

GALATIANS 3

1. Why does Paul say that his faith in the Jewish religion was so strong that he searched for Christians to put them in prison, and have them killed?

-To teach us that only Christ can help us to understand when we believe in a false religion.

-To teach us that only Christ can help us to understand and believe the truths of God.

2. Why do people hear the truths of God, but do not believe?

-People do not want to believe in God.

-People do not ask God to help them to understand and to believe.

3. What is one of the lessons of the parable of the sower?

-The Word of God is sown in the hearts of many people, yet if the people do not ask God to help them to understand, they will not and cannot believe.

4. Just as God revealed Himself to Paul so that Paul could be saved, what must God do for us?

-He must also reveal Himself to us in order that we can be saved.

5. After meeting Christ on the road to Damascus, why is it important to understand that Paul did not see any of the other apostles except after his three years in Arabia?

-So that we can understand that Paul was directly taught by the Lord Jesus Christ, and not by men.

6. Why are there no apostles today?

-Because only the apostles were directly taught by the Lord Jesus to be used by Christ to begin His Church.

-Now that the Church has begun, and the Word of God is complete, there is no longer a need for apostles.

7. After fourteen years of teaching, why did Christ want Paul to return to Jerusalem?

-So that all of the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem would understand that Paul's teaching was from Christ alone.

8. At the meeting in Jerusalem, what did the leaders of the Church finally understand?

-That God had called the leaders in Jerusalem to teach the Jews, and that God had called Paul to teach the Gentiles.

Let's read Galatians 2:11-13

11-When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

12-For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.

13-The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

-Cephas is another name for Peter, and Peter came to Antioch to see the work among the Gentiles.

-In the beginning, Peter ate with the Gentiles, but when men “from James” who belonged to the “circumcision group” arrived, Peter would no longer eat with them.

-The men “from James” were Jews from Jerusalem where James, the half brother of the Lord Jesus lived.

-These men belonged to the “circumcision group” which means that they believed that Jews were better than Gentiles, and that Gentiles needed to be circumcised in order to be saved.

-As Peter in Antioch would no longer eat with the Gentile Christians, what did the other Jewish Christians do?

-They followed Peter’s example, and would also no longer eat with the Gentile Christians.

-Why would Peter no longer eat with the Gentile Christians?

-Because he was afraid.

-What was Peter afraid of?

-He was afraid that the Jews from Jerusalem would not be pleased with him.

-Peter was more afraid of not pleasing people than he was of not pleasing God.

-What happens when we try to please people more than pleasing God?

-It can lead to sin for us, and others can follow our example and sin as well.

-The sin of one person can bring the same sin for many people.

-This is one reason why we must ask God to protect us from sin.

-This is because our sin affects other Christians and our family in Christ.

-Our lives should not be to please people if we hurt God and others.

-Our lives should be to please God more than pleasing people.

Let’s read Galatians 2:14

14-When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?”

-Even though Peter walked with Christ, was an apostle, and was a leader of the Church, Paul was not afraid to tell him that he was wrong.

-Paul told Peter in front of them all that Peter was wrong.

-In Matthew 18:15, Jesus said this:

-“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you.”

-In Matthew 18, Jesus is teaching about correcting sin between two people.

-The sin of Peter, however, was before the entire church and needed to be corrected before everyone.

-In 1 Tim 5:20, the Word of God says this:

-“But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning.”

-If a sin is before the entire church, it needs to be

corrected before the entire church.

-Paul said to Peter: “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?”

-Here is the question Paul was asking Peter:

-“Since you have been freed from the law of Moses, why are you forcing the Gentiles to follow it?”

-The question that Paul asked Peter is a question for us all. What is it?

-“Why are we trying to please God with what we do when we can never do so?”

-“Why are we trying to please God with what we do when Christ alone has already done what pleases God?”

-We can only please God by believing in the work of Christ alone for doing what we could never do.

-After believing in Christ, however, we can continue to please God by allowing Him to continue to work in our lives.

