

***“Standing On The Promise”***  
***Galatians 3:15-18***

**Introduction:**

1. Galatians 3:13 Makes A Declaration:
  - That Applies To Everyone Who:
    - Believes On The Lord Jesus Christ!
  - It Declares, Simply & Clearly:
    - “Christ Hath Redeemed Us From The Curse Of The Law!”
    - “Christ Hath Redeemed Us From The Curse Of The Law!”
  - This Is One Of The Great Blessings:
    - That A Christian Can Truly Know!
      - And Yet - How Many Live Their Lives Without The Full Assurance Of That Truth?
2. Instead - Many Christians Live:
  - With Doubt:
    - Wondering If Their Faith Is Enough!
  - Others Live In Despair:
    - Because Of The Continuing Presence Of Sin “Which Doth So Easily Beset Us!” (Hebrews 12:1)
  - And Still Others Are Easily Deceived:
    - By Those Who Wish To Add Or Take Away Something From That Gospel Truth!
  - **IE:** Many Christians Live Their Lives:
    - Like A Ship That Is Sailing Through A Storm!
      - One Wave Hitting It After Another!
    - Feeling Like, At Any Moment:
      - They Will Capsize And Sink To The Bottom Of The Sea!
  - And This Is Where We Find The Churches & Christians:
    - Here In The Book Of Galatians!
3. But - As We Head Back To Galatians Chapter 3 This Morning:
  - We Find The Lord Giving Them & Us:
    - Through The Apostle Paul:
      - Another Gospel Truth That Will Stabilize Our Faith In The Middle Of The Dangerous Storms That We Too Will Face!
  - The Truth That:
    - All Of The Blessings Of God:
      - Given To Those Who Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ!
    - All Of The Blessings Of God:
      - Are Backed By Sure Promise Of God!
  - And Like Abraham:
    - We Can Be “Fully Persuaded That, What [God Promised], He [Is] Able Also To Perform!” (Romans 4:21)
4. And In Galatians 3:15-18 We Find This Truth:
  - “Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man’s covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. / Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. / And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. / For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise!”
    - Through These Verses - We Find The Absolute Certainty:
      - Of The Promise Of God’s Grace:
        - God’s Saving Grace!
    - And Every True Christian:
      - Can Stand On This Promise!
        - Let’s Look At This Promise More Closely Together This Morning!

\* First - We See:

1. ***An Illustration Of God’s Promise Of Grace:***
  - In 3:15 - Where Paul’s Focus Is The Certainty:
    - Of God’s Promise:

- “Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man’s covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto!”
- Here - Paul Is Comparing:
  - The Promises & The Covenant Of God:
    - With The Promises & Covenant Of Man!
    - And So - His Illustration Begins With:
- The Covenant Of Men:
  - A Covenant Is A Solemn Agreement:
    - Made Between Two Or More People:
      - In Which Certain Promises Are Made & Must Be Kept No Matter What!
  - Have You Ever Made A Covenant With Someone Else?
    - You Have - If You Are Married!
    - You Have - If You Bought A Home Or A Car!
    - You Have - If You Made Out A Will!
  - And Each Time You Made A Covenant:
    - Or A Contract With Someone:
      - You Intended For That Agreement To Always Stay In Force!
  - And That Is Why We Also See In 3:15:
- The Confirmation Of Men:
  - Agreements & Covenants Are Sealed & Confirmed In Some Way!
  - The Marriage Covenant:
    - Is Sealed With A Ring!
  - A Covenant Made With Property:
    - Is Sealed With The Transfer Of A Deed!
  - Other Covenants Are Sealed:
    - With A Stamp!
  - **IE**: Several Years Ago - My Wife & I Completed Our Wills, Which Told Of What We Wanted Done With Our Property & Our Family If We Were To Pass Away! We Signed Them In Front Of Witnesses, Who Also Signed The Documents, And Then All Of Our Signatures Were Verified & Sealed With The Stamp Of A Notary! Now In Force!
- And So - Paul’s Point Is - Whenever We As People:
  - Enter Into One Of These Kinds Of Agreements:
    - It Is Commonly Accepted To Be Legally Valid!
  - Which Is Why - Normally:
    - “No Man Disannulleth, Or Addeth Thereto!”
  - Things Can’t Be Changed:
    - After The Fact! After It Has Been Confirmed!
  - Nothing Can Be Added Or Taken Away From:
    - A Contract Or A Covenant:
      - On A Whim!
  - And If This Is True:
    - About A Covenant Or A Promise:
      - Made Between Men!
  - Imagine How True This Must Be:
    - When The Covenant & Promise:
      - Is Made By God!
  - Christians Can Surely:
    - Stand Upon The Promise Of God!
    - But What Promise Is Paul Talking About In These Verses?

