

# Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM

## Series objective

The church in Galatia was divided over issues of observing Jewish laws and regulations according to the Torah. Many leaders within this church were requiring non-Jewish Christians to live by Jewish laws that missed the main point of the Gospel message in that Jesus fulfilled the law and saved all who believe in him. As has always been true when people trust in Jesus as the Messiah, His life, death, and resurrection become the basis of their salvation. As a result, they become new creations. The book of Galatians reminds Jesus' followers to embrace the Gospel message of the crucified Messiah, that justifies all people through faith and empowers them to live as Jesus did.<sup>1</sup>



## Overview of Chapter 3

Verses 1–14	Faith versus observance of the Law
Verses 15-25	The Promise and the Law
Verses 26-29	Sons of God

## Questions

1. The concepts contained within Galatians 3 served as the foundation for God's work in the life of Martin Luther and the men who contributed to awakening Europe to the Gospel. Even today, there is a great debate regarding salvation and Scripture itself can be challenging to understand when not studied in context.
  - a. From your background, what were you taught about salvation? To answer this question, think back to around the age of 16 and consider how you would have answered if someone asked you if you were a Christian.
  - b. Read James 2:17, 20-24 and Galatians 3:4-14. Does there seem to be a contradiction?
  - c. We have discussed the issue of salvation many times in our neighborhood Bible study. How do you address the issue of "salvation and works" using the Bible? In answering this question, considering the "stages" of salvation and how we grow in Christ.
2. In reading Galatians Chapter 3, why is it important that we understand the difference between *living under the Law* and *living under grace*?

---

<sup>1</sup> Bibleproject.com

3. What motivates you to want to do the right things in life (i.e. what compels you to want to be obedient)? How important is it to understand the proper motivation as followers of Christ?
  
4. Read verses Galatians 3:15-16 and answer the following.
  - a. What are your thoughts on the concept of *once saved always saved*?
  
  - b. How important is obedience as Christians?

Prep for next lesson (Tuesday, October 19, 2021)

Read Galatians Chapter 4. How should recognizing that we are no longer slaves to sin (and the Law) impact the way that we live our lives?

---

Provided in the figure below is a graphic showing the three facets of salvation. I want to be very clear – this is NOT a progressive salvation, or stages of salvation that we see in cults where people work to earn their salvation. Rather, there are three distinct facets of salvation we experience as Believers. Once we make a profession of faith and are justified, we are eternally secure. From that point forward until death (or the Rapture of the Church), we are being sanctified.

To better understand justification, sanctification, and glorification, consider the following:

- Justification – saved from the **PENALTY** of sin
- Sanctification – saved from the **POWER** of sin
- Glorification – saved from the **PRESENCE** of sin



I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 3:14

The following verses discuss how the three facets of salvation.

- Justification (Romans 5:1 and 8:33)
- Sanctification (2 Timothy 2:15-26)
- Glorification (John 12:12-16, Romans 8:30, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12)

Most teaching on salvation does not distinguish between what can be called the *facets of salvation*; specifically, failing to distinguish between justification and sanctification. Failing to make a distinction between justification and sanctification at best results in confusion when discussing salvation, while at worst creates a works-based salvation that is common-place among the cults.