

Paul's Letter to the Galatians



Lesson 5 - Review



- Paul's early contacts with Jerusalem recorded in Acts
- Paul apparently remains in Tarsus until Barnabas asks him to join him in the work at the church in Antioch (Acts 11:19-30).
- First Missionary Journey
- Jerusalem Conference

Lesson 6 – Galatians 3:1-18



- Introduction
- Read Galatians 3:1-18
- Comments/Questions

Lesson 6 – Galatians 3:1-18



- 1. Paul seeks to establish his case by appealing to the Galatians' reception of the Spirit. He asks whether they received the Spirit “by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?” (3:2)
 - ✦ a. In this context, what does Paul mean by, or at least associates with, receiving the Spirit? (cf. 3:5,14)
 - ✦ b. Why would Paul use their reception of the Spirit as part of his argument? In other words, what is significant about one receiving the Spirit? (Also compare v. 14 with Acts 2:38-39)
 - ✦ c. What does the phrase “by hearing with faith” mean?
 - ✦ d. In verse 3, the contrast is between “the Spirit” and “the flesh”. What is meant by “the flesh”?

- ❖ *What is “so foolish about the Galatians’ attempt to be “perfected by the flesh”?*

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- 2. Paul refers to the suffering the Galatians endured for Christ in verse 4. If the letter is addressed to the Galatians in South Galatia that we read about in Acts 13 and 14, what suffering do we know that they experienced? (cf. Acts 13:50; 14:5, 19, 21-22)
- 3. It may be that the ‘troublemakers’ in Galatia were appealing to Abraham as the one to whom God had given the covenant of circumcision with the appeal that if Abraham was circumcised then they should be circumcised also. Yet, Paul appeals to the example of Abraham as proof that God accepts people on the basis of faith.
 - ✦ a. Paul quotes Genesis 15:6 – “(Abraham) believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” In Genesis 15, what is the occasion when this statement is made concerning Abraham?

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- ✦ b. Paul also refers to Abraham's example in Romans 4 and quotes Genesis 15:6 (Romans 4:3, 9, 22). To what occasion in Abraham's life does Paul refer? (cf. Romans 4:19-22)
- ✦ c. What is significant about both of these occasions? (cf. Romans 4:9-12)
- ✦ d. James also makes use of Abraham's example by quoting Genesis 15:6 in James 2:23. To what occasion in Abraham's life does James refer?
- ✦ e. In considering the life of Abraham as used by Paul and James, is justification by faith a singular experience or is it a way of life?
- 4. In verses 10-13, Paul discusses justification by works of the law.
 - ✦ a. What demand does the law make on those who seek to be justified by it? (v. 12)
 - ✦ b. Why is it "evident" that no one is justified by the law? (v. 11)
 - ✦ c. What is the curse associated with the law? (v. 10, 13)

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- 5. In arguing for the acceptance of the Gentiles, Paul appeals to the covenant that God made with Abraham (v. 15-18). [The conclusion of Paul’s argument is given in 3:26ff, which will be covered in Lesson 8.]
 - ✦ a. To whom was the promise (covenant) made?
 - ✦ b. Explain Paul’s argument about “offspring” vs. “offsprings”.
 - ✦ c. To what period does the 430 years refer? (cf. Genesis 15:13; Exodus 12:40)
 - ✦ d. What is his point in this section about the relation between the covenant and the (Mosaical) law?