GALATIANS

"THE LIBERTY WHEREWITH CHRIST HAS MADE US FREE"

LESSON THREE: Galatians 3:1-29

From NELSON'S COMPLETE BOOK OF BIBLE MAPS AND CHARTS

We now begin Part 2:

- 1) The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED
- 2) The Gospel of Grace EXPLAINED
- 3) The Gospel of Grace APPLIED

(Chapters 1 and 2)

(Chapters 3 and 4)

(Chapters 5 and 6)

From NELSON'S COMPLETE BOOK OF BIBLE MAPS AND CHARTS

- 1) The Gospel of Grace DEFENDED
- 2) The Gospel of Grace EXPLAINED
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(Chapters 1 and 2)
(Chapters 3 and 4)
(Chapters 5 and 6)
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Paul has some strong words about the Galatians' departure from truth.

Paul is clear that this was not a just a case of simple misunderstanding.

The Galatians had been deceived by the powers of darkness.

Galatians 3:1

O foolish Galatians,
who hath bewitched you,
that ye should not obey the truth,
before whose eyes Jesus Christ
hath been evidently set forth,
crucified among you?

Each of the three sections of this epistle has an explanation of how the Galatians were turned from truth:

- 1:6 they were "removed"
- 3:1 they were "bewitched"

Galatians 3:1

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

We would be quite naïve to think that Satan has no interest in subverting church doctrine.

Ephesians 6:12

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Galatians 3:1

O foolish Galatians,
who hath bewitched you,
that ye should not obey the truth,
before whose eyes Jesus Christ
hath been evidently set forth,
crucified among you?

The Galatians had no excuse – Christ's sacrifice had been clearly presented to them.

Galatians 3:1

O foolish Galatians,
who hath bewitched you,
that ye should not obey the truth,
before whose eyes Jesus Christ
hath been evidently set forth,
crucified among you?

Paul starts to dismantle the doctrine of justification by works with the first of four rhetorical questions:

Galatians 3:2

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

With the answer so obvious that he doesn't need to state it, he takes his argument a step further.

- This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
- Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Remember what Jesus said about the flesh's inability to add life to man.

John 6:63

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

- This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
- Are ye so foolish?
 having begun in the Spirit,
 are ye now made perfect by the
 flesh?

God helps those who help themselves? No! God helps them who believe!

Romans 8:5 and 8

- For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
- So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

- This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
- Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

God helps those who help themselves? No! God helps them who believe!

Romans 8:5 and 8

- For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
- So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Hebrews 11:6a

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him...

- This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
- Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

All the suffering the Galatians endured because of the persecution would be meaningless if they abandoned their faith now.

Galatians 3:4

⁴ Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

The fourth question:
If the HOLY SPIRIT came by faith and not works, what about the gifts that the Spirit brings?

Galatians 3:5

5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The fourth question:

If the HOLY SPIRIT came by faith and not works, what about the gifts that the Spirit brings?

Again, he sees no need to answer.

Galatians 3:5

5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The 4 Rhetorical Questions:

- This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
- ³ Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?
- ⁴ Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.
- 5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The legalists based their argument for circumcision on a section from God's covenant with Abraham, and for a truth, this covenant is the cornerstone of God's relationship with his people. So now Paul takes us through the story of Abraham, "the father of all them that believe" (Rom 4:11).

Galatians 3:6

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Genesis 15:3-6

- And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.
- And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.
- And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.
- ⁶ And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Galatians 3:6

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

When did this happen?

BEFORE Isaac was born, And BEFORE Abraham was circumcised, he was made righteous for his faith.

Abraham believed God, and his true children also believe. It is because of their faith and not their family heritage that Abraham's true heirs are identified.

Galatians 3:7

7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

And from the start, God declared that Abraham would have children from ALL nations of the world.

- And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying,
 - In thee shall all nations be blessed.
- 9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

Justification is the supernatural cleansing from the guilt and penalty of sin that makes righteousness possible.

It is justification by faith that made it possible for uncircumcised Gentiles to be included in God's covenant with Abraham!

- And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.
- ⁹ So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

Genesis 12:3

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

- And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying,
 - In thee shall all nations be blessed.
- 9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

Being circumcised was only a token, a symbol of God's covenant with Abraham. Keeping the law was ALL or NOTHING, upon penalty of damnation.

This was the CURSE of the law.

Galatians 3:10

of the law are under the curse:
for it is written,
Cursed is every one that
continueth not in all things which
are written in the book of the law
to do them.

Deuteronomy 27:26a

Cursed *be* he that confirmeth not *all* the words of this law to do them.

Galatians 3:10

of the law are under the curse:
for it is written,
Cursed is every one that
continueth not in all things which
are written in the book of the law
to do them.