-We please God in the beginning by believing in Him, and we continue to please God by continuing to allow Him to work in our lives.

-God through Paul continues to talk to Peter and to us all:

Let's read Galatians 2:15-16

15-"We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles

16-know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified."

-Are only Gentiles sinful and Jews are not sinful?

-No.

-All of Adam and Eve's children are born into sin.

-The Word of God says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Ro 3:23).

-Because God gave to the Jews the laws of Moses, the Jews thought they were not sinful.

-Because God gave to the Jews the laws of Moses, they thought that only the Gentiles were sinful.

-Believing in Christ, however, the Jewish Christians should have learned that no one can completely obey the law of Moses.

-The law of Moses and all laws have no power to help us to obey them.

-The work of the law of Moses and all laws is to show us how we should live, but gives us no power to obey them.

-Why did God give to Israel and to us all the ten commandments and the laws of Moses?

-1) To protect Israel and all people from the sin of the rest of the world.

-God wants to protect Israel and us all from sin which is everywhere in the world.

-2) To teach Israel and all people that He alone is holy.

-God wants to teach Israel and us all that He is holy, and that He created us so that we might also live holy lives without sin.

-3) To teach Israel and all people that no one can obey all of His commandments or be holy on our own.

-God wants to teach Israel and us all that we need God.

-No Jew nor Gentile can never obey all of the laws, and therefore, we must cry out to God to be saved.

-It is only belief in the death of Christ on the cross to pay

for our disobedience of the law that saves us.

Let's read Galatians 2:17

17-“But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn't that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not!”

-In this verse, Paul continues to talk about his conversation with Peter.

-Here is the question that Paul is asking:

-“If we Jews believe in Christ to be saved, but continue to try and obey the laws of Moses, does not this mean that there is something wrong with Christ, and that believing in Christ has led us into more sin?”

-Some people think that God does not know what He is doing, and therefore, they think that they must help God.

-Some people think that what God has given us is not enough, and therefore, they think that they must help God.

-This is why there are many world religions.

-Since God is perfect, does He need any help to save us?

-No.

-If we try to help God to save us, will we be saved?

-No.

-If someone who is drowning in water tries to help the one who is trying to save him, he will not be saved.

-If an animal is stuck in the mud, and tries to help the one who is trying to save it, it will not be saved.

-We cannot help God to save us.

-God alone must save us.

Let's read Galatians 2:18

18-If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker.”

-For the Christian, that which should be destroyed is our belief that we can be accepted by God by our own works.

-To rebuild means that we would try once more to obey the law even after God has already saved us.

-To rebuild means that we would try once more to obey the law even though we already know that it is impossible.

-If we have learned that we cannot obey the law and cannot make ourselves acceptable to God, and turn to

Christ, yet continue to try and obey the law, we are sinning even more.

-For the Christian, if we would try to be accepted by God by trying again to obey the law, this sin would be greater than any other sin we would do.

-After allowing Christ to save us, there is no greater sin if we would return to our old life of trying to make ourselves acceptable to God by what we do.

-This is like saying that Christ's death on the cross was not enough to save us.

-This is like spitting in the face of Christ on the cross.

Let's read Galatians 2:19

19-"For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God."

-What happened when we were saved and died to the law?

-The law has no more power over us.

-The law can no longer condemn us for failing to obey it.

-We became free from the punishment for failing to obey the law.

-Instead of looking to the law to save us, we now look to God to save us.

Let's read Galatians 2:20

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."

-This verse is the true Christian life.

-A true Christian is crucified with Christ on the cross.

-We live no more for ourselves, but rather, we allow Christ to live in us exactly like Christ allowed the Father to live in Him when He was on earth.

Let's read Galatians 2:21

21-I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

-Righteousness cannot be gained through the law.

-This is because no one can completely obey the law.

-Our righteousness can only come from Christ.

-When we believe in Christ, He gifts us with His righteousness.