

“Father Abraham!”
Galatians 3:6-9

Introduction:

1. Before We Have The Lord's Supper This Morning:
 - I Would Like For Us To Head Back To:
 - Galatians 3:
 - Where Paul Is Explaining His Great Claim That We Find In Chapter 2:
 - Verse 16 - “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified!”
 - And He Is Writing To Believers:
 - Who Have Already Experienced:
 - Justification By Faith Alone!
 - And Yet, They Are Starting To Wonder / To Question:
 - Is That Really Enough?
 - Is That Really All That Is Needed?
 - So In The First 5 Verses Of Chapter 3:
 - Paul Asks Some Very Important Questions:
 - To Get Them Thinking About Their Own Personal Christian Experience!
 - All The Blessings & Benefits You Have Received As A Christian:
 - Did You Receive Them By Faith Or By Works?
 - And The Answer He Is Looking For Is Clearly:
 - “By The Hearing Of Faith!” & Faith Alone!
2. But Paul Does Not Only Appeal:
 - To Their Experience As Christians:
 - But Also To Scripture:
 - As The Basis Of His Claim!
 - And This Is An Important Principle That We Need To Follow In Our Own Lives!
 - Personal Experience Can Be Different With Each Person, And Can Change So Quickly & So Easily!
 - But The Word Of God Will Always Stay The Same!
 - Isaiah 40:8 - “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever!”
 - So Paul Goes Back To The Book Of Genesis:
 - To Show To Us Once Again That:
 - Salvation / Justification Only Comes Through:
 - “The Hearing Of Faith!”
 - Remember What The Bible Tells Us About:
 - Abraham?
 - 3:6-9 - “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. / 7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. / 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. / 9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham!”
3. So - How Do We Know That Salvation Comes Through:
 - “The Hearing Of Faith?”
 - Because Of What The Bible Tells Us:
 - About Abraham!
 - Now - Abraham Was, According To The Jews:
 - The Greatest Patriarch Of The Old Testament!
 - And To Bring Abraham Into This:
 - Was To Strike At The Very Heart Of The Jewish Identity!
 - And Even The Jews Goal:
 - Of Making Gentiles Live Like Jews When They Come To Christ!
 - Jesus Himself Addressed This:
 - In The Gospels - In Matthew 3:9 - “Think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father!”
 - For Many Of The Jews - Having Abraham As Their Father Was All The Proof They Needed:

- That They Had A Relationship With The God Of Abraham!
- It Was A Source Of Great Pride To Them!
- But What Jesus Told Them:
 - And What Paul Is Telling Us:
 - Is That - If Abraham Is The Greatest Patriarch Of The Old Testament:
 - Then Really Listen To What The Scriptures Say About Him!
 - Because They Only Way You Are The “Children Of Abraham” Is If You Have More Things In Common:
 - With Him Than Just A “Flesh & Blood” Relationship!
- You May Be Related To Abraham:
 - But Still Not Have The God Of Abraham!
 - Because You Must Share:

* First & Foremost:

1. *The Faith Of Abraham!*

- Which We See In 3:6 - “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness!”
 - In This Verse, Paul Goes Back To Genesis 15:6:
 - To Show That Faith Is The Only Way To Have A Right Relationship With God!
 - Not By The Works Of The Law!
 - Not By Your Ancestry!
 - But By Faith Alone!
 - What Paul Was Preaching & Teaching To Them:
 - Was Nothing New!
 - Faith Has Always Been What God Has Required For Men To Come To Him!
 - So - If You Want To Have The Same Kind Of Relationship With God:
 - That Abraham Did:
 - Then Follow After The Faith Of Abraham!
 - Which We Can See Even In This One Verse! We See:
- Abraham’s Great Need:
 - Abraham Needed “Righteousness!”
 - In And Of Himself, He Was Not Righteous!
 - Otherwise, This Verse In The Story Of Abraham’s Life Would Be Completely Unnecessary!
 - Abraham Was A Man – Just Like We Are!
 - And As A Man – He Was A Sinner:
 - Just Like We Are!
 - And There Was Nothing He Could Do About It!
 - There Was No Law That He Could Keep:
 - There Was No Sacrifice That He Could Make:
 - That Would Give Him The Righteousness He Needed In Order To Stand Before God!
 - We All Share In The Same Need:
 - As Abraham! For Righteousness! But We Also See:
- Abraham’s Great Promise:
 - God Came To Abraham – Because Abraham Could Not Go To God On His Own!
 - And In Several Places In Genesis, It Says That:
 - “The Word Of The Lord Came” To Him!
 - God Spoke To Abraham:
 - And Gave Him His Word:
 - And Promised Abraham Many Things:
 - If He Would Just Believe & Follow Him!
 - What Did Abraham Do With God’s Word To Him?
 - First – He Would Have “Heard” It!
 - He Would Have Listened To It!
 - And As Romans 10:17 Tells Us:
 - “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!”
 - Like Abraham:
 - We Need To Really Listen To & Hear:
 - The Word Of God!
 - Because It Is Only In Connection With The Word Of God That We See:

