

***Section 4 – This Section**

The Gentiles can also believe – Galatians 3:1-3:9

We are delivered from the curse of the man-made laws – Galatians 3:10-14

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Section 5

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Let's begin with a little review. To skip the review, go to down to the explanations for section 4 on page 3 starting with Galatians 3:1.

In our introduction to Galatians, we began by identifying some of the problems associated with modern theology. One of the biggest mistakes in theology is to start with some preconceived idea about what the Bible is saying or to take the Bible out of its Jewish or Israelite context. It is important to understand that the Bible contains Jewish issues, especially the letters written by Shaul (Paul). If we take the New Testament out its original ancient context, we simply will not understand the Bible in the way it was originally intended.

As we read the Bible, we should be asking ourselves, “what is the Jewish issue here?” When we don't understand something, we have to wait until we are able to understand what the Jewish issue was. Remember, Yeshua (Jesus) was Jewish and so were all the early believers in the Messiah Yeshua.

We talked about what the word gospel meant in Galatians – namely, messianic message. Some words meant something specific to the believers back then like the words; apostle, brethren, or set apart. We have to understand what the listeners would have understood. Shaul says he is a messenger (apostle means God's messengers; there are many both in the Old Testament portion and New Testament portion¹), and he begins by telling them in Galatians that some have turned away from the gospel (messianic message) that he has been proclaiming.

Sections 1-3, Galatians 1:1-2:21 Review

In Galatians chapter 1, he tells us he received revelation from Yeshua (Jesus). Some people believe this is talking about everything he has written. I'm sure Shaul shared what God wanted him to share in his letters. The question is, could he have been referring to a specific revelation? He immediately begins talking about when he persecuted the believers in the Messiah. Shaul did that before he had an encounter with Yeshua on the way to Damascus. In Acts, Shaul tells the story about his encounter with Yeshua. Yeshua told Shaul on the way to Damascus, "But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the

¹ Not only did God send out His messengers in the Old Testament portion, but Yeshua sent out 12 and then 70. Shaul was also an apostle (messenger) and he said that God gave apostles, pastor, teachers, evangelists etc. to help the believers in the Messiah grow. So, there are many messengers/apostles not just a select few.

things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you;" Acts 26:16-18 NKJV.

We found out that the whole first two chapters of Galatians is about accepting the Gentiles as true believers in the Messiah. Yeshua sent Shaul to the Gentiles it says. And, the revelation he is talking about in Galatians chapter 1 is his encounter with Yeshua on his way to Damascus. Shaul and Barnabas were given the right hand of blessing to go to the Gentiles in Galatians chapter 2. Shaul talks about Kefa (Peter) withdrawing himself from eating with the Gentile believers and then others doing the same when some of the circumcision (actually, they are Torah breakers) came in. Torah breakers are those who subtract or add to the Torah inappropriately – they are breaking the Torah (Deuteronomy 4:2). Kefa should not have withdrawn himself from the Gentile believers; they were not idolaters.

There were those in Yeshua's time that held a hard line towards allowing Gentiles to believe in the Jewish Messiah. We see this in the Jewish writings. The great Jewish teacher Hillel (who died at the beginning of the 1st century AD) thought it was okay for a Gentile to become Jewish, but the great Jewish teacher Shamai would chase them away with a stick. So, there were mixed beliefs about the Gentiles being allowed to become Jewish.

There is a commandment in the Torah not to form close relationships with unbelieving idolatrous Gentiles and not to eat with them. The command is to not form a relationship so that you and your family doesn't also become idolaters. "Do not make a covenant with the people living in the land ... then they will invite you to join them in eating their sacrifices;" Exodus 34:15 CJB. Not associating at all with Gentiles is an extra non-biblical law. The Gentile believers in Yeshua were not idolaters. Those of the "circumcision" were those who were following the extra misapplied laws at that time. Moshe said, "In order to obey the mitzvot" (commandments) "of ADONAI your God which I am giving you, do not add to what I am saying, and do not subtract from it;" Deuteronomy 4:2 CJB. These Torah breakers were keeping the Gentiles from believing in the Messiah Yeshua.

