

Galatians Chapter 3

Verse 13

1. Praise God for this verse.
2. The **curse** of the law is the **penalty** of the law. The law curses us and cries out for our death. **Romans 6:23**
3. What good is a law if there is no penalty for breaking it? A law with no penalty is useless and powerless. A law will only be feared if it carries with it a penalty for disobedience.
4. Disobedience to God's law carries with it the penalty of death, eternal death and separation from God in the lake of fire. **Revelation 20:14-15**
5. But the good news is that it is indeed possible to be redeemed from the curse and penalty of the law.
 - How can we be redeemed? **Galatians 3:13** states, "*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law....*"
6. How did Jesus deliver us from the curse of the law?
 - First, He kept God's law in total obedience. He fulfilled all righteousness. The law demands absolute perfection and obedience and that is exactly what Christ did when He lived on the earth for 33 years.
 - Second, Christ willingly chose to pay the penalty and curse of the law that you and I owe - death! On that cross, He was made a curse **for us**. He was delivered up to die for our offences. **Romans 4:25**
7. Paul quotes **Deuteronomy 21:23**, "*...he that is hanged is accursed of God.*" The cross is often referred to as "the tree" (**Acts 5:30, 10:29, 13:29, 1 Peter 2:24**).
8. Things looked bleak for all of humanity, but praise God, Somebody did keep the law's righteous standard. It was Jesus Christ.
9. Now He offers deliverance from the law and His own righteousness to all those who will place their faith and trust in Him.

Verse 14

1. What is the blessing of Abraham? It is the righteousness of God that was imputed to him.
2. This imputed righteousness is now available to all Gentiles through Jesus Christ.
3. The moment we place our faith in Christ, the promise of the Holy Spirit is given to us. **Ephesians 1:13-14**
4. All of this happens on strictly a faith basis - no works of the law are necessary. Just like Abraham, righteousness is imparted by faith alone.
5. **Romans 4:20-24** is a great parallel passage with this verse.

Verse 15

1. Paul is now using an earthly analogy and this is why he says: *"I speak after the manner of men...."*
2. When two people come together and make a legally binding covenant or agreement, a third party can't come along and disannul that covenant or change it. This is the manner of men.
 - **Illustration of marriage:** If someone decides that they don't want Deniece and I to be married, they can't disannul the covenant of marriage that we agreed to. Only Deniece and I could break or change that agreement.
3. What is Paul's point that he is making?
 - God and Abraham made an agreement. Promises were made and received and the Abrahamic covenant between God and Abraham was established.
 - The law did not arrive until 430 later. No third party (namely, the law) can break or disannul the covenant that God established with Abraham. It was established on the basis of faith alone.
 - If the Jewish legalists tried to say that the law superseded and suspended the Abrahamic covenant, Paul is saying, "That's impossible!"

Verse 16

1. God made Abraham some definite promises. You can read about these promises in **Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-16, 15:5, 17:6-8, 22:17-18.**
2. These promises were confirmed to his seed:
 - Isaac (his son) - **Genesis 26:4**
 - Jacob (his grandson) - **Genesis 28:14**
3. The Jewish legalists that had infiltrated the Galatian churches thought that they enjoyed special, divine privileges because they were physical descendants of Abraham. Paul drops a bombshell when he tells them that the true seed of Abraham is Christ!
 - Therefore he says in verse 29, *"...if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."*
4. In Paul's epistles, he discusses two seeds:
 - The spiritual seed of Abraham - all of those who have been saved by faith in Christ. **Galatians 3:7, 29**
 - The physical seed of Abraham - **Romans 11:1; 2 Corinthians 11:22; Hebrews 2:16**
 - The physical seed is discussed thoroughly in **Romans 11**. God will save a remnant of the physical seed of Abraham and keep His covenant with them. **Romans 11:25-29**
5. But whether we are discussing the physical or spiritual seed of Abraham, both find their blessings and promises in one seed - Jesus Christ! **Ephesians 1:10** makes this clear. All blessing is wrapped up and found in Christ.