

Galatians 4

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Review of Galatians 3

- Last week we looked at an overview of Catholic theology concerning “Justification through faith in Christ,” that was central to Paul’s letter to the Galatians
- In **Gal 3** Paul was warning the Galatians of the dangers of “playing with Judaism” while asking why they had rejected their initial conversion to the Christian life in the “works of the Spirit in Jesus Christ”
- Paul offers the faith of Abraham which he exhibited before his circumcision as a way for them to understand his calling them to their justification by faith in Jesus

Review of Galatians 3 (Cont)

Paul reminded them of the curses of the law that were taken on by Jesus in order to relieve them of its obligations

We also briefly looked at St Anselm's "Replacement Soteriology" and its use by several of the Protestant reformers to support their idea of "salvation"

Paul also discusses Jesus as the fulfilment of many of the Old Testament (Christocentric) teachings to include the fulfilment of Abraham's third promise for the "blessing of all nations"

Paul reminded the Galatians that those who were baptized into Christ had, in fact, "put on Christ"

Galatians 4

- **Gal 4:1-9** *“I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child is no better than a slave....but now that you have come to know God or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits, whose slaves you want to be once more?”*
 - Paul gave the Galatians a summary of human salvation history
 - The consequences of Adam’s sin left man in a state of sin and a slave of the devil
 - God lit up this sin filled long period of darkness with God’s original promise of a Redeemer

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- During this time God's justice was delivered to man as the punishment due to sin
- However, the Lord's mercy never faltered and his love prevented him from wiping out the human race
- In many instances God sought man out to show him the way to salvation
- God did everything he could to help man
- Finally "when the time had fully come," God decided to bring to an end this period of tutelage by sending His beloved Son as a man to end mankind's alienation from God

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- Jesus Christ speaks the words of God and accomplished the saving works which the Father gave Him to do
- He revealed that God was with us to deliver us from sin and death and to raise us to eternal life
- This is the only direct mention of the Blessed Virgin in the Pauline writings
- **Gal 4:4** is very important for here Paul tells us of:
 - The preexistence of the Son,
 - His taking flesh from a woman at a time predetermined by God
 - His submission to the Law*

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- **Gal 4:10** *“You observe days, and months, and seasons, and years!”*
 - Although most of the Galatians were Gentile converts, it would appear that they had started to observe the Jewish calendar
 - Days
 - The Sabbath (sunset Friday to sunset Saturday) every week required a day of rest
 - Also, the New Moon was a Sabbath no matter what day it was on and it also was a day of rest
 - The first and last day of each major feast was a day of rest

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- Months
 - Would include the New Moon and also the 7th month
- Seasons
 - Are the different festivals – Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles
- Years
 - Is a reference to the 7th year of Sabbaths, that is the Jubilee year and is offered every 50th year
- Paul is saying that the Galatians were keeping the Jewish calendar and thus “playing with the Law and Kosher”*

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- **Gal 4:11-12** *“I’m afraid I have labored you in vain. Brethren, I beseech you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are.*
 - It would appear that Paul feared that his work among the Galatians may have utterly failed
 - Although Paul was a Benjaminite he was also a circumcised Jew by faith

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- But he reminded them that he did not keep Kosher when he was with them
- In fact, He lived just like every one of them
- Therefore, he was calling them to be like him who was trying to be all things to all men*

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- **Gal 4:12-15** *“You did me no wrong; you know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preach the gospel to you at first; and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but receive me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus....you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me”*
 - Paul was reminding them that when he was first among them they really loved him
 - We are not sure what his ailment was, but it may have been an ailment of the eye

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- It has been speculated that his ailment caused him not to be able to see or perhaps he was going blind
- Whatever it was he said that the Galatians loves him so much that they would have plucked out their own eyes for him
- Here is asking what happened to that love*

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- **Gal 4:16-20** *“Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? They make much of you, but for no good purpose; they want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. For a good purpose...for I am perplexed about you.”*
 - The false apostles are the Judaizers
 - Paul was speaking full of affection as he sees his beloved Galatians risking being cut off from the faith in Christ he presented to them
 - He is suffering because he saw that he had to re-confirm their faith even though he cannot go to them in person
 - Thus he was speaking to them from the heart as a parent

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- **Gal 4:21-31** *“Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law?...So brethren, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.”*
 - Paul is telling the Galatians that the entire Old Testament contained lessons for Christians as he quotes from **Is 54:1 and Gn 21:10**
 - He offers another illustration from the history of Abraham as he shows them that those who rely on the Law instead of faith in the Promise are to be excluded from the inheritance of Abraham
 - Paul stressed that if they continued to be subject to the Mosaic Law, it would be the same as their remaining a slave in the same manner as the son of Hagar (Ishmael)

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- The narrative continues in **Gal 5**

Galatians 5

Galatians 5

- **Gal 5:1** *“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”*
 - Paul was giving the Galatians a stern warning
 - This would mean freedom for them from the yoke of slavery to the Torah
 - He was telling them not to let these Judaizers to put this burden on them *