\* We Also See:

2. ***The Identity Of God’s Promise Of Grace:***

- In 3:16 - Where Paul’s Focus Is On:
  - God’s Promise Of A Seed:
    - “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ!”
  - Once Again - Paul Points Back To The Old Testament:
    - And The Life Of Abraham:

- Who Was Justified By Faith, And Not By His Own Works & Effort!
- And At Several Points In Abraham's Life:
  - God Made Promises To Him:
    - Which Made Up His Covenant! Let's Look At Some Of Them Together!
- The Beginning Of Abraham's Story:
  - And Of God's Promise Of Blessing:
    - Genesis 12:1-3 - "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: / And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: / And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed!"
- But As We Go Further:
  - We Find God's Promise & Covenant Is Not Just With & For Abraham:
    - But Also With & For His Seed!
  - When Abraham Finally Enters The Land Of Canaan - Genesis 12:6-7 - "And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. / And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him!"
- Again - After Abraham Divided The Land With His Nephew, Lot:
  - God Renews His Promise & Covenant:
    - Genesis 13:14-16 - "And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: / For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. / And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered!"
- Again - After Abraham Defeated The Kings Of Canaan:
  - God Again Renews His Promise & Covenant:
    - Genesis 15:5-6 - "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. / And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness!"
- And One Final Time - When God Changed His Name To Abraham When He Was 99 Years Old:
  - Genesis 17:7 - "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee!"
- But In All Of These Place & At All Of These Times:
  - Just Who Is God Talking About:
    - When He Speaks Of Abraham's Seed?
      - Well - We Need To Go Back To Galatians 3 To Discover:
- The Nature Of Abraham's Seed:
  - "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one!"
    - As We Read Through The Genesis Account Of Abraham's Life:
      - It Is Easy For Us To Conclude That The "Seed" God Refers To Is Abraham's Natural Family - And By Extension - The Jewish Nation!
  - But The Holy Spirit Knows Better Than We Do:
    - When He Inspired Moses To Write The Singular Word: "Seed" Instead Of The Plural Word: "Seeds!"
      - And So - Paul Gives The True Meaning & Interpretation Of God's Promise & Covenant!
  - It Was Not A Group Of Many Individual People:
    - That God Was Extending His Promises & Covenant To! It Was Not A Single Nation – Like The Jewish Nation – No:
      - It Was To One Individual!
      - And We Even Know:
- The Name Of Abraham's Seed:
  - "And To Thy Seed, Which Is Christ!"
    - The Primary Seed That God Was Referring To In All Of Those Places In Genesis:
      - Was The Lord Jesus Christ Himself!
- And So - The Promise & Covenant Of God Given To Abraham:

- Belongs Also To Christ:
  - And To All Who Are In Christ:
    - And United With Him As His Body!
      - Even As 1 Corinthians 12:12 Describes Us - "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.
- And This Is Why We Can Stand On The Promise Of God!
  - Because They Were Made:
    - To His Own Son - Christ - And To All Who Believe In Him!

\* And Because Of This - We Also See:

