

[1]
The Big Trade
Galatians 3:10-14
Nov 23, 2014 Adrian Moskal

[2]

Galatians 3:10-14 ESV

¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." ¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."

[3]

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— ¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

[4]

¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; - let's let that sink in for a minute. Do you ever try to earn God's favour or increase your standing with God by good behaviour? Well...God says you are under a curse. We are all under a curse. We were born into it. Think about that. If you are doing things out of duty- rather than relationship, you are cursed.

This comes from:

[5]

Deut 27:26 ESV

²⁶ " 'Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.' "

You see, the law was given to God's people to show them that they could not do it by themselves. **God is saying you have to do it ALL, not parts, not the parts YOU think are important. You need to do it all. Or...you are cursed. Can we do it all? Nope.**

Do you know what is crazy. We like rules and boundaries. They are comforting. We find security in them.

We use the word SIN all the time and rarely do we see its importance or its consequence. You see God is Holy and righteous and Just. He is perfect in everything he does and he abhors sin. He can't be a part of it.

In fact in Romans 6:23a ESV:

²³ For the wages of sin is death

[6]

So, Sin is not just if you are doing the wrong things. Sin is more than not doing the right things. In our passage it can mean doing the right things with the wrong motives. Let me say that again...doing the right things with the wrong motives. When we try to improve our standing with God by doing good things. We try to pay him back for what he has done.

And Paul goes on:

[7]

Gal 3:11 ESV

¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."

It is evident. Paul is saying to the Galatian church, by now you would have to be STUPID to not understand that you can't earn your way. **You can't use the law to improve your standing with God. God does not weigh your actions and then say "Pass". If God weighs our actions He can only say Fail. If God looks at our actions, he can only see our sin. Period.**

The second part of verse 11, Paul quotes Hab 2:4 when he says "The righteous shall live by faith."

This was not foreign concept to the Jews as it is from the OT. To be seen as righteous, by God, it is going to involve faith in something better than what we can do on our own. The prophets knew that the law could not save them.

And it is this faith that we can find scary. The unknown can be scary. You can't touch it, feel it. How do we keep score if we don't have a set of rules? You see recently this year I went through a little self discovery. Through mentorship and working with others, I found that the unknown for me can be scary and even a little paralyzing. This sounds weird for me to say because I love change. It turns out I love change that I can see coming. Stepping out in faith is and not knowing where my foot will land is harder.

Some of you might have the same concerns. The book of Galatians is all about this. It is about stepping out in faith and not knowing exactly where it is going.

[8]

Gal 3:12 ESV

¹² But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."

Remember, Paul is confronting the Judaizers of going behind his back and telling the Galatian churches, that yes Jesus died for their sins but you also need to be circumcised and you can't eat this and you can't eat that, if you want to be justified before God.

This seems crazy to us. Doesn't it. Well it certainly seemed crazy to Paul and he was a Jew of Jews and a Pharisee of Pharisees. He would have had great standing at that time and it seemed crazy to him in light of the gospel that was given to him. But it seems crazy to us, because circumcision and dietary restrictions have no importance to us in our culture. In that culture it had huge importance to the Jewish people. The law was at the centre of their life.

What about our life at CRBC. What is at the middle of it. Do we or have we added things to the gospel. Do we say (in words or body language) to people seeking God:

[9]

"You can't dress that way."

"You can't smoke and be a Christian."

"You have to read your bible every day."

"You have to pray for 30 mins every day."

"You have to come to church every Sunday, every Sunday School Class, every evening service."

"You can't swear."

"You can't drink."

"God hates divorce."

What in that list can you not find a verse? This is the same in our culture as the Judaizers were doing in that culture.

[10]

What will your present life look like if you are trusting in things in addition to Christ>>>>

- if we have a list of things that we have to do before Christ can love us (maybe just one or 2 things)

- Or we

"But what about divorce, what about sex before marriage, what if they show a lack of respect to God, what if — — These are all boundaries that we put around the gospel for new people.

