

Galatians 3:13-18–Abraham’s Faith Brought Blessing to the Whole World

Rienecker, Calvin, TSK, GreekLexicon, Henry, PNT, Robertson, Family, Trapp, Poole, JFB, Clarke, Gaebelien, Handfuls, INT, Lightfoot

Brothers and sisters in the Lord: Today you will see how one man, our father Abraham, because of his faith, brought great permanent blessings to his children and even all the nations of the earth.

Our headings are:

Abraham’s faith brought blessings to the whole world

Abraham’s faith brought blessings to the whole world permanently

Abraham’s faith brought blessings to the whole world long before the law

Our goals are: **That you will see no one needs good work (nor can he use it) for salvation, but you will see the good works Jesus did for you so you would quit trying to save yourself by your own efforts and simply receive what Jesus did for you on the cross.**

Abraham’s faith brought blessings to the whole world

13 Christ **has redeemed us** from the **curse of the law**, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the **blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles** in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the **promise of the Spirit through faith**.

1. Jesus Christ died on the cross to redeem those who under the curse of the law, and Abraham believed this.

“Redeem” means to buy back or to ransom that which was lost...or to pay to get back that which was mortgaged.

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that **He might redeem us from every lawless deed** and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

No wonder Abraham looked forward to the coming of Jesus – he knew he had to be redeemed and he couldn’t redeem himself.

2. In order to redeem the world, Jesus had to become a curse for Abraham.

What is this curse he was under? This is the eternal wrath and ruin threatened and put on those who rebelled against God.

This curse came on all those who did not keep the law perfectly. **So everyone was under this curse!**

Deuteronomy 27:26 'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

How did Jesus become a curse? (He wasn't cursed personally.) He had to take the **full guilt of mankind** when he went to the cross and "hanged on the tree." He did this willingly because of his love for fallen man.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

But why is hanging on a tree such a horrible curse? Well, we have to go back to Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 21:23 "his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; **for he who is hanged is accursed of God.**

The exposure of dead bodies on crosses or poles was seen as the worst imaginable curse. The Jews did not ordinarily do this.

3. Because of Abraham's faith in the One who would become a curse for him, God promised to save him and remove his curse.

Consequently, the blessing of Abraham's Savior came to his children and all the nations of the earth. (And if the Jews were saved by faith in Jesus, so would the Gentiles!)

Men of every nation, tribe, and language can now receive what Christ did on the cross and receive full pardon for their sins. **What a happy prospect for the world!**

Habakkuk 2:4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; **But the just shall live by his faith.**

4. This blessing of salvation to the nations came as the Holy Spirit worked in the heart of sinners so they could receive what Jesus did for them.

If the Holy Spirit did not do this work, men would still be under the curse that Adam brought.

5. Lessons:

a. Good works are necessary to show you have faith; good works don't cause you to be saved. They never have!

b. Sinners are so much sunk under the misery and muck of sin, there is no way out by human effort. Someone had to take your place for you to come out.

c. Love for you made Jesus become accursed in your place – your place in the mud and muck.

1 Peter 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 **but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

Matthew 20:28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give His life a ransom** for many."

d. Jesus died for all kinds of men, men from every nation, tribe, and language, male and female, and young and old.

e. So when was Jesus killed for you? He was slain before the foundation of the world. That is why all Old Testament saints received the same blessing as New Testament saints. In God's eyes there is no time! Live like you know what Jesus did for you!

Abraham's faith brought blessings to the whole world permanently

15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: **Though it is only a man's covenant**, yet if it is confirmed, **no one annuls or adds to it.** 16 Now to **Abraham and his Seed** were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

1. When a man leaves a will, it cannot be changed; even when he is dead, no one can change his will.

No one could negate it or add or subtract from it. **Abraham had a promise (inheritance) that could not be changed, and he passed that on to his children after he died.**

Even ordinary men make covenants which they can't break. How could God, holy and just, make a covenant and break it? So the covenant promise that God gave to Abraham, being a covenant, **remains firm and unalterable.**

Genesis 17:7 "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

2. This means all of Abraham's children, would be saved- as he was – by grace through faith in Christ alone.

The Galatians were regenerated, justified, reconciled, adopted, sanctified, and glorified! These were the blessings on Abraham and on them!

