

Gal 2:19-21 NIV "For through the law **I died to the law** so that I might live for God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, **who loved me and gave himself for me.** 21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

I died to the law so that I might live for God

- Rom 7:13 13 Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, ***it used what is good to bring about my death***, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.
 - When the law brings about your death, Praise God, the intent is that you might live for God

I have been crucified with Christ

- He loved me and gave Himself for me - a great description of God's grace

If I seek for righteousness apart from Christ

- I set aside the grace of God
- If righteousness COULD be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing

Gal 3:1 NIV You **foolish** Galatians! Who has **bewitched** you? **Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.**

Foolish - unintelligent; by implication sensual: unwise - the idea of not exercising the mind

Bewitched - to fascinate (by false representations)

Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified

They did not physically see the crucifixion, yet it was clearly portrayed to them by the preaching of the apostle Paul. Here is a reminder of the type of message Paul preached while in the region of Galatia. His death WAS NOT in vain.

- Act 13:26-30 NIV "Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. 27 The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. 28 Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, **they asked Pilate to have him executed.** 29 When they had carried out all that was written about him, **they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb.** 30 But **God raised him from the dead,**
- Act 13:38-39 NIV "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that **through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.** 39 Through him **everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.**

2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?** 3 Are you so foolish? After **beginning by means of the Spirit**, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? 4 Have you experienced so much in vain--**if it really was in vain?** 5 **So again I ask**, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the **works of the law**, or by your **believing what you heard?**

Works of the law vs believing what you heard

- He points them to the experience of their conversion
- He reminds them it happened because they believed what they heard

This is the same with every true believer - he BLESSES ALL who call on him

- Rom 10:8-17 NIV But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your **mouth** and in your **heart**," that is, the **message concerning faith that we proclaim**: 9 If you declare with your mouth, "**Jesus is Lord**," and **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "**Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.**" 12 For there is no difference between **Jew and Gentile**--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly **blesses all who call on him**, 13 for, "**Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**" 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "**Lord, who has believed our message?**" 17 Consequently, **faith comes from hearing the message**, and **the message is heard through the word about Christ.**

We began with the Spirit, we cannot finish in the flesh

The same two Greek words are used in both of these Scriptures and it shows that the completed work of salvation is a continued work of the Spirit

- After **beginning** by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to **finish** by means of the flesh?
- Php 1:6 NIV being confident of this, that he who **began** a good work in you **will carry it on** to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Have you experienced so much in vain...If it really was in vain

Experienced - to experience a sensation or impression (usually painful)

What they experienced could be speaking of persecution, or the blessing of coming to Christ. In either case, to turn back to works would have made that experience all for nothing...

IF IT REALLY WAS IN VAIN -- Paul is **hopeful** this situation can be turned around...

6 So also **Abraham "believed God**, and it was credited to him as righteousness." 7 Understand, then, that **those who have faith are children of Abraham**.

Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness

Just like the Galatians, Abraham ALSO BELIEVED God and it was credited as RIGHTEOUSNESS. This gospel that Paul has been preaching to the Galatians...describes the attaining of righteousness in the same way as with Abraham ...Abraham whom the Judaizers would claim as their father.

Understand then, that those who have FAITH are children of Abraham

This must have been a strange concept to the Gentile nations...but a child of Abraham is one who receives righteousness in the same way as Abraham, that is by faith, by believing God.

Being a child of Abraham was a point of pride among the Jews - challenged by John and Jesus

- Mat 3:9 NIV And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.
- Joh 8:39 NIV "Abraham is our father," they answered. **"If you were Abraham's children,"** said Jesus, **"then you would do what Abraham did.**

Who are children of Abraham...those of physical descent or the children of the promise?