- Abraham's Great Faith:
 - After He Heard God's Words & Promises To Him:
 - "Abraham Believed God!"
 - That's It!
 - Now - What Is Missing In This Verse:
 - Is Significant!
 - Because The Jews & Even Some Of The Gentiles Were Starting To Think That Something Else Needed To Be Added To Their Faith, In Order To Be "Righteous" Before God!
 - But That Is Not The Case With Abraham!
 - He Simply "Believed God" And His Word!
 - Especially About The Promise About "His Seed" That Would Be The Redeemer He & The Whole World Needed!
 - We All Need To Share In:
 - The Simple Faith Of Abraham!
 - Because Then We See:
- Abraham's Great Gift:
 - What Was The Result Of Abraham's Faith?
 - "It Was Accounted To Him For Righteousness!"
 - Now This Does Not Mean That His Faith Was Righteousness!
 - Because Faith & Righteousness Are Really Two Different Things!
 - But His Faith Led Him To God's Gift Of Righteousness:
 - That God "Accounted" To Him & "Imputed" To His Account!
 - Henry - "His Faith Fastened Upon The Word & Promise Of God, And Upon His Believing He Was Owned And Accepted Of God As A Righteous Man!"
- And How Did He Receive This Gift?
 - Through "The Hearing Of Faith!"
 - And Faith Alone!
 - In Order To Be Justified By God:
 - We Must Share In The Faith Of Abraham!
 - See Our Same Need!
 - Hear The Same Word!
 - Believe The Same Promise!
 - And Receive The Same Gift!
 - Has This Happened In Your Life?
 - If So - Then You Also Share In:

2. ***The Family Of Abraham!***

- 3:7 - "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham!"
 - There Was A Song I Learned When I Was A Kid:
 - A Fun Song - Called "Father Abraham!"
 - At The Time, There Was Not Much Meaning To The Song For Us Kids - It Was Meant To Be More Of An Activity Song - To Help Us Get Rid Of Our Nervous Energy, So That We Would Sit Still!
 - But Part Of The Song Was This:
 - "Father Abraham Had Many Sons, Many Sons Had Father Abraham! I Am One Of Them, And So Are You, So Let's Just Praise The Lord!"
 - There's More Truth To That Song:
 - Than I Would Have Thought!
 - Remember The Great Claim Of The Jew?
 - "We Have Abraham As Our Father!"
 - But What Did Jesus Tell Those Jews?
 - Matthew 3:9 - "And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham!"
 - And Now - Paul Tells Us That Through Faith:
 - You Can Have:
- A Greater Confidence!

- “Know Ye Therefore That They Which Are Of Faith!”
 - This Can Be Seen:
 - As A Command:
 - Paul Telling Us To Know This About Faith In Christ!
 - Or - This Can Be Seen:
 - As A Conclusion:
 - About The Point He Has Been Making!
- Either Way - When You Have Faith In Jesus Christ:
 - You Can Have A Greater Confidence Of Your Own Justification / Salvation:
 - Than Through Any Other Means!
 - And You Can Also Have:
- A Greater Claim!
 - “Know Ye Therefore That They Which Are Of Faith, The Same Are The Children Of Abraham!”
 - Now To The Jews:
 - This Would Have Been A Revolutionary Statement!
 - Paul Is Saying That:
 - The Family Of Abraham:
 - Is Not Primarily A Relationship:
 - Of Flesh & Blood!
 - Nor Is It A Relationship:
 - Of Nationality!
 - No - It Is A Relationship:
 - Of Faith!
 - When God Told Abraham In:
 - Genesis 15:5 - “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!”
 - He Was Not Talking In:
 - Natural Terms Or In National Terms!
 - God Was Speaking To Abraham:
 - Primarily In Spiritual Terms!
 - The Ones Who Believe As Abraham Believed:
 - Are Part Of His Family:
 - And Are The “Children Of The Promise!”
- So - If You Share In The Faith Of Abraham:
 - You Are Part Of His Family!
 - Even More So Than The Jews After The Flesh!
 - Because Our Faith Rests In:

