

**Passage: Galatians 3:23-29 (prepared 6/19/2010 ; preached 6/20/10)**

( ) Letter to Z?

A. Passage Notes

23 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed.

24 So the law was **put in charge**<sup>1</sup> to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

25 Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,

27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have **clothed yourselves**<sup>2</sup> with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 If you belong to Christ, then **you are Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise..

B. Exegetical Outline (Lott)

***Paul encourages the Galatians to move from spiritual substitutes to Christ***

***Spiritual substitutes can make us prisoners and are designed to hold us until Christ***

23 Before we were prisoners

24 The law tutored us until Christ came

25 We are no longer under the law

***Faith brings us to maturity in Christ, unification with Christ, and placed into relationship with Christ***

26-27 You are sons of God through faith, baptized and clothed with Christ

28 You are one in Christ

29 If you belong to Christ, you are Abraham's heir

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<sup>1</sup> A child guardian (slave) was put in charge of children to walk them to and from school, to train them in manners, and to ensure that they were educated. They were NOT the teacher.

<sup>2</sup> Children came of age in Roman society and were clothed with a toga and given recognition as full heirs to the family at around 14. Paul is saying that the Law simply was a caretaker without giving us rights to come before the throne. Abraham's covenant is the one that supercedes the Law... thus Gentiles are in Abraham's covenant without ever having to be a part of the Law covenant.

I am losing weight... (again!)... feeling really good post 10 pounds and a change in diet... clean foods! Salads, broccoli, great proteins. We decided to indulge in dessert (Cool Whip)... wow, in the morning I was dragging... **Have you seen what's in this?**

***The Galatians are dragging... weighed down by additives and preservatives rather than enjoying the natural, whole, and organic reality of their freedom in Christ!***

**P1 – Fake spirituality is filled with additives and preservatives (23)**

24 - the law was **put in charge** to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

1. Additives are the Law - Substitute like the Cool Whip... not the real thing...
  - a. Problem without a solution – The law condemns in order that faith might be made alive... How? Points to God's holiness... otherness... goodness
  - b. And pointed out that WE MISS THE MARK... Response SHOULD be repentance! Cry for mercy! Assurance of God's grace...
2. The Law was meant as a Preservative - But it gets perverted –Superbowl 2010 "Green Police" commercial?
  - a. Legalists are motivated by a great thing... God's purity and holiness... to an extreme! They forgot that Jesus fulfilled those things AND filled us with the Holy Spirit such that we don't "have to" follow Moses' laws but can instead enjoy a freedom rooted in Christ!
  - b. Particularly they wanted New Christians to follow the Jewish Law before being accepted in church... Circumcision and everything (imagine!) // Question for us... what additives and preservatives do we add? (behave before belief? Or belief and acceptance first?)

Basic Premise #3 - People want relationships, not religion.

- a. Authentic Christianity is a relationship, not a religion.
- b. They don't care what you know until they know that you care.
- c. Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name and they're always glad you came.

**P2 – Real Spirituality is marked by Natural whole organic purity (4-6)**

1. v. 26 You ARE all sons of God (through faith)... 27 clothed with Christ

- a. Declaring a reality! Faith has changed your status from children to sons
- b. Original Toga party... Children were recognized in Roman society at 14)

Clothed... kids loved to run around naked... Me too as a kid. Imagine that now!! (Inappropriate!!) BE clothed! >> Point is full recognition as Family

2. v. 28 neither Jew nor Greek, slave/free, male/female, you are all one in Christ...

- a. Greeks (in Jewish theology) could never be heirs of God and Abraham... but that's exactly what Jesus work on the cross did!

b. Heirs of Abraham's covenant... Great people/nation... BY GRACE (Loyal love)

3. 3D Reconciliation

- a. Height – Sons of the transcendent creator of the universe... clothed by Him!
- b. Breadth – unified with ALL believers (even those radically different than us)
- c. Depth – Standing in a long line of heirs... back to the original promise of Abraham! God's loyal love give to us based on His work... not ours!

**P3 – By Faith – this is the key turning point**

1. What the law tried to do by a restraining power from without, the gospel does by an inspiring power from within – Catherine Wilkes Boothe
2. This is not another list of "to do" items... 1) wear Jesus brands 2) live in harmony with everybody other than you (women, Hispanics, your boss) 3) keep your Family happy... you're heirs after all...
3. This IS about realizing freedom... through FAITH in Jesus Christ... IF you belong to Christ... you are free! If you don't... you CAN... relationship!!

**A – Application Points**

- Friends... put down the cool whip additives and preservatives... put your faith in Christ... and live free! Don't add anything to your spiritual diet but Christ himself...

***Lord, bring us into a radical reconciliation with you that brings us high into your throne room... bridges across the breadth of all those different than us... and roots us deeply into your promises to love us loyally and always. Amen!***

One of the more popular TV ads during the 2010 Super Bowl was sponsored by Audi and takes a poke at the imaginary "green police" out of control.

Standing at the checkout counter of a store, the clerk tells a customer: "Okay, so it's \$37.08. Paper or plastic?" The customer replies, "Plastic."

Into the scene walks a uniformed officer who says, "That's the magic word. Green police. You picked the wrong day to mess with the ecosystem, plastic boy." The officer then hauls the customer away with his hands in cuffs behind his back.

In quick succession we see different scenes of the green police arresting other people guilty of minor environmental infractions.

The commercial ends with a green policeman busting two real police officers in a squad car. The green policeman asks the real cop, "Are those Styrofoam cups you're drinking from?" The cop says yeah, and the green policeman responds, "Please step out of the car and put 'em on the hood."

In this ad, the problem with the green police is that they are pursuing a good thing—a healthy environment—in an extreme way. They are well meaning, but overzealous.

**Date: 6/20/2010 – Pentecost 3 proper 7**

**Readings:**

*Zechariah 12:8-10;13:1*

*Galatians 3:23-29*

*Luke 9:18-24*

*Psalm 63:1-8*

**Preaching:** *Sl 8 Trip (JBB/Malone) / 9 Trip (Hazel) / 9:40 JBB / 11 Bishop (JBB/Trip) // 9:15 JZ / C JZ / T Malone // Florence - Greg*

**Introductions – My name is... our celebrant is... // Grab Bag // Card to our ushers (names??) // Prayer team names??**

**Seasonal Changes (Pentecost)**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Amen.

**Traditional Collect**

O Lord, we beseech thee, make us have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name, for thou never failest to help and govern those whom thou hast set upon the sure foundation of thy loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen...

**Contemporary Collect**

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Proper Preface**

***It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.*** -- Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

**Blessing**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. AMEN!

Almighty God, grant us thy Holy Spirit to be our interpreter, leading us through the written word to him who is the incarnate Word, such that we may know thee more fully, love thee more truly, and to serve thee more faithfully to the honor and glory of thy Name. Amen

May the words of our mouth, and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing and acceptable to you, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer, Amen.

God of all wisdom and knowledge, give your blessing and guidance as we read, mark, and inwardly digest your Word that we may be encouraged in the knowledge and love of you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.