

Paul, the Name Caller (v)

Some of Paul's words must have hurt...
as a surgeon does: to save life

- Paul uses strong medicine (language) to save
 - Accursed (1:9)
 - Foolish, bewitched (3:1, 3)
 - Afraid...labor in vain (4:11)
 - Doubts about you (4:20)

I. Proof of Truth in Galatians 3:1-5

1:

- Who bewitched you? [‘What got into you?']
- Galatians obeyed truth...then forsook it...
- Blinded by flattery? ...deceived? ...Paul duped?

Clearly portrayed... public notice; sign; ad

M-M: father – not responsible for son's debts

Paul's sign should have kept them from sin

2:

- ‘Tell me just one thing’
 - [1-5: battery of questions]
- Paul appeals to their experience. Tree – fruit
- Their error contradicts their experience
- Did Paul give them works of Law [opposite of hearing of faith]? No
- Confirmed by miracles
 - Did Judaizers work miracles?
 - Ac.8:14-17; 10:44...
 - Ac.14:2-3...8-10. 2 Tim.3:11

3:

- “So” expresses degree: repeats v.1: foolish
- Double contrast –
 - Begin (in Spirit) ... made perfect (by flesh)?
 - Contrasts beginning versus ending
 - Begin (in Spirit) ... made perfect (by flesh)?
 - Contrasts Spirit versus flesh
 - Spared from death; appeal → death penalty

4:

- “Suffered” (Ac.14:2) or “experience” (14:10)
- If you received another gospel, all your past suffering / experience is in vain
 - Especially true if Jews are their persecutors
 - In vain – as Ac.5; or 8:13...21-22

5a:

- “Supplies” as 2 Co.9:10; 2 Pt.1:11
 - Grecian festivals presented plays [Euripides, Sophocles...] always with a chorus... great expense.
 - Public-minded Greeks paid entire expenses.
 - Strong idea: generosity; supply abundantly: as promised to Galatians.

5b:

- Supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles
- Q: by works of the law or hearing of faith?
- What Judaizer ever worked miracles?

I. Proof of Truth in Galatians 3:1-5

II. Proof of Truth in Abraham, 3:6-9

6:

- This is what Abraham did (cf. v.5)
- Abraham believed . . . quotes Gen.15:6 –
 - Not an alien sinner
 - From the beginning, sonship included believing Gentiles
 - Faith [not merit, but obedience]. Ro.4:3; Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness... [= Ja.2²³] [= Gal.3:6]. Ja.2²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works...not by faith only.

6:

- This is what Abraham did (cf. v.5)
- ...it was accounted to him for righteousness...
(Gn.15:6) not an alien sinner
 - Justify is opposite of condemn
 - Condemnation does not make one a criminal; it treats him as one
 - Justification does not make one right; it declares him to be so

6:

Abraham was justified by faith throughout life

- Gn.12:1-3, went (Hb.11:8)
- Gn.12:6-8, worship
- Gn.13:3-4, called on Name...
- Gn.14:19-20, blessed by Melchizedek
- Gn.15:1, assured by LORD
 - Abraham lived / died before Law was given
 - Justification is ongoing (Gn.22 – Ja.2)
 - Scriptures include Gentiles (Abraham) – justified before circumcision – Ro.4:9-12
 - Faith in this context is obedience, Gal.5:6

7:

Therefore know [deduction from v.6]

- Only those 'of faith' are Abraham's sons (8-9, 12) – not merit ('of works of law') v.10
- Since faith is ground of Abraham's justification, his sons must be 'of faith' – Mt.8:11-12; Ro.4:11-12. Gal.3:26
- Abraham did not enter relationship with God by Law of Moses. Jn.8:38-40

8:

Paul turns to Gentiles: foresees that God would justify Gentiles by faith (not by works of law)

- Preached gospel beforehand to Abraham – foretold this gospel of justification: Gn.12:3 = Ac.3:25
- In you all nations shall be blessed . . .
[‘nations’ are ‘Gentiles’]

9:

- So then = logical conclusion
- Blessing to those of faith (2:16)
 - Blessed with believing Abraham
 - His faith, not Jewish bloodline, unites us with Abraham, Ro.4:16

I. Proof of Truth in Galatians 3:1-5

II. Proof of Truth in Abraham 3:6-9

III. Proof of Truth in Christ, 3:10-14

10:

- Some try to earn salvation by perfection
- Jews claimed their knowledge of Law entitled them to blessings promised to Abraham's sons
 - Ro.3:9, all under sin.
 - Cursed: without Christ...how many saved?
 - Law condemns. Cursed is a verdict.
 - Sons of Abraham have faith (v.7)
- Try to win God's approval by obedience to Law: result?
- Only ones saved by law: those who 'do' it.
Dt.27:26

11:

- No one is justified by law before God [our status before Him]
 - System of faith has no room for human merit

The just shall
live by faith



The just by
faith shall live

The just + faith live – permanent principle,
Hab.2:4

12:

- People under Moses' law had faith (Hb.11), but they lived under a system of law
- Lv.18:5 . . . Lk.10:28 . . . Ro.10:5

13:

- What Christ has done: redeemed us from curse of the law
- Law pronounced blessings and curses
 - Since it made no provision for human infirmity, the blessings proved barren in result

13:

- Jesus: became curse for us: paid penalty for our sin. Is.53:5-6. Dt.21:23
 - Jews called Him 'the hanged man'
 - We went free ... He was treated as accursed
 - Unbelieving Jews were the accursed ones
- **Paradox:** curse of God brings greatest blessing of God (14)
- Jesus bore our sins, but was NOT guilty of sin
- OT sin offering: lamb suffered for the sinner, but lamb did not become a sinner

14:

- “That” (2x) –
 1. Blessing of Abraham might come upon Gentiles
 2. We might receive promise of Spirit through faith
- OT said so (v.8)
 - Promise fulfilled in Christ – new dispensation

Two reasons for joy

- The curse has been borne, thus the law is silent
 - “So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation” – Hb.9:28
- The blessing of Christ remains
 - 3:14, all that comes to us from God comes to us “in Christ.” No blessing can be found in any other source