Man's justification was NEVER possible through the law. It was always a matter of faith, not works.

Galatians 3:11-12

- But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.
- ¹² And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Habakkuk 2:4

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Galatians 3:11-12

- But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.
- ¹² And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Leviticus 18:5

Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.

Galatians 3:11-12

- But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.
- ¹² And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Jesus fulfilled the law by dying for our sins and paying our debt to sin with his life. He took the curse of the law upon himself when he hung on the cross.

Galatians 3:13

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:
for it is written,
Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

- ²² And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree:
- ²³ His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;)

that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

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- ²³ His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

The hanging of them by the neck till the body was dead was not used at all among the Jews, as with us; but of such as were stoned to death, if it were for blasphemy, or some other very [terrible] crime, it was usual, by order of the judges, to hang up the dead bodies upon a post for some time, as a spectacle to the world, to express the [shame] of the crime, and to strike the greater terror upon others, that they might not only hear and fear, but see and fear. MATTHEW HENRY

Christ paid the price of our redemption so that:

- Gentiles could receive the blessing that was promised to Abraham
- 2. All Christians could receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:13a, 14

- 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law...
- 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:13a, 14

- 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law...
- That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Verses 10-14

Galatians 3:13a, 14

- 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law...
- That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Verses 6 to 9

Galatians 3:13a, 14

- 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law...
- That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Verses 2 to 5

But did the Law change the way the promise would be administered? Was it now a matter of works?

Paul confirms the immutability of God's covenant with Abraham with a reminder that even a man's last will and testament cannot be altered by anyone else after it has been certified.

Galatians 3:15

15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men;

Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

"To put it in human terms, my brothers: even when a will is only a human one, once it has been ratified nobody can cancel it or add more provisions to it." New Jerusalem Bible

Galatians 3:15

Brethren, I speak after the manner of men;
 Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

Paul now identifies the recipient of those promises by drawing our attention to the precise wording of this passage and clarifies its meaning:

Galatians 3:16

¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.

He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one,

And to thy seed, which is Christ.

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Galatians 3:16

¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.

He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one,

And to thy seed, which is Christ.

God's promise to Abraham was made possible through his most important descendant, Jesus of Nazareth.

Galatians 3:16

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He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one,

And to thy seed, which is Christ.

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. Christ is the incorruptible seed, the Word made flesh.

His generation is made of all who are "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Pet 1:23).

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

This is the generation of the saved.

Psalm 22:30-31

- 30 A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.
- They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. This is the generation that Isaiah spoke of as an enigma:

Isaiah 53:8

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Having shown that even a covenant made by man cannot be altered after it is certified, Paul affirms that the law given to Moses cannot negate the promise given to Abraham.

Galatians 3:17-18

none effect.

17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul,

¹⁸ For if the inheritance *be* of the law, *it is* no more of promise: but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise.

that it should make the promise of

Here are the key parts of this passage:

Galatians 3:17-18

- And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ,
 - the law,
 - which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.
- For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Now Paul asks a new question, one that he WILL answer:

If the law could not justify man, why was it given?

Galatians 3:19

¹⁹ Wherefore then serveth the law?

For 2 reasons:

 The law exposed and curtailed sinful behavior until the coming of the Messiah.

Galatians 3:19

Wherefore then serveth the law?
It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made;

For 2 reasons:

- 1. The law exposed and curtailed sinful behavior until the coming of the Messiah.
- 2. It established a conditional covenant between the Israelites and God.

Galatians 3:19

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. The Law was ordained by angels

That God's angels participated in the giving of the law is affirmed in the Old and New Testament.

Moses spoke of this:

Deuteronomy 33:1-2

- And this is the blessing,
 wherewith Moses the man of God blessed
 the children of Israel before his death.
- And he said,
 The LORD came from Sinai,
 and rose up from Seir unto them;
 he shined forth from mount Paran,
 and he came with ten thousands of saints
 ["holy ones"]:
 from his right hand went a fiery law for them.

The Law was ordained by angels

Stephen spoke of it in his own fiery speech.

Acts 7:52-53

- Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted?
 and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One;
 of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:
- Who have received the law by the disposition [ordinance] of angels, and have not kept it.

The Law was a conditional covenant between God and the Israelites.
The mediator was Moses.

Deuteronomy 5:4-5a

- ⁴ The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire,
- of the LORD:
 for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount;)

Galatians 3:19

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

But God's promise to Abraham was an unconditional decree by our sovereign God. No mediator was necessary.

Galatians 3:20

Now a mediator is not a mediator of one,but God is one.

This leads to another important question: Did the law stand in the way of God's covenant with Abraham?

