

2020-2021 Bible Study

#17

1/26/21

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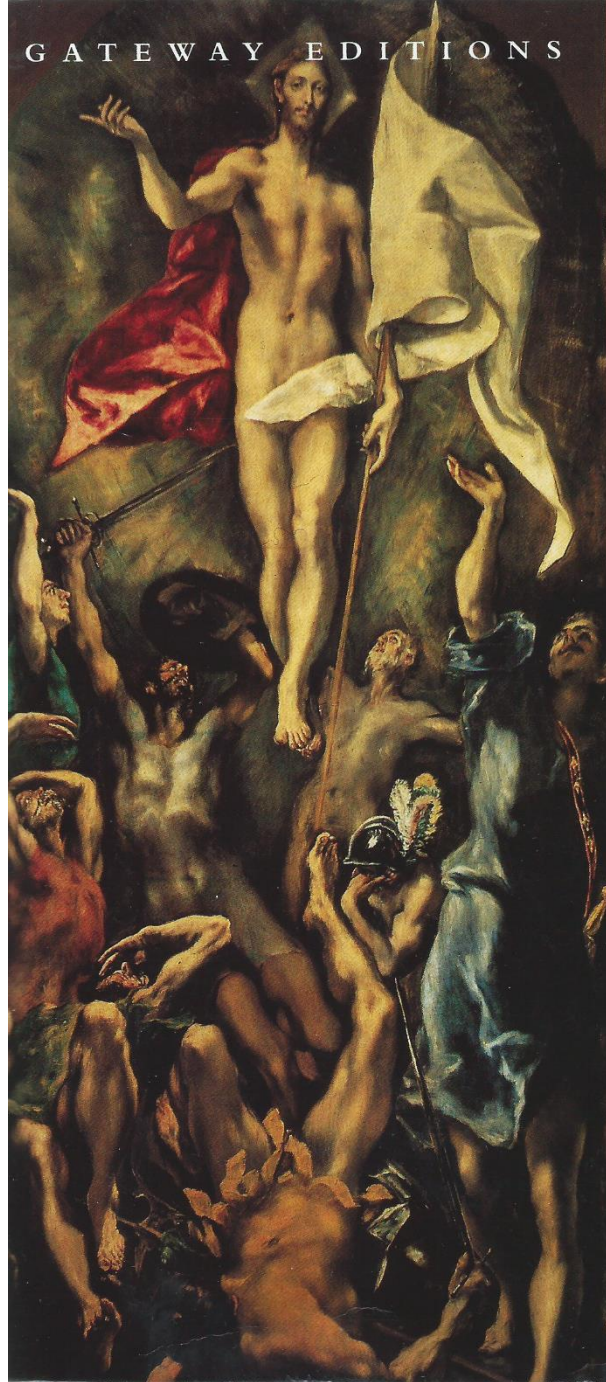
PSALM BASICS_{for} CATHOLICS

Seeing Salvation History in a New Way

"I cannot imagine a better introduction
to the psalms than this book."

Mike Aquilina, author of *A History of the Church in 100 Objects*

GATEWAY EDITIONS



The Lord

Romano
Guardini

With a New
Introduction by
Joseph Cardinal
Ratzinger

Epistles of Paul

<u>Epistle (s)</u>	<u>Date/Journey</u>	<u>Location of Comp</u>	<u>Theme</u>
1 st and 2 nd Thessalonians	50-51 /2 nd	Corinth	2 nd coming of Jesus/end times
Galatians	54/55/3 rd	Ephesus	Judaizers heresy

Review of our Last Class

- Last week, we set the stage for Paul's response to the crisis in the churches in Galatia
- After four visits by Paul to those churches, the members of the four churches were taken in by the Judaizers demanding that they circumcise their sons and practice the law of Moses
- The letter to the Galatians is Paul's angry and frustrated response to this crisis
- We saw how he proclaimed that even if an angel of God should present a different gospel from what he had taught them, they should not believe in it
- We saw his defense of his authority as an Apostle of Christ, and how he had gone to Jerusalem (at the Council in 50 AD) and obtain a blessing from Peter, James, and others for his teaching

