

Abraham's Descendants by Faith Alone

Galatians 3:7-9

Galatians

1. An epistle written by the Apostle Paul
2. 48-55 A.D., likely his first epistle under divine inspiration
3. Paul had completed his first missionary journey and planted the churches in Galatia: Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe (Acts 13:14-14:23)
4. Unlike other epistles, the apostle is addressing multiple churches
5. Galatia was a political region of the Roman Empire that was made of primarily Gentile (non-Jewish) people, in modern central Turkey

“The Men of Judea” Acts 15:1

- Called “Judaizers”
- “Disrupting whole families,” opposing Paul’s apostolic authority, discrediting his message, searching out the freedom of Christians, and making a showing of the flesh.

Paul, the author

Paul's Thesis: Galatians 2:15-16, "We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."

Paul's 1st Witness: The Personal Testimony of the Galatian Christians

V.3, “Having begun by the Spirit [justification], are you now being perfected by the flesh [law]?”

Paul's 2nd Witness: The Patriarch of the Jews, Abraham

v. 7, "Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham."

"...with Abraham..." Romans 4:11-25

Paul Explains the Significance of Faith Over Law

No one is justified by law

Galatians 3:25-29

Sermon Text: Galatians 3:7-9

1. Are we, as Christians today, witnesses of God's covenant faithfulness to Abraham? If so, in what ways are we seeing the work of God's grace and fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant through Jesus Christ?

2. Like Paul, James is a Jew who often quotes the Old Testament. What Old Testament truth did James understand, that the Old Testament prophets did not fully understand? Read Acts 15:13-19. Look up the cross references: Amos 9:11, 12; Jer. 12:14-17, Is. 43:5-7, Is. 45:20-25.

3. Is the Old Testament still relevant for today? Why or why not?

4. How can understanding the Old Testament help us grasp the greater story of redemption and work of Jesus Christ on your behalf?

5. How does Paul's use of the word "gospel," in Galatians 3:8 help increase our understanding of God's plan of redemption? Brainstorm together.

6. To better understand Paul's use of Abraham as a witness, look up a parallel passage: Romans 2:28-29; 4:3, 9-12, 21-25; 9:6-8. What was God's intention by justifying Abraham before circumcision?

7. Keeping the previous verses in mind, look up Hebrews 11:10, 13-16, 22; 12:22; 13:14 and compare with Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-16; 17:5-7; 28:13-14.

A. How does the author of Hebrews and Paul view the covenant promises in light of Christ?

B. What was Abraham looking forward to?

C. Since Abraham is the model of faith in Galatians, how do these verses about Abraham in Hebrews help us?