- Rom 9:6-8 NIV For ***not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.*** 7 ***Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children.*** On the contrary, **"It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."** 8 In other words, **it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.**
 - NOTE: he uses God's children and Abraham's offspring synonymously

The children of the promise

- God **promised** Abraham a son & Abraham **believed** God's promise
- God counted this as **righteousness**
- Those who have heard God's promise and who believe just as Abraham did are the children of Abraham

God's beautiful plan to offer salvation to all mankind

8 Scripture foresaw that **God would justify the Gentiles by faith**, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ***"All nations will be blessed through you."*** 9 So ***those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.***

God would justify the **Gentiles** by faith

Justify - to render (that is, show or regard as) just or innocent:

- Scripture is personified here...God, the author of the scripture, can certainly state his purpose
- He announced the gospel "IN ADVANCE"
- **ALL NATIONS will be blessed through you** - the preaching of the gospel, and the faith that results is the means by God brings Abraham's blessing to the Gentiles.

Nations - [not a physical geography] but instead -- [*ethnos*] a race (as of the same habit), that is, a tribe; specifically a foreign (non-Jewish) one (usually by implication pagan): - Gentile, heathen, nation, people

After Jesus ascended he told his disciples to make disciples of all nations:

- Mat 28:18-20 NIV Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore **go and make disciples of all *nations***, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In heaven they sing about this

- Rev 5:9 NIV And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and **with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and *nation***."

It will reach ultimate fulfillment

- Rev 7:9-10 NIV After this I looked, and there before me was **a great multitude that no one could count, from every *nation*, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb**. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "**Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.**"

Those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham

What is this blessing? It is the blessing of right standing with God...that is...Abraham believed God and it was counted as **righteousness**...those who believe God just as Abraham did will be counted as **righteous**

10 ***For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse***, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." 11 Clearly **no one who relies on the law is justified** before God, because ***"the righteous will live by faith."*** 12 **The law is not based on faith**; on the contrary, it says, ***"The person who does these things will live by them."*** 13 **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law** by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole."

Those who rely on the works of the law would be primarily speaking about the Jews...

Relying on the works of the law puts us under a curse

In trying to move the Galatians back under the law and circumcision, the Judaizers were actually putting them under a curse

It is a curse because it requires perfect adherence to the law

- Deu 28:15 NIV However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, **all these curses will come on you and overtake you:**

It is a curse because it is a yoke we cannot bear

- Act 15:8-11 NIV God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them **by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.** 9 He did not discriminate between us and them, for **he purified their hearts by faith.** 10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles **a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?** 11 No! **We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved,** just as they are."

We live by FAITH or we live by THEM

No one who relies on the law is justified before God, The law is not based on faith - it says "the person who DOES these things will live by them" - it is based on works.

- Eze 20:10-11 NIV Therefore I led them out of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. 11 I gave them my decrees and made known to them my laws, **by which the person who obeys them will live.**
 - Rom 1:17 "**The righteous shall live by FAITH**" - this is in contrast to the scripture above in Ezekiel, "**the person who obeys them will live**" - the problem is no one can obey them.

Christ is the end of the law so that righteousness might be for everyone (Jew and Gentile)

- Rom 10:1-9 NIV Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. 2 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. 3 **Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own,** they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 **Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.** 5 **Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them."** 6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law

- Deu 21:22-23 NIV If someone **guilty of a capital offense** is put to death and their **body is exposed on a pole**, 23 you must not leave the body hanging on the pole overnight. Be sure to bury it that same day, because **anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse**...
- Act 5:30 NIV The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead--whom you killed by **hanging him on a cross**.

If we choose righteousness by works of the law, we must obey the law completely. When (not if) we fail in keeping the law, we fall under the curse and our body hung on a pole. Jesus - the only righteous one - became a curse for me.

- 2Co 5:21 NIV God made him who had no sin **to be sin for us**, so that in him **we might become the righteousness of God**.
- HE BECAME SIN - so that I BECOME RIGHTEOUS

14 He redeemed us in order that **the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles** through Christ Jesus, ***so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit***.

That the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ

- That blessing is our justification and righteousness - the promise of the Spirit
- Act 3:25-26 NIV And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' 26 When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you **to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.**"
- Jer 31:31-33 NIV "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make **a new covenant** with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. 33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. **"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.**
- Eze 36:26-27 NIV I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart **of flesh**. 27 **And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees** and be careful to keep my laws.

15 Brothers and sisters, **let me take an example from everyday life**. Just as **no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established**, so it is in this case. 16 **The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed**. Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but **"and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ**. 17 What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise.

