

GALATIANS 4

1. 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.

2. Why would Peter no longer eat with the Gentile Christians?

-Because he was afraid.

3. What was Peter afraid of?

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

4. 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.

5. 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?”

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

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

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

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

7. 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.

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

-No.

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

-No.

-We cannot help God to save us.

-God alone must save us.

Let's read Galatians 3:1

1-You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.

-Even though they had been saved by Christ, the Galatians who were trying to obey the laws of Moses were foolish.

-Why do God and Paul call the Galatians foolish?

-Because the Galatians believed the teaching of the false teachers more than the truths of God.

-Not only were the Galatians foolish, but the false teachers had also bewitched them.

-This does not mean that the Galatians were demonized because no demon can ever possess a true Christian.

-What does it mean that the Galatians were bewitched by the false teachers?

-It means that they believed their emotions more than the truths of God.

-There are many religions which teach that emotions are more important than the truths of God.

-There are even Christians that teach that emotions are more important than the truths of God.

-Because of strong emotions, many people believe that something must be true even if it is not true.

-While God Himself has given all people emotions, we must not allow emotions to be more important than the truths of God.

-Our belief in the crucifixion of Christ is the reason for our salvation.

-Without the crucifixion of Christ, no one can be saved.

-What must the crucifixion of Christ teach us?

-That Christ alone can save us.

-That there is nothing that we can do to save ourselves.

-That Christ's work to save us is finished, and there is nothing we can add to it.

Let's read Galatians 3:2-4

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?

-God through Paul is asking many questions here.

-The first question is this:

-When we believe in Christ and receive the Holy Spirit, is this because of our own works or because of Christ?

-It is because of Christ that we believe in Him and receive the Holy Spirit.

-Are belief in Christ and receiving the Holy Spirit one?

-Yes, and we should never separate them.

-Yes, and they cannot be separated.

-If we believe in Christ, we have received the Holy Spirit.

-If we do not believe in Christ, we have not received the Holy Spirit.

-There are many false teachers who teach that we must make better our salvation.

-This is not true, for Christ has given us total salvation from His death on the cross.

-There are many false teachers who teach that we must search for a second blessing.

-This is also not true, for God has given us every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

-A second and third question ask why people are so foolish to believe that what God has done is not enough, and that we need to finish what God has not completed.

-Does salvation from God need to be completed by people?

-No.

-Salvation from God is complete, and does not need to be finished by people.

-With another question, Paul is encouraging the Galatians to think about the teaching of the Word of God which is not in vain.

-Whenever we teach people about God, we should know that our work in the Lord is never in vain (1 Co 15:58).

Let's read Galatians 3:5

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?

-One more time, the Galatians and all Christians are asked this question:

-“Does God save us because we try to obey all of His laws, or because we believe in God?”

-Most people in the world try to make themselves somehow acceptable to God.

-Only Christians understand that because of our sin, it is not possible to make ourselves acceptable to God.

-We must allow God alone to completely save us.

Let's read Galatians 3:6

6-So also Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

-What did Abraham do to receive the righteousness of God?

-He simply believed in God.

-He simply believed in all that God told him.

-Did Abraham have to do anything himself to receive the righteousness of God?

-No.

-No Christian must do anything to receive the righteousness of God.

-It is completely a gift from God Himself.

Let's read Galatians 3:7-9

7-Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.

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.

-The Jews think that they are children of Abraham because Abraham is their physical ancestor.

-This is true.

-Because Abraham believed in God and was accepted by God, all Jews think that they are accepted by God.

-This is not true.

-If you are a physical child of Abraham, does this mean that you are also a spiritual child of Abraham?

-No.

-God did not save Abraham because he was of the line of Seth.

-God saved Abraham because Abraham believed in God.

-God does not save Jews who are descendants of Abraham.

-God only saves Jews who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

-All of the nations who are blessed by Abraham are all of the people in the world who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

-What did Abraham believe to be saved?

-Abraham believed that God is holy.

-Abraham believed that he had sinned against God.

-Abraham believed that God would send the Savior to save him.

-What is the only difference between the faith of Abraham and others in the Old Testament and our faith?

-The Savior had not yet come, so Abraham and others did not know the name of the Savior.

-For us, the Savior has come, and we know His name—the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's read Galatians 3:10

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."

-To help us better understand why God gave Israel and all people the law, Paul repeats a verse in the Old Testament which Moses spoke to Israel (Deut 27:26).

-Why was Israel cursed for not obeying all of the laws of God?

-Because God is extremely holy and to remain extremely holy, He must punish all sin with death.

-Why are all people cursed for not obeying all of the laws of God?

-Because God is extremely holy and to remain extremely holy, He must punish all sin with death.

Let's read Galatians 3:11-12

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."

-Why is no one who relies on the law accepted by God?

-Because no one can completely obey God's laws.

-In this world, who are those who are truly righteous?

-Those who know that they can never be righteous on their own, and therefore, ask God to be their righteousness.

-Ever since Adam and Eve, people have tried to be righteous on their own, and failed.

-Adam and Adam tried to be righteous on their own by covering themselves with a fig leaf, but they failed.

-Cain tried to be righteous on his own by choosing his own sacrifice, but he failed, and killed his brother, Abel.

-The people during the time of Nimrod tried to be righteous on their own by building a tower to heaven, but they failed, and God scattered them throughout the earth.

-Why did God give the laws of Moses to Israel?

-To teach Israel and all people that we have no righteousness of our own.

-Israel believed, however, that they were righteous because they obeyed most of the laws all of the time, and all of the laws most of the time.

-God, however, is extremely holy, and to disobey only one law is to disobey them all.

-We read this in James 2:10:

-“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

-The laws of Moses are based on the obedience of people which will never be perfect.

-Faith in God is based on the obedience of Christ which will always be perfect.

Let's read Galatians 3:13-14

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.”

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.

-Jesus was not cursed and hung because He had sinned.

-Jesus was cursed and hung so that He could take our place, and be cursed and hung for us.

-Just as God blessed Abraham because of his faith, God blesses us for our faith in Christ, and the giving of the Holy Spirit to us is very much a part of this blessing.