

## Paul's Epistle to the Galatians

### Chapter 3 : 1-25 The Law and the Gospel

F.B.Meyer –The Law leads to Christ. The Mosaic Law was not designed to be the final code of the religious life, but to prepare the soil of the human heart to receive Jesus Christ in all the fullness of His salvation.

Dr John MacArthur -Because these believers had allowed themselves to be deceived, they also were projecting to the deceived unbelievers around them the thinking that Christianity was a matter of law rather than faith. They had robbed themselves of the fullness of God's blessing and were in danger of robbing the world of the knowledge of the only way of salvation.

#### *FOOLISHNESS* v 1-9

How would you define 'foolishness' and 'bewitched'.

Why does Paul call the Galatian Christians foolish? (v1 & v3)

A)-The Gospel and the Galatians

v1 What had been presented to them?

v2 How did they respond and Who did they receive?

v3-5 How had their reliance changed?

Warning –don't fall back on human effort. We can only be saved by Christ, and then continuing on with Him and finally 'finishing the race' with Christ - - and it is all by grace.

B)-The Gospel and Abraham.

v6 What did Abraham do? See also Hebrews 11v8-11 (note- not 'believed in God' – but 'believed God'). What did he receive? Can you explain what the means?

v8-9 How do we benefit from this –and how is v9 an assurance for us?

What are we in danger of substituting for faith?

#### *ONE WAY ONLY* v 10 – 14

A) Problem of the Law v 10 -12

v10 Is shocking. Who is under the curse? What is Paul saying about someone who seeks to 'earn' God's acceptance? Are they not doomed to failure?

v11-12 What does relying on the law have to do with faith?

B) Promised blessing v 13-14

v13 What is God's method for removing the curse? What does 'redeemed' mean?

v14 How have we benefited and what have we received? How do these blessings come to us? See also –Romans 5v1-2 and Romans 8v2

#### *WHY THE LAW?* v 15 – 25

A) Promise which is changeless v15-18

v15 What example does Paul use? A will cannot be changed –after death of the person.

v16 Now Paul takes us to a binding deal –what is it?

v17-18 Note the word 'promise'. Who make it, confirms it and brings it to pass?

B) Purpose of the law v19-25

v19 What is the question and answer that Paul gives?

v20-21 –Is saying what the purpose is not

v23-25 How does explain that the law leads us to Christ?.

If you had to make the case for grace, to a religious friend who insisted that 'salvation *can't* be a free gift!' 'Surely, we *have* to do our part', what would you say?

D.J.

#### PRAYER POINTS:

Praise God for the priceless privileges that belong to us in Christ.

Pray that we might be living as a son and heir.

Surrey Seniors –Oct 19<sup>th</sup> –History of Eastons Coaches

Surrey Smarties – meeting on Friday at 10 am