

## Galatians Chapter 3

### Verse 8

1. This verse teaches that Abraham had the gospel preached unto him.
2. Remember, "gospel" simply means "good news." What was the good news that Abraham received?
  - *"In thee shall all...nations...be blessed."*
3. In order for this to happen, it would require Abraham and Sarah to have a son. They had never been able to have children and now they were old and well stricken in years.
  - So the good news to Abraham centered around a promised son - Isaac.
4. M.R. DeHaan put it this way:
  - "God asked him to believe in a long-promised son, a long-delayed son, a miraculously born, a supernaturally given son. God asked Abram to believe the humanly impossible, the naturally unreasonable, and the miraculously supernatural." (*Galatians* - page 90)
5. Abraham believed God concerning this promised son and God imputed righteousness to him. Abraham was saved by simply placing his faith and trust in God's Word and God's promise.
6. The Scripture foresaw the day when God would offer justification to every individual in every heathen nation through faith alone.
7. Just like Abraham, their faith would center around a Son, a long-awaited, long-promised Son, Jesus Christ. Paul brings out this parallel in **Romans 4:18-25**.
  - Righteousness was imputed to Abraham because of his faith in God's promise.
  - Verses 23 and 24 state, *"Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; but for us also..."*
  - The moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ, righteousness is imputed unto us!
8. Let us make one thing clear: Galatians 3:8 did not say that the Scripture **foretold** that God would justify the heathen through faith. It says, *"And the Scripture foreseeing..."*
  - This marvelous dispensation of grace that we enjoy was kept secret since the world began, hidden from ages and from generations. **Ephesians 3:3-5;**  
**Colossians 1:25-26**

### Verse 9

1. Abraham is the example of saving faith. He was a type or picture of believers today.
  - He placed his faith in God's promise concerning a promised son - Isaac (a type or picture of Jesus Christ.)
  - As a result of his faith, righteousness was imputed to him by God.
2. When people today place their faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ, they, too, are blessed as Abraham was blessed - righteousness is imputed unto them by faith alone.  
**2 Corinthians 5:21**

3. This is why this verse says, *"So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."*

### Verse 10-12

1. Paul will now contrast faith and the law.
  - Those which are of faith are **blessed. vs. 9**
  - Those which are of the works of the law are **cursed. vs.10**
2. Paul quotes **Deuteronomy 27:26** which pronounces a curse upon any person who does not continue in **all things** of the law.
3. The law reveals the perfect righteousness of a holy God. It is described as holy, just, good, and spiritual. **Romans 7:12-14**
4. In order to achieve righteousness through the law, one would have to keep the law in totality and continuance his/her entire lifetime. It demands obedience in all things (no exceptions).
  - This is the idea of verse 12 when it says, *"The man that doeth them shall live in them."*
5. Life can only come to those who keep the law in perfection. But to offend the law in one point (**James 2:10**) is to offend the righteousness of a holy God and the penalty is death. **1 John 3:4; cf. Romans 6:23**
  - **Illustration:** how many links must you break in a chain to break the chain? - Just one.
  - How many lies do you have to tell to be a liar? - Just one.
  - How many sins do you have to commit to be a sinner? - Just one.
6. This is why Paul said in **Romans 7:10**, *"And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death."* The law was the tool that sin used to slay and kill Paul, spiritually speaking. **Romans 7:11**
7. Nobody can look the law in the eye and claim perfection; therefore it is evident that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God (**vs. 11**). The law reveals our guilt (**Romans 3:19**) and leaves us in debt to a holy God. **Romans 4:4**
8. Then how can anyone be saved? *"The just shall live by faith."*
9. Righteousness and life are possible, but not through doing the law, but by simply believing God. Remember the example of Abraham in verses 6-9:
  - Abraham **believed** God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. **vs. 6**
  - They which are of **faith** are the children of Abraham. **vs. 7**
  - God justifies the heathen through **faith. vs. 8**
  - They which are of **faith** are blessed with faithful Abraham. **vs. 9**
10. The law is not of faith (**vs. 12**). The law is not about believing, but **doing**.
  - Many people are steeped in a religion of "doing."
  - The Bible says that they are under a curse.
  - Satan has deceived so many people. They believe that God will bless them on Judgment Day because of what they have done. **Matthew 7:21-22** gives a vivid and frightening description.
  - In reality they will be cursed and they will hear, *"I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* **Matthew 7:23**

- You cannot approach a holy God through the fig leaves of your good works. (Adam and Eve tried.) You will still be found a sinner who has broken God's law.