

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“Those Who Are of Faith”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 3:6-9

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) Today we continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #20. **SLIDE 8**. I have titled today’s message *“Those Who Are of Faith.”* The apostle Paul uses this line 2x in these 4 verses (7 & 9).
-) There are three main truths I want to point out from today’s Scripture reading. **SLIDE 9**. 1) Abraham’s belief in God was reckoned as his righteousness (v6). 2) Gentiles would also be blessed as children of Abraham (v8). 3) Only those of faith are children of Abraham (v7,9). To sum this up, Paul is saying that the promise of salvation is through Abraham, it is for all people, and it is only by faith.
-) Let’s dig into all three of these truths today and see why Paul used this example of Abraham for the people at the churches in Galatia. And to do that, a little Bible history lesson.
-) Up until around 4,000 years ago, there was no such thing as God’s people or God’s chosen people. There were just people. Somewhere around that time (about 4,000 years ago) God decided to make a nation for His own.
-) In the 12th chapter of GENESIS, God chooses a man named Abram (Abraham) and, through a promise God makes, this man would be the father of a great nation. **SLIDE 10**. Read.
-) This was God’s promise to Abram. **SLIDE 11**. We are then told in GEN 15:5-6 that it was Abram’s faith (belief) in God’s promise that made him righteous (that saved him).

-) Paul wants to make sure the Galatians know that it was Abraham's belief (his faith) and not his works that made him righteous in the eyes of the Lord. **SLIDE 12**. GEN 15:6.
-) Paul wants the Galatians (and us) to understand that salvation (justification, righteousness) is by faith (belief) and always has been the only path of salvation.
-) **SLIDE 13**. Point #1 complete. Move on to #2.
-) **SLIDE 14**. The promise from God concerning righteousness would follow Isaac, the child of Abraham and Sarah, and not Ishmael. Then it would follow Jacob, the child of Isaac and Rebecca not Esau. Then it would follow the 12 tribes of Jacob. This lineage is the promise of God and the path of salvation.
-) And this promise to Abraham would not be just for the Jew, but also to the Gentile. To people from all nations who believe. **SLIDE 15-16-17-18**. Let's look at four Scripture verses.
-) **SLIDE 19**. Paul wants to make sure the Galatians know that the Gentiles would be justified by the same faith that justified Abraham. **SLIDE 20**. Quotes GEN 22:18.
-) Paul wants the Galatians (and us) to understand that salvation (justification, righteousness) is for anyone and everyone, regardless of Jew or Gentile.
-) **SLIDE 21**. Point #2 complete. It's here in point # 3 where we have our biggest issues.
-) Let's look at those two verses (7 and 9). **SLIDE 22**. The equation is pretty clear. To be a child of Abraham, to be a child of the promise, to be blessed through Abraham, one must have the same faith of Abraham. Nothing more, less, else.
-) But many people in the time of Jesus and many people today don't quite understand this. They are relying on their ethnicity, or some human tradition, or some work to give them a sense of thinking they are reckoned righteous in the eyes of God.

-) It was very common thinking in those days that a Jew would believe that they were righteous in the eyes of God. Why? One reason. Because they were Jewish. They are one of God's chosen. A Jew would assume they were right with God just because of their Jewish heritage. Look at Scripture.
-) **SLIDE 23**. MATT 3:8-9. John the Baptist says these words to the Pharisees and Sadducees.
-) **SLIDE 24**. Jesus in JOHN 8:39. The crowd tells Jesus, "*Abraham is our father.*" Jesus responds. And what did Abraham do? Abraham believed God and that was reckoned to him as his righteousness.
-) **SLIDE 25**. ROMANS 9:6-7 from Paul.
-) **SLIDE 26**. JOHN 1:12,13 from John. How does one NOT become a child of God? Born not of natural descent. Just because you are a descendent of Abraham, does not automatically make you a child of God. Salvation is not an ethnic lineage issue. It's a faith issue.
-) **SLIDE 27**. Paul wants the Galatians (and us) to understand that it is only those who believe and have faith like Abraham that are Abraham's children and will be blessed in the promises of God. Do not be deceived into thinking otherwise.
-) But let's shift gears and talk about people today. Millions if not billions of people today may not be saying "*We have Abraham,*" but they are saying something similar. What do people say today? What are they saying that makes them think and believe they are reckoned righteous with God?
-) **SLIDE 28-41**. Works that bring a false sense of righteousness.
-) And the list goes on and on and on. Saying any of these things today is no different than a Jew 2000 years ago saying, "*We have Abraham.*" None of those lines I just mentioned, if that is all you got, pave your way or my way into having righteousness reckoned to us.

-) What does? What's the title of this message? Those who are of faith. Abraham heard God, he believed God by faith, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. We hear the good news gospel message through the Word of God, we believe it by faith, and it is reckoned to us as righteousness. Not our works. Not our status. Nothing has changed.
-) **SLIDE 42**. Point #3 complete. Receiving the promise of righteousness from God is for those who are of faith, just like Abraham was a man of faith.
-) Next week, we'll move on to verses 10-14.

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