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- **Gal 5:2-3** *“Now I, Paul, say to you that if you **received circumcision**, Christ will be of no advantage to you.”*
 - The Galatians must have wondered what Paul meant at this point
 - So Paul brings home to them just how serious this issue was becoming
 - He was reminding them that everyone who did not abide by all things in the Law was accursed

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- That meant that they had to comply with all 613 commandments of the Law
 - 248 Positive commandments (do's)
 - 365 Negative commandments (do not's)
- Paul was saying that if they got circumcised they were obliged to keep all of the commandments
- He reminded them it was much more than just wearing a Yakama or eating special Jewish food
- He was saying that the Galatians were just playing around in the sandbox of Judaism

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- **Gal 5: 4-6** *“You are severed from Christ, you who would be **justified** by the law; **you have fallen away from grace**. For through the Spirit, by faith, we wait for the hope of righteousness. For **in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love.**”*
 - As was saw in **Gal 3:9-11** Paul returns to his teaching on “justification”
 - Look at this image!
 - Paul is telling the Galatians who were circumcised as adults along with their kids that they had just severed themselves from Christ

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- This issues here are:
 - Circumcision
 - Kosher laws
 - Jewish holydays they are observing
- Paul was asking them that since things were going so well, who was hindering them from obeying the truth?*

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- **Gal 5: 7-11** *“You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?...But if I, brethren, still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? In that case the stumbling block of the cross has been removed.”*
 - Paul is reminding them that at this point in Salvation History which begins in Christ the fact that a person is Jewish or Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised counts for nothing
 - The only thing that matters is a belief that only Jesus Christ can save us

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- His reference to “leaven” indicates that the few false preachers were corrupting and leading astray all the rest of the good Galatians
- Here Paul answered one of the calumnies which the Judaizers were using against him
- They said that he was two-faced on the matter of circumcision: He said it was necessary to the Jews and not required among the Gentiles
- His argument was that since circumcision was only a sign of the Old Covenant, it was designed to disappear once that Covenant ended*

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- **Gal 5:12** *“I wish those who unsettle you would mutilate themselves!*
- Paul was not happy with them
- To him circumcision was a mutilation of the body which God had created as very good
- The question to the Galatians was why were they doing this?
- It was obviously not for health reasons
- They were doing it because they believed that it would “justify” them because they bought into a false doctrine*

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- **Gal 5:13-18** *“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another. For the **whole law** is fulfilled in one word,” You shall love your neighbor as yourself....But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law.”*
 - Paul told them that even though they were baptized in Christ they must not go back to smelling the perfume of Delilah or run back to the Temple of Venus
 - This law is from **Leviticus 19** which is part of the Holiness Code
 - The flesh here is still about the “old man”
 - Next Paul will offer a list of the “works of the flesh”*

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- **Gal 5:19-21** *“Now the **works of the flesh** are plain: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you as I have warned you before, those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”*
 - Paul is reminding them to say “no” to circumcision and Kosher but also not to go back to the temple of Venus either*

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- **Gal 5:22-23** *“But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law.”*
 - These are the fruits of the spiritual man that should exist within each of them
 - In other words these are the works of Jesus
 - He is calling them to walk according to the teachings of Jesus*

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- **Gal 5:24-26** *“And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another.”*
 - Again, Paul is talking about baptism which he discusses in more detail in Romans.
 - A person led by his instincts is said to be leading an “animal life”
 - One who acts as his reason advises is said to be leading a rational, human life

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- One who allows the Holy Spirit to act in their life is said to be living a life according to the Spirit – a supernatural life which is no longer simply human but is now divine
- This is what happens when a person is in the state of grace and is mindful of the treasure he bears within
- This means that the soul had become a good tree which is known by its fruits
- These actions reveal the presence of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- We will conclude by looking at **Galatians 6**

Galatians 6

Galatians 6

- **Gal 6:1-6** *“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in the spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ...Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches.”*
 - Earlier Paul told the Galatians that the entire law was fulfilled in loving their neighbor as themselves (**Gal 5:14**)
 - Here he is telling them that by loving others they are keeping the Law of Christ

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- The doctrine that love is the “New Commandment” of Christ can be found in many places in the New Testament:
 - Mt 22:40
 - Rom 13:8-19
 - Col 3:14
- Paul is also responding to the Galatians who thought that by attempting to keep the Jewish law they were superior to those not doing so
- This is reminiscent of the boastfulness of the Pharisee who stood in the temple praying and thanking God for all his good qualities

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- Like this Pharisee, the Judaizers' pride stemmed from lack of self-knowledge
- Thus, Paul exhorts them to examine themselves sincerely in the sight of God who sees everything*

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- **Gal 6:7-8** *“Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit reap eternal life.”*
 - Paul told those Galatians who had fallen back into paganism by going to the Temple of Zeus or Venus or who had circumcised themselves or their children would not reap the resurrection but corruption*

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- **Gal 6:9-10** *“And let us not grow weary in **well-doing**, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”*
 - Paul is not teaching that one was going to be saved by doing “good works”
 - He was calling the Galatians to walk according to the ways of Jesus
 - He told them that if they were not walking in the ways of Jesus they were walking in the ways of the “flesh” and would not be saved