*- **do your non Christian friends and family find you judgmental** - why are you judging their actions?*

- tired - can't be good enough

- WE NEED TO QUIT TAKING THE PLACE OF JESUS AND OBEY WHAT HE CALL US TO DO. God will judge and we are to obey. He tells us, Go and make disciples who make disciples. We need to introduce them to Jesus. He says "He will build his church. Not us. We get the blessing of being a part of it. And then we walk with them.

[11]

- 1) Yes they are sin and Jesus died for them
- 2) Is Christ big enough for that and
- 3) you and I don't get to decide what is acceptable and not acceptable sin (God does) - and he says if you live by part of it you live by it all (or die by it all).

[12]

Gal 3:13 ESV

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”

Christ redeemed us - He bought us.

1Cor 6:20 ESV

²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

He bought us - redeemed us— from greek word agora meaning marketplace. In Jesus day, In the agora humans were bought and sold everyday. And there was an exchange here as well. We were bought with his blood.

This curse that belongs to us that we talked about in verse 10. This curse that we deserve because of our sin. Christ exchanged. He traded places with us. He became the curse for us. Let's stop and not gloss over this. The big trade is God sent his son, our Lord, to trade his very life for ours. This was no small point. He took on the sins of the world.

See in the OT when you were killed they would hang you on a tree to show you are cursed. See it is no coincidence that Jesus was crucified (hung on a tree), it was always part of God's plan from the very beginning. That is love. That is compassion, mercy. Settle on this for a bit. Because this is how much our God loves us.

Peter says this in his pentecost sermon in

[13]

Acts 2:23 ESV:

²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

It was always the plan.

John 3:16,17 ESV

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

We can't understand God's love until we grapple with what he went through for us. We sinned, we fall short, he has the solution. Jesus, our loving merciful, saviour, who is sinless, is beaten, spat on, ridiculed, scourged, hung on a cross until he died. He took our curse.

So - he takes our curse, what do we take?

[14]

Gal 3:14 ESV

¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

The Big Trade is that Jesus takes our curse and we receive his Righteousness. We are not righteous in our own right but that is the trade.

Just as Abraham's faith - in who God was and what he WOULD do- was credited him as righteousness. That is God saw him as righteous. It is through the promise of Abraham that we can be called sons of God.

God promised Abraham: a land, a great nation, all the families of the earth will be blessed through him. Abraham wasn't righteous - but because of his faith - it was credited to him as righteousness.

Because of our faith God sees us as righteous. Because of our faith in Jesus - in who he is and what he has done.

[15]

John 20:21-21 ESV

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

It is no magic prayer. It is about relationship with Christ. And when we follow Jesus because of our faith in WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE (SAME AS ABRAHAM), we are given the Holy Spirit to guide us and who **sends** us.

I want to end with a passage we know all too well.

[16]

Luke 10:25-37 ESV

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

I love this - he is justifying himself.

[17]

³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

[18]

³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

The lawyer justifies himself right away....I don't know about you but I justify myself when my actions do not match my beliefs. (Hypocrite)

- don't identify with the priest, levite- because we can.

samaritan - this is Jesus.

identify with the man in the ditch. Needing a lifeline.

All of us need to identify with the man in the ditch. Because we need Christ, we are reliant on him for everything. He has given us everything. When we are meeting with neighbours or coworkers, or friends or family who don't know Christ - who are we?

We are in the ditch - the same as those we are sharing Christ with. Isn't our posture better in this scenario. If we see ourselves as the Good Samaritan, we are above, better, standing above and extending a hand down. If we are the man in the ditch we are in the same boat as those we are sharing with - totally reliant on Christ.

What does life look like if we identify ourselves as the man in the ditch, needing a lifeline?

