Galatians 3, (Part 2) August 31, 2023

Bible Verses: Galatians 3: 13-29, Deuteronomy 21: 22-23, Acts 5:30, Acts 10:39, Ezekiel 36: 26-27, Joel 2:28, John 3:5, Genesis 12:7, Matthew 11:29-30, CCC 1963 and 527.

1. In Genesis, God sees his creation as good and Adam and Eve did not need to do anything to preserve it; however, they needed to obey God's command and not eat of a certain tree in the Garden. Disobeying God caused Adam and Eve to lose the blessing of being pleasing in God's sight.

2. When God calls Abraham in Genesis 12 and makes a promise to bless him and his descendants, we should be breathless. What kind of love is this that God would relentlessly pursue man in order to please Him?

3. How did you receive the Holy Spirit? After hearing the gospel and being baptized the Galatians received the Holy Spirit.

4. When Galatians understood that the Law brings curse and not blessings, they will understand the unique work of Jesus on the Cross. Jesus is the answer to the dilemma of the law. *By bearing the curse of the Law, which is death, Jesus opened the door of freedom and blessing to all who would trust and hope in that death.*

5. Deuteronomy 21: 22-23, references one who is guilty of a capital offense. These verses make graphic the curse of God on the crucified, the person who has broken the law. Christ took the curse of the law upon himself in death for us on a "tree".

6. Paul said the blessing of Abraham is for the Gentiles to receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

7. The promise God made to Abraham was a blessing to be more than just a temporal blessing. It included the temporal blessing of an heir, land and enough descendants to make a great nation. Paul understood that the true meaning of being blessed by God is to be pleasing in his sight, to be "very good". It is the presence of God's spirit in one's life, one's new birth of water and the Spirit as in John 3:5.

8. The covenant God made with Abraham was given in a promise. The covenant God made with Moses required obedience.

9. The covenant with Moses does not cancel out the covenant He made with Abraham. Abraham's covenant was made first and it takes priority over what came later.

10. According to Paul, the law was given because of transgressions. The law kept sin in restraint and served as a custodian until Jesus came. The law also worked to prepare faithful Jews to look for the Messiah.

11. The intermediary in the covenant that gave the Law to the Jews was Moses. He represented the people to God and God to the people. God might be said to have two voiced- His own and that of his mediator.

12. When God made his covenant with Abraham, God is the one who spoke for Himself. Gifts of pure grace have no such conditions; such was the case with Abraham's covenant.

13. The law could not make men good enough to obey it. It was powerless over man's sin. If man could have kept the law, it would have been able to give life (righteousness). Man could not keep the law so it meant condemnation

14. The law served as a guide or custodian for Israel until faith should be revealed in Christ. Now that Jesus has come, there is no need for the custodian.

15. The Old Covenant is fulfilled in the New Covenant, sealed with the Body and Blood of Jesus. A return to Mosaic Law would be unnecessary and dangerous because the goal has been achieved. It is dangerous because it leaves the covenant of grace and return to a covenant that can only end in condemnation.

16. Jews were initiated into the family of God through circumcision of the flesh. The Christian is reborn into God's family through Baptism.

17. Jesus was circumcised according to the law, but His death and resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit make it possible a sacrament of faith that replaces circumcision.

18. When human beings have put on Christ through faith and baptism, they are one with Christ and with each other.

19. We are all one family with differences and diversity.

Galatians 3:29, Paul says that those who belong to Christ have become Abraham's offspring.