

Lesson 4 - Galatians 3:1-14**Main Idea**

God's covenant with Moses does not contradict his covenant with Abraham, but rather compliments it. And both covenants find their fulfilment in Christ and his salvation. In this lesson the focus is on the promises of God and the contrast between faith and the works of the law.

Study Questions

1. So far Paul has been defending his authority and the gospel as he originally taught it to the Galatians. How does this text, 3:1-14, differ from the earlier chapters of Galatians?
2. List all the contrasts and opposites Paul uses in this passage. Which of these best portrays the message of 3:1-14?
3. Why is it "foolish" and "bewitched" (3:1) to choose human effort over the Spirit? Find all the reasons you can in 3:1-5, and add any others you can think of.
4. What was the promise God made to Abraham?
5. According to Genesis 15:6 and Galatians 3:6, on what basis did God reckon Abraham as righteous (in right standing) before him?
6. The Jews claimed to be the children of Abraham—that is, the heirs of God's promises to him. From your answer to question 4, whom would you conclude should be the true children of Abraham? (Compare Galatians 3:7).
7. Why wouldn't a person be blessed if he or she kept most of the Law (3:10)?

8. What do you think 3:10-12 is saying you would experience if you tried to win God's blessing by rules and self-effort?

9. What happened to the curse that went along with the violation of the Law (3:13-14)?

10. What do we learn in this text about the relationship between faith and obedience?

Whole - Bible Connections

The Call to Faith. A common misunderstanding of the Bible is the people in the Old Testament achieved God's favour through works, while those who come after Jesus are justified by faith in him. But being God's people has always been about faith in God's promises. The nation of Israel began when Abraham heard God's astonishing promises and believed them. The law, with its sacrificial system and Sabbath specifics, created a culture meant to promote a waiting trust in God, The Psalms and the prophets repeatedly exhort God's people to trust in God's promises and wait on him to fulfill them. The New Testament does not contain a brand-new call to faith but rather a call to a faith that has greater specificity. Faith in God's promises is a faith in Jesus, in whom all the promises find their "yes" (2 Cor. 1:20).

Personal Reflection

- What truth from 3:1-14 seems most personally significant to you today?

- How would you like this insight to affect your life?

- What steps can you take to make this happen?