Review of our Last Class (Cont)

- We also saw the story of Paul chastising Peter in Antioch when he stepped back from the Gentiles after a few of the Judaizers showed up, implying that the Gentile converts were second-class Christians
- Father also pointed out how Luther misunderstood this passage in his polemic on “Faith vs Works”
- This entire letter highlights the difference in the early church between the Jewish converts and the Gentile converts

Galatians 3

Galatians 3

- **Galatians 3:1-2** *“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? Let me ask you only this did you receive the Spirit of God by works of the law, or by hearing with faith”*
 - The gospel preached by Paul was: “Jesus died and rose for you”
 - According to the apostolic tradition, the spirit of God was received by repentance and baptism
 - Father said that at that time, Baptism included Chrismation via the laying on of hands
 - So Paul was asking the Galatians how they received the Spirit of God (from the Torah or by hearing him speak of the Faith)?

Galatians 3 (Cont)

- The details of this can be found in the Book of Romans since they had not heard him speak
- Here, in Galatians, he is omitting these details since he assumed they knew this information

Galatians 3 (Cont)

- **Galatians 3:6** *“Thus Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness”*
 - Again, Paul will address this issue in great deal in the Book of Romans
 - Here, Paul reminds the Galatians that Abraham believed, trusted in God, and was deemed righteous before he was circumcised
 - Further, the Kosher laws only come into existence some 500 years later via Moses
 - Basically, Paul was saying that they were like Abraham who was our father in faith

Galatians 3 (Cont)

- **Galatians 3:10** *“For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, and do them”*
 - Father speculated that these Galatians were merely dabbling in the Jewish law
 - They most likely were keeping the Sabbath, celebrating Hanukkah, not eating pork, and perhaps circumcising their sons
 - But, there were 365 (613) laws in the Torah
 - Therefore, Paul warns them that if they were going to mess with this stuff in order to be “justified,” they would be required to keep all the laws of the Torah
 - In fact, if they only practiced a few, they could be cursed

Galatians 3 (Cont)

- **Galatians 3:23-26** *“Now before faith came, we were confined under the law,...for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith”*
 - Faith was like a custodian, a guard, training wheels
 - This did not mean that these rules were their custodian, but rather, that the Torah was their custodian until faith should come in Christ
 - Here, Paul was saying that Jesus has come, and therefore they are no longer under the Torah
 - Paul, using his sacramental theology, was stating that “in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God”
 - Jesus was the son of God and because they were baptized into Jesus, you have become sons of God
 - This process happened through faith
 - Father said when Paul speaks of faith, he means Baptism, not what a modern Baptist means by an altar call

Galatians 3 (Cont)

- **Galatians 3:27** *“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ”*
 - Father asked, how did one get inside Jesus?
 - Paul’s response was that it was through faith and then baptism
 - To Paul, the two could not be separated because by being baptized into Christ, one was saved (they were one in the body of Christ)
 - Faith was the act that led one to baptism which affected salvation
 - Father said that unfortunately, such a separation of the two was what the Protestants have tried to do since they do not experience the sacraments

Galatians 3 (Cont)

- **Galatians 3:28-29** *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free,... for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise”*
 - Paul (the former Pharisee) was reminding the Galatians that if they belonged to the body of Jesus the Christ, then they were heirs to Abraham through which all of the nations will be blessed (the third promise of God to Abraham)

Galatians 4

Galatians 4

- **Galatians 4:10-11** *“You observe days, and months, and seasons, and years! I am afraid I have labored over you in vain”*
 - *Weekly refers to Sabbaths*
 - *Months are the new moons*
 - *Sabbaths of feast days are the three annual feasts*
 - *Passover*
 - *Pentecost*
 - *Booths*
 - Since these Jews were in Galicia, they could not attend these events at the temple in Jerusalem, so all they could do to keep the basic ceremonial aspects of these was in keeping the Sabbath rests (on Saturdays)
 - Paul said that these were shadows of what was to come