An example from everyday life

- No one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established

The promise [covenant] to Abraham was to his SEED - cannot set aside or add to the covenant

Gen 22:16-18 KJV And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and **thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies**; 18 **And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

- This is why the blessing of Abraham only comes through Jesus Christ [Gal 3"14]

Psa 2:6-8 NIV "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain." 7 I will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father. 8 Ask me, and **I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession**.

18 For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but **God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise**. 19 **Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come**.

The promise given to Abraham was not set aside when the law came

- If we base righteousness on the law, then we are setting aside, or adding to the promise God has already made
- No one can set aside or add to a covenant that has been duly established

So what was the purpose of the law if not to bring righteousness?

- Rom 5:20 NIV The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,
- It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.
 - The children of Israel continued to sin, just as Adam had done
 - The law was given because of transgressions - to keep the awareness of sin alive
 - **UNTIL** the Seed would come - it was **transitory**

- Rom 7:7-13 NIV What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I **would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law.** For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." 8 **But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting.** For apart from the law, sin was dead. 9 Once I was alive apart from the law; but **when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.** 10 I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life **actually brought death.** 11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, **and through the commandment put me to death.** 12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. 13 Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, **in order that sin might be recognized as sin,** it used what is good to bring about my death, so that **through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.**

The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. 20 A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one. 21 **Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God?** Absolutely not! For **if a law had been given that could impart life,** then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.

The Law

The law was given by a MEDIATOR (Moses) - indicating two parties (God and Man) - and ***it was unique to a subset of people - the Jews***

The Promise

But God is one - **God in his grace gave a promise to Abraham.** The **promise** was GIVEN directly to Abraham and his SEED (one) by God - and it was ***that ALL NATIONS would be blessed***

The law could never bring life, It was ever the intent in the heart of God that the law would be the instrument that brings righteousness

Is the law opposed to the promises of God?

- The law is not opposed to the promises of God
- It is simply that it was not instituted to bring about righteousness
- It was brought about because of sin - and UNTIL the SEED should come who brings righteousness
- If a law could have been given that could impart life, then righteousness would have come from the law
- If righteousness could have come through the law then Christ died for nothing

22 But **Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin,** so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

The Scripture has locked up **everything** under the control of sin

- So that what was promised (being given through faith in Jesus Christ) might be given to those who believe
- What was promised to Abraham was given through faith in Christ
- It would be given to all who believe (Jew or Gentile)

So that He may have mercy on them all

God, by the law has bound everyone (Jew and Gentile) over to disobedience

- Rom 11:32-33 NIV For God has bound everyone over to disobedience ***so that he may have mercy on them all***. 33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

23 Before the coming of this faith, **we were held in custody under the law**, locked up **until** the faith that was to come would be revealed. 24 **So the law was our guardian** until **Christ came that we might be justified by faith**. 25 Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

The law had another purpose, and it was a guardian, and it was transitory

Held in custody - to be a watcher in advance, that is, to mount guard as a sentinel (post spies at gates); figuratively to hem in, protect:

- **UNTIL - faith was revealed**

Guardian - a boy leader, that is, a servant whose office it was to take the children to school; (by implication [figuratively] a tutor ["paedagogue"])

- **UNTIL Christ came**

2Co 3:7-11 NIV Now if the **ministry that brought death**, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, 8 will not **the ministry of the Spirit** be even more glorious? 9 If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! 10 For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. 11 And if **what was transitory** came with glory, how much greater is **the glory of that which lasts!**

26 **So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith**, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 **There is neither Jew nor Gentile**, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 ***If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith

- Rom 8:1-5 NIV Therefore, there is now no condemnation **for those who are in Christ Jesus**, 2 because **through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free**

from the law of sin and death. 3 For what **the law was powerless** to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** 5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

All who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ

It is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female

- Becoming a Jew is not necessary, being a Gentile does not exclude you
- Its not about male or female, slave or free
- The promise was to Abraham and his SEED which is Christ
- We can only partake of the promise when we are IN CHRIST
- If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise

The amazing story of the Obedience of Abraham