Those who are of the "circumcision" (incorrectly called Judaizers) are those who were pushing the extra laws that some of the Jews were following in the time of Yeshua. They should more correctly be called people who were disobedient to the Torah and followed man-made commandments (or **Torah breakers**). Remember, that Isaiah said that their man-made worship is useless (Isaiah 29:13). It only makes sense doesn't it; man can make up lots of things, but it is God's words that count. It is incorrect to think of these people as keepers of the law.

The Gentiles that Kefa was eating with were believers who were learning the Torah. They were not idolaters. In the context of the Gentiles accepting the Jewish Messiah in Acts, "For from the earliest times, Moshe has had in every city those who proclaim him, with his words being read in the synagogues every Shabbat;" Acts 15:21 CJB. The Gentiles were to learn and practice the Torah and Kefa should have been okay eating with them.

Galatians 2:14-21 refers to not living by the extra misapplied laws. This is what they would have understood Shaul as saying. In the last verse of Galatians chapter 2, the Complete Jewish Bible translates Galatians 2:21 CJB as, "For if the way in which one attains righteousness is through legalism, then the Messiah's death was pointless." Legalism in this case refers to the extra non-biblical laws we are not required to keep. And, like I've said previously, some of them should not be kept and are sinful because they break the Torah. Yeshua said the same thing in Matthew 15.

If you read the context of Matthew 15, Yeshua said that those who make up laws that supersede the Torah are wrong. "Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition;" Matthew 15:6 NKJV. Those that say all the law is done away with will be judged someday. "These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. . . . While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage;" 2 Peter 2:17, 19 NKJV. Some say we are set free from the law of righteousness. Noah was a righteous man; he did what was right and the world that lived without God's laws was destroyed.

The summaries at the end of each section **are not intended to be a translation**, but intended to integrate the correct understanding from the text. I used the New King James Version to study Galatians because I can see a corresponding English word translated from each Greek word used in the Greek text (the Greek text is made by consensus from manuscripts and then translated into English).² This allows me to find the ancient context which is immersed in a Jewish biblical context.

Here is a possible good way to use this resource:

Read the scripture for that part

Read the Explanation

Answer the questions at the end (answers are provided).

*Some of us have learned Galatians without its context and don't understand it properly. Memorize some of the points of context so you can remember what the sections are really about. Be able to explain them to someone.

Explanation

The Gentiles can also believe – Galatians 3:1-3:9

Explanation	New King James Version
<p>Galatians 3:1 Shaul implies in Galatians 2:21 we should be thinking about the purpose Yeshua came. His statements require thought. His rhetorical arguments are intended to make us think. If our thoughts take the wrong path though, we will come up with false teaching. Shaul talked about misapplied laws and doing ritual law without faith in the previous section.</p> <p>Yeshua did not come in vain. I said previously about Galatians 2:21, "If living right means to follow misapplied laws of a religious system, then why did the Messiah bother coming? Shaul can be blunt. If living right is just practicing laws without faith, then why did the Messiah bother coming (then the Messiah would have died for no purpose)? Shaul implies we should think about what the Messiah did for us – He gave us the Holy Spirit." We will find out that leads us into this section.</p> <p>We found out why Shaul (Paul) was writing this letter; the Gentiles were being excluded in some ways from receiving the Messiah Yeshua (Jesus). Shaul tells us Yeshua sent him to the Gentiles, there were</p>	<p>Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?</p>

² Of course, the translators also readjust the word order as the Greek text does not translate exactly as the English translation. Also, they try to make for an easy word flow by substituting repetitive words in the Greek to give the translation a better feel, but they don't tell us what the contextual issues were.