Galatians 3:21-22

- ²¹ Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid:
 - for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.
- ²² But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

The law proved that the ONLY way man could be justified was through faith in Christ.

Galatians 3:21-22

- ²¹ Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid:
 - for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.
- ²² But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

The law was like a schoolteacher whose job was to lead the Jews to their Messiah.

Galatians 3:23-25

- ²³ But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.
- Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
- ²⁵ But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

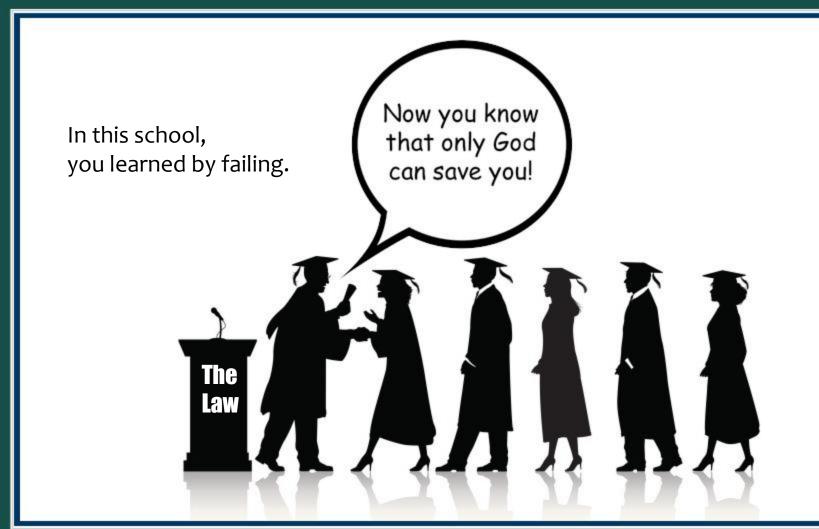
The law was like a schoolteacher whose job was to lead the Jews to their Messiah.

"But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the Law, locked up to wait for the faith which would eventually be revealed to us."

(New Jerusalem Bible)

Galatians 3:23-25

- ²³ But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.
- Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
- ²⁵ But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.



Through faith in the work of Christ – and nothing more or less – all who believe are partakers in the promise made to Abraham.

Galatians 3:26-29

- ²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
- ²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.
- ²⁹ And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Through faith in the work of Christ – and nothing more or less – all who believe are partakers in the promise made to Abraham.

Galatians 3:26-29

- ²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
- ²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.
- ²⁹ And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

This concludes Chapter 3

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(Chapters 3 and 4)

This section continues in Chapter 4.

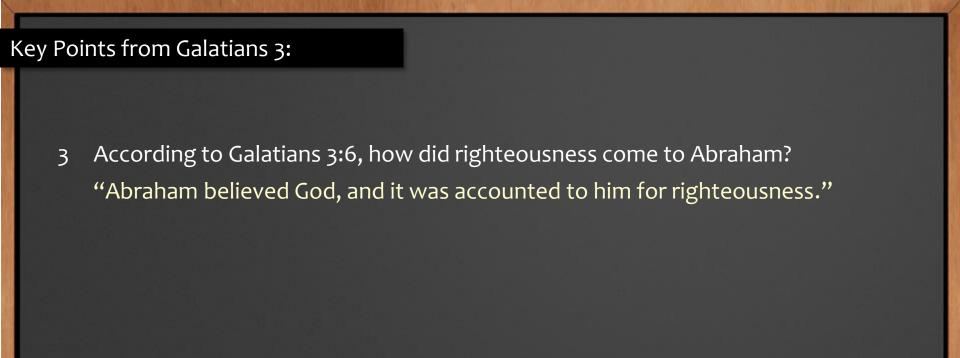
Key Points from Galatians 3:
1 What did Paul say was the reason the Galatians no longer obeyed the truth?