By faith they could claim the promise Abraham received and could be made spiritually free as Abraham was. **They could not claim salvation by any other means!**

Romans 4:13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. 16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, **so that the promise might be sure to all the seed,** not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, **who is the father of us all**

3. But the means by which Abraham's children would permanently receive that benefit was through one particular Seed of Abraham, the Lord Jesus.

God did not randomly gather Jews and Gentiles as children of Abraham. Many biological children are not good. Many of his biological children are still fighting each other to this day!

God saved Abraham's children through Abraham's Seed - Jesus!

We have a picture of this salvation when Jesus walked between the cut pieces of animal for Abraham, who was sleeping... **Jesus' worked saved him!** The ceremonies that came after Abraham did not save!

This would have shocked the Jews in Galatia who thought their natural link to Abraham and their ritual obedience were all that was important.

4. Lessons:

a. All children of Abraham, those who received grace through faith as he, receive all the benefits as he did permanently. Rejoice! You had no way to save yourself.

b. God can never change his promise to you! He can't change the way he justifies. He can't say, "Well now you can only be justified *by some works and faith!*"

c. Proclaim this same message to your children and unbelieving relatives. There is only one way to be saved.

c. The Jews today need to go back and learn God's promise of Christ to Abraham. They will be lost without that Promised One. Let your Jewish friends know this.

Abraham's faith brought blessings to the whole world long before the law

17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, **cannot annul the covenant** that was **confirmed before by God in Christ**, that it should make the promise of no effect. 18 For **if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.**

1. The fact that man was saved by grace through faith in Jesus was well-known long before the law and the ceremonies were established by Moses.

Abraham knew that **430 years before**...and others knew it **long before Abraham even existed.**

Romans 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had **while still uncircumcised**, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also,

God could not disannul his promise to Adam and Abraham! When the law came, it could not annul God's promise and create a new way to be saved.

2. So to say one had to keep the law and ceremonies in order to be saved was illogical.

If one had to earn salvation by the law and ceremonies, Canaan would not be a promise, but an earned thing. (Canaan pictured heaven...so heaven would be an earned thing as well!!!)

And **if they were earned, that would negate the promises God gave to Abraham.**

But it was grace – all of grace...so it couldn't be works. And God gave this promise to Abraham.

3. Lessons:

a. Your inheritance of heaven was contingent on the promise God made to you through Abraham and fulfilled when his Seed died on the cross. You can't earn heaven. (So the man who appeared noble and asked God to "give his wife his share of heaven if he earned any in this life," was misguided and lied to.)

This really gets to the heart of modern man! It humiliates him! So he rejects God.

b. Simply obeying the law, as many believe today, brought no saving promise. Yes, there are temporal benefits when people keep the law. There is order in society and people have more freedom.

But man's obedience cannot remove the consequences of sin. Only the blood of Christ can! What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Conclusion:

Abraham brought blessings to the whole world. This blessing, God's promise, was given through Christ. It was permanent. This promise did not come by law as this promise predated the law. This blessing came by receiving what Jesus would do on the cross.

Brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus:

1. Knowing you were saved by grace through faith in Christ and not by keeping ceremonies, praise God for his grace.

1 Corinthians 6:20 For *you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

2. Knowing that one can only be saved by faith in Christ, point the world to him. Tell the world Jesus is the answer for the world today. Above him there is no other for Jesus is the way.

3. Live with confidence! It is not up to you! You will succeed because it is all of grace.

Finally: Try as you might to find salvation by good works and ceremonies, you won't succeed. Your good works won't please God. If you want to please God, you will have to go to him and plead, like Abraham did, the work of Christ. Only that will do. If you don't, you will die in your sins and be lost forever.