<p>people who were adding extra laws excluding the Gentiles, and Yeshua himself taught not to teach misapplied laws. We should first of all try to see if this context continues to apply.</p> <p>Beginning in Galatian 3:1, Are they unbelievers (foolish)? Shaul uses the word "bewitched" to tell them that they are not being sensible – what made them do this? "Bewitched" is a very strong word because it is something forbidden in the Torah. They should know better.</p> <p>What is he talking about; what is the context from the beginning of this letter? He is talking about not allowing the Gentiles to be part of the family. He says he clearly taught them that Yeshua (Jesus) died on a stake (that is what the Greek word “stauros” means which is translated cross). He must also mean that Yeshua also died for the Gentiles (context). Don't be tempted to divert from the context.</p> <p>The word "foolish" is strong word. A fool was someone who was without God and therefore damned. Of course, they weren't unbelievers; they weren't foolish. Shaul would never have called them damned. He is just making a strong point.</p>	
<p>Galatians 3:2 Shaul had just made a strong implied message in Galatians 2:20 that we have been crucified with the Messiah, so put to death the wrongly applied laws. That is the context. Righteousness does not come through the religious system of misapplied man-made laws (Galatians 2:21). What did they learn when they received the Messiah? Did they receive the Holy Spirit by working for it (by keeping extra laws)? Are they made perfect by man-made laws ("by the flesh" Verse 3)? They believed in the Messiah and God gave them the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Galatians 3:2 This only I want to learn from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?</p>
<p>Galatians 3:3 You are not unbelievers (foolish). Are they made perfect by themselves (by their own works) or is it the Holy Spirit that is helping them to live right? We should always understand that the gift of God's commandments came at Mt. Sinai to help us live right. The Holy Spirit also was given (about 1447 BCE years later)³ to help us follow God's commandments and live right. They are being made perfect with the help of the Holy Spirit (not the flesh, any man-made commandments).</p>	<p>Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?</p>
<p>Galatians 3:4 Have they suffered for the messianic message without purpose? Do they think it had no purpose? Shaul is asking leading questions. Of course, it was for a purpose. One of those purposes was to accept what the Messiah taught about man-made laws. So, stop observing misapplied laws and accept the Gentiles.</p>	<p>Galatians 3:4 Have you suffered so many things in vain —if indeed it was in vain?</p>
<p>Galatians 3:5 Those who serve us through the Holy Spirit, is it their works (like following a man-made religious system or mechanically following laws)</p>	<p>Galatians 3:5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works</p>

³ Miles R. Jones, PH.D. The Writing of God, Secret of the Real Mount Sinai. Amazon Books On-Demand Publishing LLC. (Seattle, WA 2016). P. 14. Recent scholarship has shown that Israel left Egypt in 1447 BCE and not 1305 BCE.

or do they hear from God and believe? What is the answer to Shaul's leading question? They believe and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit; they believe and do miracles.	miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
Galatians 3:6 He explains that it is also through faith just like Abraham had faith (he was the grandfather of Jacob; Israel wasn't around yet – it was before he was circumcised). Abraham believed and lived right. The Gentiles can also believe in the Messiah just like Abraham believed and live right (righteousness means to live right). ⁴ The arguments for Gentiles to be included as Messianic believers continues.	Galatians 3:6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."
Galatians 3:7 So, the Gentiles (context) that have faith are also children of Abraham. The Jews considered it important to be children of Abraham and do what is right (for example, Luke 3:8).	Galatians 3:7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.
Galatians 3:8 The scriptures prophesied about the God helping the Gentiles to live justly (justified means to live justly). Abraham was told that through him, all the nations would be blessed; see Genesis 12:3. The context has not changed!	Galatians 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."
Galatians 3:9 All those who believe in the true God, the God of Israel, are blessed through Abraham (including the Gentiles). He is not filling in the blanks for us. We need to apply the context. Shaul makes the final point for this section.	Galatians 3:9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Explanation Summary of Galatians 3:1-3:9

Galatians 3:1

Do you believe in God, of course you do (you are not foolish). What has made them not obey the truth (the Torah). Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah was clearly crucified for you (the Jews) and it is implied – for the Gentiles (Yeshua got rid of the misapplied laws (Galatians 2:18) and asks us to have faith (Galatians 2:16), and not just follow endless man-made misapplied laws).

Galatians 3:2

What have you learned since you believed in the Messiah Yeshua? Did you receive the Holy Spirit by just following extra misapplied laws or did you have faith (in the Messiah Yeshua)?

Galatians 3:3

You are not unbelievers (foolish). Are they being perfected by the Holy Spirit or are they being perfected man-made commandments ("the flesh" clearly refers to human man-made laws)?

⁴ Some people are confused by the word "righteous" as though it means a stamp of righteousness. Noah saved the world because he actually did what was right – he was righteous (Genesis 6:9); God destroyed the unrighteous sinners.

