

Taking it Home:

- The Law exposed the need for a Savior. The Law in essence, guides people to the understanding that they need salvation by pointing out they are slaves to sin, Satan and spiritual death and they need a Savior to free them from their sin. Have you dealt with your sin by trusting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior (Cf. John 3:16; 8:34-36; 1 John 1:9)?
- Are you confused about obeying “old religious traditions” you may have been taught as a child, but they are not found in the Bible? Are “religious traditions” keeping you from being freed from the bondage to the Law or legalism? What must I do to be free? **READ John 8:32, 36; Rom. 6:6-8; Gal. 2:16.**
- Did you know salvation is by God’s grace (undeserved favor) through your faith? Obeying the Law and works (deeds) have no bearing on your salvation? **READ Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:4-7.**
- What is your personal testimony (the story of how you came to saving faith in Jesus Christ)? Have you ever told your testimony to another person? This week tell another person your personal testimony of salvation.

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew’s sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the “Write This Down” tab.

Those Who Are of Faith

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelfc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 27, 2012

Galatians 3:1-29

Quick Review: Those who are of faith are blessed, and are a blessing to the nations. Indeed, the life of faith (per Abraham) precedes the giving of the law (per Moses). The law points out our need for salvation, and Christ redeemed us from its penalties. But it is faith in Christ that allows us access to the salvation-gift. Paul demonstrates that God's Promised Seed secures for us righteousness while the subsequent law unveils our need for a Savior.

My Story:

- Most everyone has met a person, or two, during their life who was absolutely brilliant intellectually but was horribly lacking in common sense, or they are intentionally dumb because they choose to believe a falsehood. These are the kinds of people the Bible says are "foolish." Relate a time when you observed an intellectually brilliant person make many foolish mistakes.
- Have you ever been duped? You may consider yourself "savvy" or a difficult person to fool, but has there been a time in your life when you were duped? Share your experience. Once you realized you were "duped," how did that make you feel?
- Describe faith. Make a list of the things you have faith in everyday? What is saving faith?

Growing Deeper:

- Paul states in Galatians 3:1, "**You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified?**" What did Paul mean by this very contentious and powerful statement against the Judaizers and the "foolish" Galatians who believed the false teachers? Was the crucifixion of Jesus Christ clearly enough for the atonement of sin, or was it insufficient; is it necessary to confess Christ plus remain under Mosaic law? (Cf. Gal. 3:11; 26).
 - **Foolish: Greek** – anoetes: "lacking intelligence and wisdom; intentional stupidity."
 - **Bewitched: Greek** – baskaino: "cast under some evil spell by a malignant influence."
- What does it mean to be "*righteous*?" How does a person become "*righteous*?" **READ and interpret: Romans 1:17; 21-22; 10:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 1:11; James 2:23; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 2:29.** Is a person ever declared "*righteous*" because of the works of the Law? **READ Gal. 2:16.**
- It is abundantly clear from Galatians chapters 1 & 2 there can only be one way to salvation, and that is by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Before Jesus Christ, how was Abraham and people living during the Old Testament saved (**Cf. Gal. 3:6-9**)? **READ and interpret the "Faith" of the Old Testament saints in Hebrews chapter 11:1-31.**
- According to the Apostle Paul, how is a person classified as one of God's "sons?" **READ and Interpret: John 1:12; Romans 8:14; Gal. 3:26; 4:5-6; 5:18.** Is being a "son of God" due to the birth right as a Jew? Is it due to keeping the Law? Why has God adopted believers into His family and called them sons? (**READ Ephesians 1:4-7**).
- Paul says in Gal. 3:24-25, "*Therefore the Law has become our guardian to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.*" Pastor Matthew shared what a "*guardian*" was and what Paul was referring too. What was Pastor Matthew's modern day illustration of a guardian, teacher/tutor?
 - **Guardian** – Greek: *paidagogos* – "*an instructor or teacher of children, a schoolmaster, tutor. Originally referred to the slaves who taught the boys of aristocrats, i.e. Aristotle and Socrates were pedagogues.*"
- Pastor Matthew also stated, "The Law is a servant to a greater master." What did he mean by that statement?