### 3. ***The Immutability Of God's Promise Of Grace!***

- In 3:17 - "And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect!"
  - Just As When A Covenant Or Contract:
    - Is Made Between Men:
      - It Is Considered Legally Binding!
  - So It Is With This Covenant Of God:
    - To Justify & To Bless Those:
      - Who Believe In & Are United With Christ!
  - God's Promise Of Grace:
    - Is Binding & Immutable!
    - For It Is:
      - A Confirmed Covenant!
        - "Confirmed Before Of God In Christ!"
          - Back In Genesis 15 - To Confirm & To Seal:
            - His Own Covenant With Abraham:
              - 15:9-10 - God "Said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. / And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not!"
                - 15:17-18a - "And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. / In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram!"
    - God's Covenant Was Confirmed:
      - By Blood!
        - It Was A Serious & Solemn Commitment To Abraham & His Seed - To Christ!
          - Psalm 89:3-4 - "I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, / Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations!"
        - And That Is Why God's Promise Of Grace Is Also:
  - A Changeless Covenant!
    - "The law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect!"
      - All Of This Took Place 430 Years Before The Mosaic Law & Economy:
        - Was Ever Given!
    - And That Is Why:
      - Noone Can Interfere Or Change:
        - The Promise Of God!
    - Titus 1:2 Reminds Us Also:
      - Of The Immutable & Unchanging Nature:
        - Of God & His Promises!
      - "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began!"
    - Hebrews 6:17-18 Also Tells Us Of:
      - The Unchanging Nature:
        - Of His Promises & Covenant:
          - "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: / That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope

- set before us!"
- This Is Why A Christian Can:
  - Stand On The Promise Of God's Grace!
    - Because Noone & Nothing Can:
      - Intervene Or Interfere With It!
  - This Is What Makes God's Covenant:
    - Stand Out From Even A Man's Covenant!
      - Because There Are Times When A Covenant Or A Contract Made By Us:
        - Can Be Broken Or Changed!
    - Sometimes:
      - Our Promises Are Broken!
        - We Are Fallible & Broken People Ourselves!
      - And Even Courts Have Intervened To Change Or Cancel Parts Of A Contract!
  - But This Can Never Happen With The Promises Of God!
    - They Will Always Be:
      - "In Effect!"
        - And That Can Give Christians An Even Greater Hope!

\* A Hope For:

**4. *The Inheritance Of God's Promise Of Grace!***

- 3:18 - "For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise!"
  - The Inheritance Given Here:
    - Is The Inheritance Of All The Blessings:
      - Which God Promises To Those Who Believe In His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ!
  - It's Not Just Talking About:
    - The Inheritance Of Land:
      - But Of Righteousness!
        - Justification By Faith!
      - And Of A Relationship!
        - Where He Is Our God & We Are His People!
      - And Of Real Life!
        - That Is Eternal & Abundant!
    - It's Talking About The Inheritance We Find In:
      - Ephesians 1:3 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ!"
        - And This Inheritance Is:
  - Firmly Given! It Is Fixed!
    - "If The Inheritance Be Of The Law, It Is No More Of Promise!"
      - God Himself Did Not & Could Not Add Any Other Condition To His Covenant!
        - The Law Was Not Something Added To God's Covenant Of Grace!
    - The Timeframe Of The Law Itself:
      - Is Evidence Of That! It Came Later, Much Later:
        - 430 Years Later!
          - And Served A Different Purpose!
    - A Christian's Inheritance, Like God's Promises:
      - Is Fixed & Immutable! And It Was Also:
  - Freely Given!
    - "But God Gave It To Abraham!"
      - And To Us - For Nothing That He Saw In Us!
        - But Completely From His Own Goodness & His Own Grace!
    - There Was Nothing Abraham Could Do:
      - To Earn God's Favor & Promises!
        - Romans 11:6 - "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work!"
          - No - All He Did Was:
            - Believe In The Promise & Covenant Freely Given To Him By God!
      - And That Is All We Can Do:
        - Believe In What He Has Freely Given To Us!

- An Inheritance That Is Also:
- Faithfully Given!
  - “By Promise!”
    - When God Makes A Promise:
    - Or Enters Into A Covenant:
      - Not Only Does He Intend For It To Stay In Effect!
    - He Ensures That It Does!
      - Which Can Never Be Said Of Our Own Promises, Contracts Or Covenants!
  - Because - As Numbers 23:19 Reminds Us:
    - “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”

**Conclusion:**

1. These Are All Reasons Why We Can:
  - Stand On The Promise Of God’s Grace!
    - And Be Sure:
      - That We Belong To Him!
  - No Doubt / Now Despair / No Deception:
    - Needs To Sway Us Of Course:
      - In Our Lives Of Faith As Christians!
  - Because The Promise & Covenant:
    - Made To Abraham & His Seed – That Is Christ:
      - So Many Years Ago:
    - Remains In Effect For All Who Believe In Him!

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