

The One True Gospel

Galatians 3:10-18

Living by Faith

Section 1: Galatians 3:10-11 – “The righteous will live by faith.”

*¹⁰For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, because it is written, **Everyone who does not do everything written in the book of the law is cursed.** ¹¹Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because the righteous will live by faith.*

Faith is how we live...trust in action. Paul is continuing to drive home the point that our “acts of goodness” can never measure up to the level of earning salvation. Why? Because the standard is perfection. Deuteronomy 27:26.

The problem with a standard of perfection is that our supposed righteousness is marred by sin.

Isaiah 64:6 (CSB): *All of us have become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like a polluted garment; all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind.*

One of the great lies commonly accepted in our culture today is that man either is or can be basically good.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (CSB): *He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Romans 1:16-17; Habakkuk 2:4

Being saved by grace through faith is our only hope. There is not a single man centered method that we can trust our salvation to.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Define biblical faith.
- ❖ How do we engage a culture that predominately believes they are basically good and can earn favor with God?
- ❖ Does the average believer live as if the gospel truly is the power of God for salvation? Why or why not?

Section 2: Galatians 3:12-14

*¹²But the law is not based on faith; instead, **the one who does these things will live by them.** ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written, **Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.** ¹⁴The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, so that we could receive the promised Spirit through faith.*

The Atonement is beyond human reason. Romans 5:8.

At this moment we would be missing out if we different spend some time reflecting upon the amazing doctrine of penal substitution. Penal Substitution is the biblical doctrine that teaching that Christ satisfied the wrath of God by paying the price for sin on our behalf.

Penal means penalty. The penalty of sin is death. Romans 6:23a (CSB): *For the wages of sin is death.*

Substitution means to take the place of. Jesus took our place on the cross. 1 Peter 2:24 (CSB): *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

The gospel message is built upon the doctrine of penal substitution. Why? Because unless Christ satisfies the wrath of God against all ungodliness...we are hopeless. Romans 5:9 (CSB): *How much more then, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath.*

Ezekiel 7:8-9 (CSB): *⁸I will pour out my wrath on you very soon; I will exhaust my anger against you and judge you according to your ways. I will punish you for all your detestable practices. ⁹I will not look on you with pity or spare you. I will punish you for your ways and for your detestable practices within you. Then you will know that it is I, the Lord, who strikes.*

Too often in today's culture we see even claiming Christians trying to minimize God's wrath. Yes, God is love but God is not just love. God's wrath will be poured out upon this earth as we read in Revelation and upon the fallen angels and those that reject the gospel for all eternity. The lake of fire isn't some Satan led torture chamber. The lake of fire in Revelation 20 is a place where Satan, fallen angels and the unsaved with experience the wrath of God for all eternity. Hell is not separation from God...hell is only experiencing God's wrath.

We cannot escape the fact that we absolutely needed Christ to die on our behalf.

Colossians 2:13-15; Isaiah 53:6

Understanding that Jesus' death was necessary cannot be understated. One, it highlights our desperate need for a Savior and two, it highlights Jesus' deity.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why did Jesus need to die in our place on the cross?
- ❖ Why is penal substitutionary atonement an important doctrine?

Section 3: Galatians 3:15-18

¹⁵Brothers and sisters, I'm using a human illustration. No one sets aside or makes additions to a validated human will. ¹⁶Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say "and to seeds," as though referring to many, but referring to one, and to your seed, who is Christ. ¹⁷My point is this: The law, which came 430 years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously established by God and thus cancel the promise. ¹⁸For if the inheritance is based on the law, it is no longer based on the promise; but God has graciously given it to Abraham through the promise.

The Promised Seed. Genesis 12:7; 13:15; 17:8; 24:7.

We needed the promised Seed. We needed Immanuel (God with us) to come and bring us salvation.

Matthew 1:21; John 14:6

Our need for the promise is clearly taught throughout all of Scripture. It's also important to remember that all of Scripture comes directly from God Himself. Therefore, God Himself has told us that we need Jesus. We need the promised Seed.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why does everyone need Jesus?
- ❖ Are you ashamed of the gospel or do you stand firmly without wavering?