Galatians 4 (Cont)

- **Galatians 4:19-20** *“My little children, with whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you! I could wish to be present with you and now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you”*
 - When Paul speaks of labored in vain, he is giving an image of a mother taking care of her small children needing milk
 - In another place, he used the image of a father of a community

Galatians 5

Galatians 5

- **Galatians 5:1-4** “ *For freedom Christ has set up free;...you have fallen away from grace*”
 - Peter, in **Acts 15**, referred to the *Torah* as “*a yoke of slavery, a yoke of bondage*”
 - Paul is telling them that if they receive circumcision, Christ will be of no use to them because they have apostatized
 - It would mean that they had rejected their baptismal graces
 - If they were to trust in circumcision in lieu of baptism, then Christ would be of no advantage to them

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- He was reminding them if they wanted to “play” with Judaism, they would be required to keep all 613 laws
- He even used circumcision language by saying that they would be “circumcising” themselves from Christ
- Father pointed out that when it is said, “*you who would be justified by the Torah,*” he did not mention the word “works”
- This is the “old law” (given by Moses) versus the “new law” (given by Jesus)

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- This meant that Jesus in the Torah is in the flesh
- If they were going to trust in the law of Moses versus the law of Jesus, they were trusting in a shadow versus the reality
- This, said Paul, made no sense

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- **Galatians 5:6** *“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love”*
 - This is the new “law of love”
 - The works of the new law are based on the law of charity
 - It is not about getting a bunch of sacrificial stuff, but rather it is about loving your neighbor as yourself

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- **Galatians 5:12** *“I wish those who unsettled you would mutilate themselves!”*
 - Paul sees circumcision as a mutilation of the flesh
 - God created man perfectly
 - Circumcision (as we saw in the Old Testament class) was a practice that came from the Egyptians

Galatians 5 (Cont)

- **Galatians 5:13-19** *“For you were called to freedom, brethren,...Now the works of the flesh are plain: immorality, impurity, licentiousness”*
 - Here, Paul warns them and cautions them not to misunderstand what he was saying
 - It told them that they had to live a life of holiness, but a life in Christ was not a life in Moses
 - Therefore, those who practiced: immoral impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, adultery, sorcery, and homosexuality, would not enter the “kingdom of God”

Galatians 6

Galatians 6

- **Galatians 6:11-12** *“See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand....and only in order that you many not be persecuted for the cross of Christ”*
 - Father asked who was persecuting Christians at that point in history?
 - It was the Jews (mainly the Jewish Christians) and not the Gentiles
 - In fact, the Jews of that day had no real say over the Gentiles
 - But, he had a great deal of authority over his fellow Jews

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- This meant that there were two groups of Jews at that time:
 - Those who accepted Christ
 - Those who did not
- At that stage, the persecutors of Christianity were the Jews who had not accepted Christ
- The Jewish Christians who were feeling the persecution the most came up with the Judaizers' heresy
- They demanded that the Gentiles kept the kosher laws and circumcised their sons in order to stop the persecution

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- **Galatians 6:14** *“But far be it from me to glorify except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,... and I to the world”*
 - This would happen through baptism
 - Paul saw the new creation as baptism
 - Those who had been baptized were the “new creation”
 - Father said to understand this fully, we need to understand the Book of Romans
 - Here, in Galatians, Paul is assuming that the members of the Galatian churches knew what all this Pauline language meant as he had presented it to them over four years

Galatians 6 (Cont)

- Father said that at this point, he was sending them a quick email to remind them of his teaching
- When we learn what is in Romans, we will be able to read between the lines concerning what he has written in Galatians
- Father said that this will make better sense when we finish our review of Romans