

Crucified with Christ

Lesson Four: Sons of God Through Faith

Galatians 3:19-29

1. What explanation does Paul give for the law in Galatians 3:19? What does this mean? What is revealed about the mediator in Galatians 3:20? Why does Paul say this?
2. What question does Paul ask in Galatians 3:21? What answer does he give? How does he explain this answer? Why would this be true?
3. Instead of having that effect, what does Galatians 3:22 reveal about the effect that the Law actually had? What happened as a result? Why was the Law necessary to this process?
4. What description does Galatians 3:23 give of the actions of the Law? According to Galatians 3:24, what was the Law's responsibility during that time? What does Galatians 3:25 tell us about the role of the Law now that faith has come? Why is this important?
5. According to Galatians 3:26, what status have we reached if we are Christians? How have we reached that status? According to Galatians 3:27, what action must we have taken to get there? What does this reveal about the connection between faith and baptism?

Under a Tutor

As we consider the denominational world around us, we very often are moved to shake our heads as we consider the vast gap between their practice and what the word requires. Why do the members of one denomination allow its leadership to supplant the inspired word with thousands of years of human tradition? Why does another denomination reject the idea that baptism saves, even though it is stated in Scripture a dozen times?

In many cases, the problem is simply failure to study the Bible. It is a lack of understanding of what the Scripture teaches, combined with inability or unwillingness to connect the meaning of several different Scriptures into a complete understanding of the ordinances of God.

Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in the widespread failure to separate the two covenants. Most believers today venerate the Ten Commandments. They affirm that they are the bedrock not just of Judaism, but of Christianity. They fight legal battles to post them in courtrooms and classrooms. Men and women like this are quite often sincere, and they would be appalled to hear that the Ten Commandments, per se, are not a part of the Christian system at all.

However, that is precisely what the Bible teaches. As Galatians 3 makes clear, the Law of Moses, including the Ten Commandments, no longer binds us in any way. Certainly, nine of those commandments are incorporated in the teaching of Christ, but the disciple treats them no differently than anything else Jesus has said. This startling truth about Scripture transforms the way we consider issues from instrumental music to homosexuality. However, it is a truth only accessible to those who study the word.

6. According to Galatians 3:28, what things do not exist in the Christian realm? What does this mean? Instead, what is true of all Christians? Why is this important? Colossians 3:9-11 may help you answer.

7. What does Galatians 3:29 tell us about ourselves if we belong to Christ? What from the previous discussion shows this to be true? Why is it significant?

Galatians 4:1-7

1. What's the connection between Galatians 3:29 and 4:1? In what position does Galatians 4:1 find the heir? What is true of him then? Why is this surprising?

2. According to Galatians 4:2, what is the position of the heir? How long does he remain in this position? Is this a legal practice with which we are still familiar today?

3. In Galatians 4:3, to what does Paul compare us? In what sense is this true? To what were we held in bondage? What is all of this talking about?

4. According to Galatians 4:4, what did God do? When? Judging from the analogy that Paul has been making, what made the time full? How is the Son described here? Why are these things in particular important?

5. What does Galatians 4:5 reveal about the intent of God? What result would this have for us? How does all of this relate back to the discussion of Galatians 3?

6. What does Galatians 4:6 tell us that God has done for us because we are sons? Is this the same spirit as the Holy Spirit? What does this mean?

7. According to Galatians 4:7, what result does the plan of God have for us? How should this change the way that we understand ourselves?