Galatians 3:4

Have they suffered for the messianic message without purpose? Do they think it had no purpose? Shaul is asking leading questions. Of course, it was for a purpose. One of those purposes was to accept what the Messiah taught about man-made laws (context). So, we can also imply, stop observing misapplied laws.

Galatians 3:5

Those who serve you through the Holy Spirit and do miracles among you; does he do it by following a man-made religious system or do they believe to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit and do miracles?

Galatians 3:6

Abraham believed and lived right and God saw that he lived right. (That was before he was circumcised. Therefore, Shaul implies that the Gentiles can also believe in the Messiah and live right just as Abraham lived right.)

Galatians 3:7

So, your faith makes you children of Abraham and it is also implied that the Gentiles who are of faith are children of Abraham and can live right.

Galatians 3:8

The scriptures prophesied about God helping the Gentiles to believe and live justly. God prophesied to Abraham that all the nations would be blessed through him.

Galatians 3:9

All those who believe in the true God, the God of Israel, are blessed through Abraham (it is implied – including the Gentiles).

Explanation

We are delivered from the curse of the man-made laws. Galatians 3:10-14

<p>Galatians 3:10 Shaul continues to make a point from his previous implied point that the Gentiles can have faith and live justly, the scriptures prophesied this, and all those who believe in the true God both Jew and Gentile are blessed through Abraham.</p> <p>In Galatians 3:10, Shaul quotes Deuteronomy 27:26, "A curse on anyone who does not confirm the words of this Torah by putting them into practice." Those that don't keep the Torah are under a curse. It's not the law that is a curse.</p> <p>It says cursed is anyone who doesn't keep the Torah, the law. That's been the issue all along. The Torah breakers were not keeping the Torah right and excluding the Gentiles from accepting the Messiah.</p> <p>Shaul makes two points in Galatians 2:14-21. We have to have faith in God and not ritual without faith. He also says we don't want to build another system of man-made laws in Galatians 2:18.</p>	<p>Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."</p>
<p>Galatians 3:11 No one is made just by only doing laws without faith. A person who lives justly (justified means to live justly) requires that we also have</p>	<p>Galatians 3:11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of</p>

<p>faith in God. It says in Habakkuk 2:4 CJB, "The righteous will attain life through trusting faithfulness;" Habakkuk 2:4 CJB. Anyone can do something without their heart being in it. We must also have faith in God.</p> <p>You might want to note. People who start interpreting the Bible wrong apply their wrong thinking to all the scriptures and develop their own false theology. Just like Eve changed what God had said, they change the meaning of the scriptures and bring a curse on themselves like it says in Deuteronomy 27:26, "A curse on anyone who does not confirm the words of this Torah."</p> <p>It is our responsibility first to do what is right. Then, try to help others <u>with humility</u> to also begin doing what is right. Don't expect people to automatically change. It can take a while to unlearn false teaching; be loving, caring, and help them to understand little by little. Just like Eve was deceived, they are deceived and we need to help them in love (2 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 4:15).</p>	<p>God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."</p>
<p>Galatians 3:12 The law in itself doesn't require faith, but those who live by them will benefit from them. Shaul quotes Leviticus 18:4-5 NKJV, "You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord."</p> <p>Since he is quoting this, he obviously doesn't mean the law is done away with. Anyone who keeps the law will benefit from them (Deuteronomy 4:6)</p>	<p>Galatians 3:12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."</p>
<p>Galatians 3:13 The Messiah has redeemed us from being cursed. They were living by misapplied laws and he came to set us free from these misapplied man-made laws so we could observe the law properly.</p> <p>The Torah says that anyone hanged on a tree is cursed (Deuteronomy 21:23), so Shaul sees that Yeshua dying on a tree has removed our curse, the extra man-made laws that were contrary to the Torah. It also stands to make sense that Yeshua has removed the man-made laws that are keeping the Gentiles outside the community of believers – we can understand this from the context of implied thinking that Shaul expects.</p>	<p>Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),</p>
<p>Galatians 3:14 Since the man-made laws are keeping the Gentiles outside the community of believers has been removed, the blessing of Abraham can be fully realized (come to pass) and through the Messiah Yeshua, both Jew and Gentile can receive the promise of the Holy Spirit by our faith.</p>	<p>Galatians 3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.</p>

Explanation Summary of Galatians 3:10-14

Galatians 3:10

The Bible says that cursed is anyone who doesn't keep the law. Deuteronomy 27:26, "A curse on anyone who does not confirm the words of this Torah by putting them into practice."