- we will be humble, we will be reliant on Christ, we can identify with those we are sharing Christ with, we won't live lives by a set of rules but look to love others with the same way we were and are loved. We need to go back to when Christ first found us. Because he is still saving us.

[19]

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

This verse says we get to live that kingdom life now. All too often we spend our time looking back at the cross or forward toward heaven. Jesus did not die on the cross so we can twiddle our thumbs until we die or he returns. His death changes everything.

Well, if we identify with man in the ditch. It changes everything. We live a thankful life. The Big Trade is Jesus traded his life for ours. He died so we do not have to be slaves to the law. This is why he died. We can't go back. We get to...get to live lives of thankfulness and in freedom. He has a journey for us to go on. He has sent us the Holy Spirit to guide us and we have to have faith his death and resurrection was enough. Because it was.

Gal 3:14 ESV

¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

If you do not know Jesus, if you don't have a relationship with him, or if you have been trusting in something more than just him for your salvation - then you too are in the ditch. The same as me. And Jesus is there to help, to save, to take our sins and our curse. He is saying, I came and died for you. You can receive this today.

If you do know Jesus, my prayer is you live that kingdom life that Jesus died for. Living in the Spirit, without shackles, with thankfulness and purpose.



Galatians: Learning to Live in the Freedom of Christ
The Big Trade
Galatians 3:10-14
Week of November 23rd, 2014

Objective of this study: To experience the impact of “The Big Trade,” that is, to sense the weight of the curse and the amazing relief and joy of being rescued.

Worship (5 – 10 minutes)

1. Spend five minutes in silent prayer asking God to prepare your heart for how he wants to speak to you.
2. After the five minutes of silence have someone interrupt the silence and read **Psalm 130** meditatively to the group. Then pause for about a minute and let it sink in.
3. Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Welcome (5 – 10 minutes)

Answer one of the following welcome questions:

1. What is the best or worst trade you ever made?
2. When have you felt helpless or terrified, and someone rescued you?

Word (20 - 30 minutes)

1. What stood out from the sermon?
2. Read Galatians 3:10-14 and Deuteronomy 27:26 in two different versions.
3. What kind of people keep the law perfectly?
4. Verse 10. Who is under a curse? What is a curse? Who expressed the curse? How far do you think we could get in negotiating leniency?
5. Verse 11. “It is evident.” What is evident? What is the evident truth that we cannot get around?
6. Sermon quote: **“You can’t use the law to improve your standing with God. God does not weigh your actions and then say ‘pass.’ If God weighs our actions he can only say, ‘fail.’** Let that sink in. What emotions do you feel when you think about this?
7. Verse 13. To get the background to this, read Deuteronomy 21:23; Numbers 21:8-9; John 12:31-33.
 1. Any surprises here? How do these references relate to what Paul is saying in Galatians 3:10-14.
 2. “To redeem” from Merriam Webster’s Dictionary:
“to buy back : [repurchase](#); to get or win back; to free from what [distresses](#) or harms: as; to free from captivity by payment of [ransom](#); to [extricate](#) from or help to overcome something [detrimental](#).”
 3. Paul put this another way in 1 Corinthians 6:20: **“You were bought with a price...”**
Sermon Quote: **“The word ‘bought’ here is from the Greek word *agora* meaning marketplace. In the *agora* [slaves] were bought and sold every day.”** Stop and imagine a Greek marketplace. Slaves are being bought and sold. What do you hear? see? smell? What’s the atmosphere? Who are we being identified with?

Work (30 - 40 minutes)

1. Do you feel the weight and the relief that Paul was getting at in this passage? Talk about your emotions.
2. Read Psalm 130. Look for themes and words from today’s study. What do you personally identify with in this Psalm?
3. Read the Psalm again as a prayer.

PRAYER TIME/HOMEWORK

1. Spend time worship God for his amazing grace through Jesus.
2. Read Galatians again this week at least once more in one sitting.
3. Write a “psalm” in response to God.