3. ***The Foundation Of Abraham!***

- Which We Find In 3:8 - “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed!”
 - The Foundation Of Our Faith:
 - Is The Same Foundation Of Abraham’s Faith!
 - It Rests In:
- The Word Of God:
 - “The Scripture!”
 - Abraham’s Faith Was Not A “Blind” Faith:
 - No - It Was A Faith That Rested On The Sure Word Of God!
 - And Our Faith Can Rest On God’s Word Also:
 - Because:
 - The Scripture Is Historical!
 - It Is Not Something New Or Contrived!
 - It Is Something We Can Go Back To Time & Time Again:
 - To See What God Says!
 - It Is Not Going To Change! Also:
 - The Scripture Is Reliable!
 - “Foreseeing!”
 - All That Paul Was Preaching & Teaching Can Be Found:

- Not Just In The NT But Also In The OT!
- But As Also Can Know:
- The Scripture Is Clear!
 - The Bible Shows That The Gospel Is Not Just:
 - For The Jew, But Also For The Gentiles!
 - “That God Would Justify The Heathen Through Faith!”
 - Genesis 12:3 - “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!” Also:
- The Scripture Is Consistent!
 - “Preached Before The Gospel Unto Abraham!”
 - This Does Not Mean There Was Another Gospel During The Time Of Abraham!
 - No - This Means That It Is The Same Gospel!
 - “Justification By Faith” In Christ Alone!
 - Jesus Affirms This In:
 - John 8:56 - “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad!”
- Our Faith Must Rest On The Same Foundation:
 - As Abraham’s – Upon The:
 - Word Of God!
 - And The Promise Of Salvation Through Faith Alone In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And Our Faith Can Rest In God’s Word!
 - Because It Is Historical / Reliable / Clear & Consistent!
 - And “The Foundation Of God Standeth Sure!”
 - And When Our Faith Rests On The Same Foundation:
 - We Will Also Share:

4. *The Fellowship Of Abraham!*

- 3:9 - “So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham!”
 - The Jews Believed That They Were The Ones Blessed:
 - Because They Had Abraham As Their:
 - Natural & National Father!
 - But Were They The Only Ones:
 - Who Could Claim Abraham As Their Father?
 - No - Not Really!
 - Abraham Had Another Son:
 - Born Of Hagar - Named Ishmael!
 - Ishmael Had Abraham As His Father!
 - But Abraham Had Other Sons As Well:
 - In Genesis 24 - After Sarah’s Death:
 - We Find Abraham Marrying:
 - Another Woman Named Keturah!
 - And With Keturah:
 - He Had 6 More Sons!
 - Who All Could Say They Had Abraham As Their Father!
 - Of Course - Isaac Was The Child Promised By God:
 - To Abraham - But Abraham Loved His Other Sons As Well:
 - And Even Gave Them Gifts!
 - But The Blessings They Received From Their Father Abraham:
 - Were Only Temporal!
 - They Would Only Last As Long As They Were In This World!
 - But The True & Lasting Blessing That Flows Through Abraham:
 - Belongs Only To “They Which Be Of Faith!”
 - This Is:
 - The Condition For God’s Blessing!
 - Faith!
 - It Doesn’t Matter If You Are Related To Abraham In The Flesh!
 - What Matters Is That You Share His Faith!
 - But We Also See:
 - The Content Of God’s Blessing!

- Those Who Believe:
 - “Are Blessed With Faithful Abraham!”
- We Are Not Just Blessed:
 - “By Abraham” – As His Children Were!
 - Or “In Abraham” – As The Jews Think They Are!
- But “With” Abraham & His Faith!
 - This Means That All The Spiritual Blessings That Were Promised To Abraham:
 - Belong To All Who Believe As Abraham Believed!
- Gill - “They are blessed with a justifying righteousness in Christ as he was, and will be blessed with eternal life as he is!”

Conclusion:

1. When You Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Savior From Sin:
 - You Have A Greater Relationship With Abraham:
 - Than Even Those Who Can Trace Their Lineage All The Way Back To Him!
 - But Even Better:
 - You Share In The Same Blessings:
 - That God Promised Abraham!
2. The Blessings That Can Only Be Found In:
 - The One Abraham Believed – The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - 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!”

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