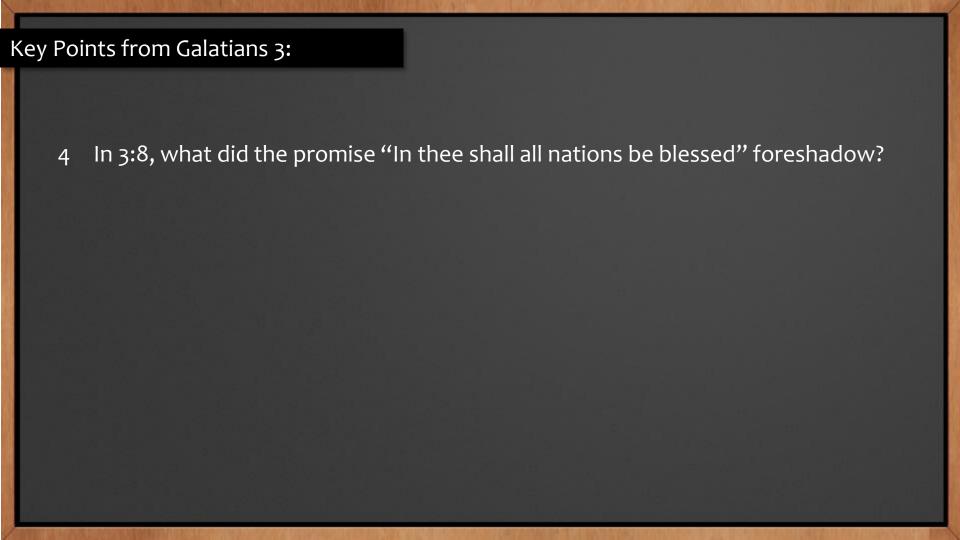
1 What did Paul say was the reason the Galatians no longer obeyed the truth?
They had been bewitched.
"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you..."

2 In 3:2-5, how many questions does Paul ask without answering?

- 2 In 3:2-5, how many questions does Paul ask without answering? He asks 4 questions:
 - 1. Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
 - 2. Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?
 - 3. Have ye suffered so many things in vain?
 - 4. He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Key Points from Galatians 3: According to Galatians 3:6, how did righteousness come to Abraham?



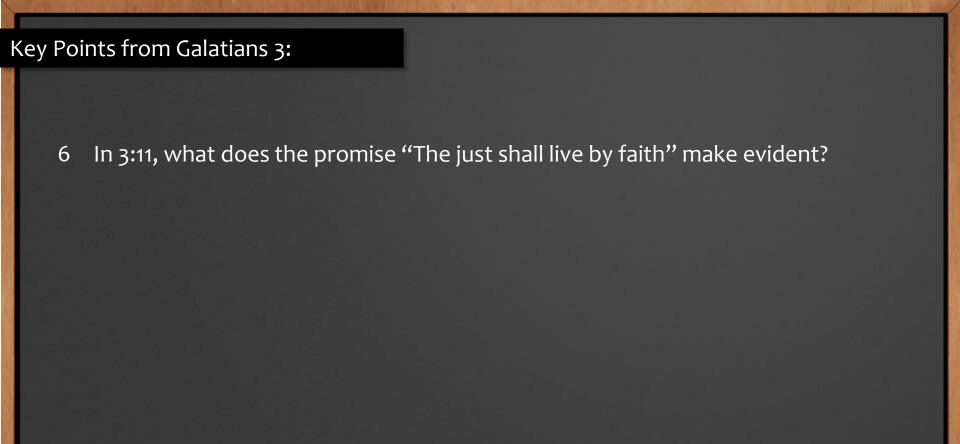


4 In 3:8, what did the promise "In thee shall all nations be blessed" foreshadow? "that God would justify the heathen [the Gentiles] through faith"

Key Points from Galatians 3: In 3:10, what is the curse of the law?

5 In 3:10, what is the curse of the law?

"Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."

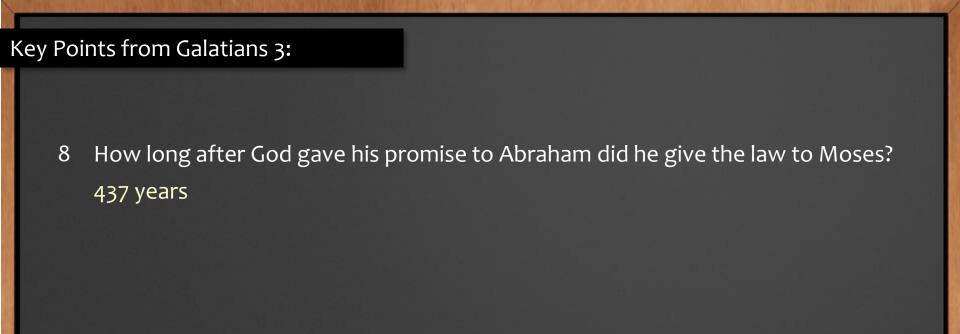


6 In 3:11, what does the promise "The just shall live by faith" make evident? "that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God"

7 In 3:16, who is Abraham's seed?

7 In 3:16, who is Abraham's seed? "And to thy seed, which is Christ"

Key Points from Galatians 3:
8 How long after God gave his promise to Abraham did he give the law to Moses?



Key Points from Galatians 3: According to 3:24, what was the purpose of the law?

9 According to 3:24, what was the purpose of the law? "the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

10 In 3:29, "if ye be Christ's, then are ye _____ and _____.

10 In 3:29, "if ye be Christ's, then are ye _____ and ____.

"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."