Galatians 3:11

No one is made just by only doing laws without faith. A person who lives justly (justified means to live justly) requires that we also have faith in God. It says in Habakkuk 2:4 CJB, "The righteous will attain life through trusting faithfulness;" Habakkuk 2:4 CJB. Anyone can do something without their heart being in it. We must also have faith in God.

Galatians 3:12

The law in itself doesn't require faith, but those who live by the law will benefit (Deuteronomy 4:6) from the law. Shaul quotes Leviticus 18:4-5.

Galatians 3:13

The Messiah has redeemed us from being cursed because of the observance of extra man-made misapplied laws. He died on a tree as our substitute and removed the curse (Deuteronomy 21:23) so we don't need to observe any misapplied man-made laws. Also we should understand, Yeshua has removed the man-made laws that are keeping the Gentiles outside the community of believers.

Galatians 3:14

Since the man-made laws are keeping the Gentiles outside the community of believers has been removed, the blessing of Abraham can be fully realized (come to pass) and through the Messiah Yeshua, both Jew and Gentile can receive the promise of the Holy Spirit by our faith.

Explanation

The Whole World Will Be Blessed by Abraham. Galatians 3:15-18

<p>Galatians 3:15 Shaul is using an example: In any legal agreement (covenant), after it is agreed upon, it is valid. It cannot be changed because it is a valid legal agreement.</p>	<p>Galatians 3:15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.</p>
<p>Galatians 3:16 Shaul says a promise was made to Abraham and his seed from whom the whole world would be blessed which is the Messiah.</p>	<p>Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.</p>
<p>Galatians 3:17 Because it is a covenant (to Abraham), it cannot be annulled. The Mt. Sinai law did not annul it. It was confirmed by God by the coming of the Messiah and so the promise is in effect and cannot be made of no effect.</p>	<p>Galatians 3:17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant</p>

	that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.
Galatians 3:18 Because if our Messianic inheritance is from the law, it is not from Abraham's promise, but God gave the promise to Abraham.	Galatians 3:18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Explanation Summary of Galatians 3:10-14

Galatians 3:15

In any legal agreement (covenant), after it is agreed upon, it is valid. It cannot be changed because it is a valid legal agreement.

Galatians 3:16

A promise was made to Abraham and his seed from whom the whole world would be blessed which is the Messiah.

Galatians 3:17

Because it is a covenant (to Abraham), it cannot be annulled. The Mt. Sinai law did not annul it. It was confirmed by God by the coming of the Messiah and so the promise is in effect and cannot be made of no effect.

Galatians 3:18

Because if our Messianic inheritance is from the law, it is not from Abraham's promise, but God gave the promise to Abraham.

Major Points to Remember from this Section

What Jewish ideas does Shaul use in this section?

Misapplied Jewish laws did not give us the Holy Spirit.

Abraham was deemed right before God because he did what was right.

Those that don't keep the Torah are cursed.

Questions

Yeshua died for _____ and _____.

Jew and Gentile

Shaul says that God promised to bless the world through Abraham and that was fulfilled by the coming of the Messiah Yeshua. True or False

True

Shaul says that one of the reasons the Messiah Yeshua came was to get rid of the misapplied man-made laws. True or False

True

Shaul said that one of the reasons the Messiah came was to get rid of circumcision. True or False.
False. Shaul later shares he teaches circumcision (Galatians 5:11).

We received the blessing of _____ through Yeshua the _____ and we receive the promised Holy Spirit by _____.
Abraham, Messiah, faith.

Does this section have anything to do with the Gentiles? Explain.

We learned that it was the misapplied laws that was keeping the Gentiles from being accepted as part of the family of believers.

Abraham lived right before he was circumcised, so the Gentiles can also live right (be righteous).

Did they receive the Holy Spirit by following misapplied man-made laws? How did they receive it?

No. By faith in the Messiah Yeshua. Galatians 3:2

What does Habakkuk 2:4 say about righteousness and trust?

The righteous (those who live right) will receive life by "trusting faithfulness." Galatians 3:11

God gave the Messianic promise to Abraham and the law did not annul the promise.

True, Galatians 3:18