

**Sermon Notes:****5/6/2007**

Major Thesis of Galatians: 2:16

*“So we, too, have put our faith in Jesus Christ that we may be justified by faith and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.”*

- Remember that God gave you his Spirit because you expressed faith, not because you were observing the law (3:5)
- Similarly, Abraham believed God, and God promised his salvation to the Gentiles, beginning with Abraham. (3:8-9)
- Besides, the law does not bring life. It brings a curse because no one can perfectly keep it. (3:10-12)
- Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us (3:13)
- Through Christ, Gentiles can receive the promise of the Spirit that began with Abraham. (3:14)

Okay Paul--then what's the point of the Jewish Law?

**Christ Community Church****Series on Galatians**

Galatians 3:15-25 “The Law and the Promise”

May 6<sup>th</sup> 2007

Pastor Jim Folk

Two major Old Testament Covenants:

- God's covenant with Israel given through Moses- “The Law”
- God's covenant with Abraham- “The Promise”

*Question:* Does one covenant override or change the other?

*Paul's Answer:* The giving of the Law does not C\_\_\_\_\_ or D\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_\_ with God's only way of salvation--justification by faith.

(verses 15-18) Because...

(verses 19-20) Because...

(verses 21-22) Because...

(verses 23-25) Because...

**Take Heart...**

**Christ Community Church**  
Sermon Discussion Questions

May 6<sup>th</sup> 2007

1. Think of the different agreements that are commonly used between individuals in our society: contracts, partnerships, wills, court settlements, etc. What are the consequences of breaking those agreements? Who is called upon to enforce such agreements?
2. In Galatians 3:15-25 and Romans 4 Paul uses similar arguments. Read Romans 4:16-25. What in this text shows God's miraculous power? Think about verse 17 in relation to the character of God: "the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were." How has God worked in this way in your life? Can you think of a situation where God has changed someone's life 180 degrees?
3. A passage that explains the role of God's law in relation to our faith is Romans chapter 7. Read verses 1-12 and then 21-25. Discuss what purpose the law serves in the life of the Christian, both before a person comes to faith and after. How does Paul show that the law serves a good purpose? What is God's answer to our sinful nature?
4. Galatians 3:22 reads that the whole world is "a prisoner of sin". In what ways do you see people held captive by sin? To put it another way- how does your heart ache for people who need freedom from a sinful world? Share your heart and passions.
5. Galatians 3:25 reads, "Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law." Following God's ways for the wrong reasons can sap our joy. Are there areas of your life where you feel as though you are living by guilt or trying to please others? Are there areas where the Lord has given you a sense of freedom to be who you are? Pray for one another that God would give you an attitude of freedom as you seek to obey him.

**Christ Community Church**  
Key Text: Galatians 3:26-4:7

Daily Readings  
May 7<sup>th</sup>-May 13<sup>th</sup> 2007

**Monday-** Our main text for the week is Galatians 3:26-4:7. Think about the change in status from being a slave, to becoming a son, to becoming an heir. Give thanks today that you and other brothers and sisters in Christ share the same inheritance in your union with Christ.

**Tuesday-** Paul emphasizes in Galatians 3:28 that there is no distinction among those of different races with regard to salvation. All those who have faith in Christ are accepted by God. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and think about how Christ has broken down the barriers between people of different backgrounds (in that day- Jew and Gentile).

**Wednesday-** Galatians 3:27 states that baptism is a symbol of our union, or identification with Christ. Read Romans 6:1-14 and think about how baptism (going under the water and coming up again) symbolizes the Christian's putting aside the old ways and their commitment to a new way of life with Christ. Is there someone you know who would like to be baptized? Talk about it with them.

**Thursday-** A wonderful parable about God our heavenly father is Luke 15:11-32. How did the younger son rebel against his father? How did the father "pursue" the son? How did the older brother react?

**Friday-** An example of the conflict between slavery and son-ship is Genesis 21:1-20. What made Sarah react in anger? How did God show his grace to Hagar and Ishmael?

**Saturday & Sunday-** Read John 8:27-37. Here Jesus debates with the Pharisees over their religious heritage. Note the contrast between being slaves to sin and being true sons of God. What does it take to be set free from sin?

*"We are the sons of God, because we have received the same Spirit as his only Son."*

John Calvin, commentary on Galatians 4:6