

The Redeemed Galatians Ch 3

Ice-Breaker

Think of an example where you found yourself guilty of a wrong doing where someone let you off the hook. Was the wrong-doing satisfied in any way or did it remain unpunished?

Read Ch 3- 4:7 in one go

Discuss what you think is the main idea or direction of the writer. Address any words that you're unsure of and discuss any repetitive words or ideas.

Q. Looking particularly at verses 3:10-14. What is the outcome for those who try to find merit with God by obeying rules, for instance the 10 commandments? (v10) _____

Q. What do you think it means to be redeemed? Discuss _____

Q. What did Jesus do to free us from the curse? _____

Discuss how Jesus becoming a curse for us in effect redeems us? (v13) _____

On one hand the Jews argue that observance of the law is tied up with being the people of God and adherence to law such as circumcision makes you 'righteous' or right with God. Here Paul uses the word redeem particularly

to remind his readers that whether they are Jew or Gentile, they are law-breakers and under curse. This is because no man can fully obey the perfect law of God and is therefore 'under curse' Deut 27:26. To redeem someone means to win back via some sort of exchange. On the great stage of salvation God gave over His son, Jesus exchanges his perfect and sinless purity to become a curse for and instead of humanity. He literally becomes our curse and therefore God takes His wrath upon his son. His anger for our 'law-breaking' is diverted away from us onto Jesus and God himself redeems us through the body of Jesus.

Think about it.

Q. What does this tell us about the heart of God towards his people?

Q What does it tell us about Jesus?

In Ch3:1-9 Paul is bewildered by the Galatians because it was clear that the Holy Spirit came with power not while they were living by the law, but when they heard the gospel message about the crucifixion of Jesus.

Q. Is trust in Jesus' redemption on the cross sufficient for us to be saved? Do we need to contribute good works to be saved? From these verses 3:1-22, formulate your reasons.

Q. Look over verses 3:23-4:7 _____

Q. What are the two outcomes of living by faith in Jesus? (27-29) _____

Q. What then does this tells us about the purpose of the law? (3:24 and 4:1)._____

The law was never there as a means to earn our merit or favour before God. Only perfection is worthy of our great God! Law does guide us as a guardian, revealing to us our failures so that we will realize our sinful nature. The law therefore guides us to the foot of grace when we recognize that we fall short of God's expectation.

The other point which reminds us that God is not looking for perfection in us is because the very heart of God's promise to Abraham is about relationship. This is so evident because the outcome or fruit of a 'Spirit-filled ' life is not that we automatically are able to obey the whole law, but that we cry out 'Abba Father', an inner realization of the filial reality of our life 'in Christ'.

Summarise the passage you have read tonight in a brief sentence:

Pray- Spend some time praying for three people you have a connection with, who might be interested in coming to church.
