses.
- Paul focuses in on speaking about salvation not sanctification.
  - Not necessarily the response **after** being saved...
    - Which will come in (Chapters 5-6).
- He’s underscoring the work of salvation...
  - Not the result of salvation...
    - And important distinction.

THIS IS THE CRITICAL CHAPTER...

- Which teaches us how to answer the question...
  - How do I know I’m saved?

SO NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled today’s message...
  - “*Defining The Work of Salvation*”

(Read vv. 1-5)

~LET’S PRAY~

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HERE’S A FEW THINGS...

- For us to walk away with:

~ IDEA # 1 – “Questions To Clarify” (vv.1-5) ~

PAUL IS BUILDING AN ARGUMENT IN THIS CHAPTER...

- And he begins by expressing amazement...
  - At their decision to turn from the Gospel...
    - And asking questions regarding how they were saved.

THESE QUESTIONS...

- Are like a mirror that Paul is holding up...
  - So the Galatians can see their current state of salvation...
    - It was by faith not human effort!

WE’RE GOING TO GO THROUGH...

- The same exercise to have our faith stirred...
  - And our minds realigned with God’s truth.

(v. 1)

FIRST HE POINTS...

- To Jesus’ death on the cross...
  - As the foundation of their initial salvation.
    - Made clear to them when it was first preached.
      - (No doubt in their mind at the time)

(v. 2)

SECOND HE POINTS...

- To the Holy Spirit as the evidence of their faith...
  - And how they received Him.

THEY HAD EXPERIENCED...

- The work of the Holy Spirit in their lives...
  - And Paul reminds them to look back at this.

(vv. 3-4)

THIRD HE FORCES THEM...

- To identify the difference between...
  - A spiritual work & a fleshly work.

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- “*Perfect*” speaks of completion

- They cannot complete a spiritual work...
  - With the carnal nature.

(v. 5)

FINALLY HE UNDERSCORES...

- The reality of miracles performed ...

- In them & through them...
  - Asking if this was something they could dictate...
    - Based upon their lawful living.

**THE POINT IS...**

- As this chapter underscores the doctrine of salvation...

- These questions bring clarity...
  - To the nature of our **current** Christian experience.
    - Let’s apply them to our life:

#1 - The work of salvation is a work of God not man (v.1)

- (Eph. 2:9) NLT

*“God saved you by his grace when you believed...”*

#2 - The Holy Spirit was given to you by believing not doing (v. 2)

- (Eph. 1:13) NLT

*“... And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit...”*

#3 – My struggles don’t mean that I’m not saved (vv. 3-4)

- (Heb. 12:2) NKJV

*“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...”*

- Jesus is the initiator and therefore He’s the completer

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#4 – I can’t direct the Holy Spirit by my efforts (v. 5)

➤ (Gal. 5:16) NLT

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives.”

- I’m to be led & He works in His sovereignty!

NOW...

- We never judge the scriptures by our experience...
  - We test our experience by the Word of God.
    - Which is why Paul will transition...
      - To scriptural evidence.

(Read vv. 6-14)

**~ IDEA #2 – “Proof That Establishes Faith” (vv. 6-14) ~**

“Justification by faith is the most important principal article of Christian Doctrine. Without it, Christianity is just another religion – an endless effort to get right with God through self-discipline and ritual.” – Martin Luther

NEXT PAUL WILL GIVE US SIX...

- Scriptural references in the OT...
  - To prove that salvation is by faith in Christ...
    - Not works of the law.

(v. 6-7)

1) (Gen. 15:6) NKJV

PAUL’S POINTS TO ABRAHAM AS AN EXAMPLE...

- Of believing God & being accepted as righteous...
  - Before the law was ever given.
- “Accounted”
  - To put into one’s account
    - And replace the sinner’s unrighteousness
  - This doctrine is broken down in (Romans 4)

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- Which Pastor Jeff will be taking us through after Acts.

(vv. 8-9)

2) (Gen. 12:3) NKJV

HE CONTINUES WITH THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM...

- Showing that it was made to both Jews & gentiles...
  - By believing God...
    - Not obeying the law.

(v. 10)

3) (Deut. 27:26) NKJV

NOW PAUL WILL TRANSITION TO THE LAW...