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- To Paul it did not matter that they had been baptized if they had lost their way and had fallen off of the path of Christ
- But, he told them that if they walked in accordance with the ways of Jesus they would continue on their journey toward salvation and sanctification

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- The RSV uses an unusual translation of the Greek word - *kalos* as “well-doing”
- *kalos*— means “good” and should read “good” works
- Paul always contrasts the “works of the Torah” versus the “good works” of Jesus
- Paul called the Galatians to refrain from doing the works of the pagans, or the works of the Jews
- Instead he called them to do the good works of Jesus
- It appears that the authors of the RSV used “well doing” out of fear that “good works” could be mixed up in the controversies that came out of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- **Gal 6:11** *“See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.”*
 - We will find this salutation at the end of Paul’s epistles
 - This phrase is hotly debated among bible scholars
 - Some suggest that this was the spot where Paul took the pen from his secretary and finished the letter to insure its authentication
 - Others suggest that he wrote the entire letter himself and is pointing this out by ending with these large letters
 - Although we do not know exactly what happened here, it was well known that Paul used Roman secretaries like *Tertius* (**Rom 16:22**)*

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- This phrase in Romans comes right after Paul gave a “shout out” to a few people
- One last theory without much support is that he was having eye problems again*

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- **Gal 6:12** *“It is **those** who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they **may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.**”*
 - Here, once again, Paul is referring to motives of the Judaizers and some of their Galatian converts who were trying to avoid persecution by the local Jewish communities*

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- **Gal 6: 13-16** *“For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh.... For neither **circumcision** counts for anything, nor **uncircumcision**, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God.”*
 - Paul will give a thorough explanation of this in Romans as he presents his teaching on baptism
 - In other writings Paul says that the “church” is the true “Israel of God”

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- He also claims that to belong to this “church” one must enter through Baptism not circumcision
- In **Col 2:11** Paul says “In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ;”
- To Paul this “Church” is the true “Israel of God”*

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- **Gal 6:17-18** *“Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.”* ”
 - Paul ordered that there be no further disputes on these matters
 - He was claiming that his body bore the marks of Jesus, not the marks of the Torah
 - We have no idea what he means here
 - This could refer to his baptism versus his circumcision

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- It could refer to the many persecutions he received to include the scars he bore all over his body which he received while establishing the churches in Galatia on his first Missionary Journey
- No matter, they are all contrary to circumcision
- Sebastian pointed out that this is a very fiery Epistle
- We will see this passion again in 2nd Corinthians where Paul gets angry once again

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- Both of the epistles show the real human Paul
- Many say that Paul is very difficult to understand, but this is not true when his epistles are read within their historical context

Review

Acts 1-19:12

Thessalonians 1 & 2

Galatians

Early Christian Time Line

- **0-6 AD Birth of Jesus the Christ**
- **1-5 Saul's birth**
- **30-33 Christ is crucified, raised and ascends into Heaven**
 - The ascension of Jesus
 - Mathias to replace Judas
 - Pentecost
 - Peter and John heal the man lame from birth
 - Peter and John before the Sanhedrin
 - Church of Jerusalem decides to live in communion
 - Peter arrested again by the Sanhedrin but spared by Gamaliel
 - Stephen is martyred in front of Saul of Tarsus
 - Philip takes the gospel to Samaria & baptizes the Ethiopian official

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- **33-34 Saul's conversion on the Road to Damascus**
 - Paul's three years of sojourn and meditation in Arabia
 - Paul's return to Damascus and on to Jerusalem
 - Barnabas support of Paul and his journey to Tarsus
 - Peter's conversion of the Gentile Cornelius
 - Peter arrested by Herod Agrippa
- **42 Paul is brought to Antioch by Barnabas**
- **44 Famine in Jerusalem**

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- **45-49 Paul's 1st missionary journey**
 - *Spring of 45 they sail for Cyprus*
 - *Fall of 45 they sail for Asia Minor and arrive at Antioch of Pisidia*
 - *Fall of 46 they arrive at Iconian then on to Derbe*
 - *They may have remained 1 year in Derbe before returning to Antioch in Syria*
 - *48 was their triumphal journey to Jerusalem*

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- 50 Council of Jerusalem
- 49-52 Paul's 2nd missionary journey
 - Autumn 49 Paul leaves Antioch and moves through the Churches of Galatia
 - Spring 50 Paul in Thessalonica
 - 51 Paul arrives in Beroea
 - March 51 Paul arrives in Athens
 - Spring 51 to autumn of 52 Paul was in Corinth
 - Winter 50-51 Paul writes the 2 Letters to the Thessalonians

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- 53-58 Paul's 3rd missionary journey
 - Middle 53 Paul arrives at *Derbe*
 - April 54 Paul arrives at *Ephesus*
 - Paul writes the letter to the Galatians

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- To be continued on **Tuesday, September 15, 2015**
- Have a great summer!