- Because it has come after the promise to Abraham...
  - Underscoring that the law requires full obedience...
    - Not just a single command.
  
- If you fail in one area, you fail in all!

(v. 11)

4) (Hab. 2:4) NKJV

HERE HE REFERENCES A PROHPET...

- As evidence that those who are justified...
  - Are not justified by the law (condemns)...
    - But by faith!

(v. 12)

5) (Lev. 18:5) NKJV

THIS SHOWS US...

- The law requires obedience not faith...
  - The law says “*Do & live*” ...
    - Faith says, “*believe & live.*”

(v. 13-14)

6) (Deut. 21:23) NKJV

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FINALLY HE SHOWS...

- Jesus bore the curse of the law for us...
  - That through Him we might receive...
    - The promise of salvation...
      - And the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**HERE'S THE POINT...**

- Whether it's in the NT or the OT...
  - There's only one way to be saved...
    - By faith in God's promise!
  
- As we transition to the next section...
  - The application will come alive for us!

*(Read vv.15-29)*

**~IDEA #3 – “Relating To God Through Faith” (vv. 15-29) ~**

FINALLY... PAUL TAKES THE ARGUMENT...

- To a practical application for the churches in Galatia.
  - By (1) asking the questions that clarify their experience...
    - And (2) pointing to doctrine that proves their salvation...
      - He moves on the show how these points...
        - Effect their whole (3) relationship toward God.

HE USES 3 DIFFERENT EXAMPLES...

- To contrast the differences in how we relate to God.

*(vv. 15-18)*

PAUL IS PROVING HIS POINT...

- By using an illustration familiar to people...
  - An agreement cannot be changed...
    - Unless both parties agree to it.

GOD GAVE ABRAHAM A PROMISE TO HIS OFFSPRING *(V.7)*...

- God's agreement wasn't changed...
  - Just because he instituted the law hundreds of years later...
    - A law & promise are fundamentally different in nature.

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SO MAKE THIS **PERSONAL** TO YOUR LIFE...

- If god’s promise still stands...
- How do you want to relate to Him???

1) Based upon His promises OR upon our disciplines?

(vv. 19-25)

HE ANSWERS THE QUESTION...

- Regarding the purpose of the law...
- And why it was given.
  - To reveal sin as transgression.

SIN HAS ALWAYS BEEN SIN...

- But before the law was given...
- It wasn’t recognized as transgression...
  - “*Violating a known law*”

HE ALSO TEACHES...

- The law was instituted...
- As a disciplinarian to protect from evil...
  - Until Christ came to justify by faith.

SO MAKE THIS **PERSONAL** TO YOUR LIFE...

- If the legal rites & restrictions cannot earn any favor before God...
- How do you want to relate to Him???

2) Based upon freedom OR restrictions?

- Free to approach
  - Or restricted based on obedience?

WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND...

- Relating to God because of restrictions & laws...
- Is no way to relate to God at all!

(vv. 26-29)

THIS SECTION WRAPS UP...

- With Paul making the declaration...
- That solidifies the whole argument.

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BELIEIVING ON THE LORD JESUS BY FAITH...

- Makes us children of God...
  - And He welcomes us as such.
  
- We have become the true descendants of Abraham...
  - And therefore, receive his promise as our own.

SO MAKE THIS **PERSONAL** TO YOUR LIFE...

- We are no longer slaves trying to keep the law
  - But children delighting in His promise...
    - How do you want to relate to Him???

3) As a child or as a slave?

**HERE’S THE POINT FOR US...**

- Our salvation is by grace through faith...
  - In the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross...
    - Which changes how I relate to God.
      - **Based upon my position as His child...**
        - **Not my performance.**

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING!

- How I pray
- How I respond to sin
- How I desire to seek Him for help

I’M NO LONGER DEFINED...

- By my failures or my circumstances!

**~ IN CLOSING (WORSHIP TEAM) ~**

WELL...

- To sum up this whole chapter...
  - The Blood makes us safe...
    - And the Word makes us sure!

IF YOU’RE HERE...

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- And you want to change how you're relating to God today...
  - Come forward for prayer right now.