

# **A Study of the Epistles of Paul**

## **NT Survey Lesson 106--Galatians 3**

**Introduction:** Now that Paul has established that his apostleship and message were from God, not man, Paul continues his message to the Galatians with an appeal to their own experience and to the example of Abraham. Paul shows that justification by faith through Christ was the real fulfillment of God's seed promise to Abraham. The Law was not designed to bring justification but rather was given to serve as a tutor or guardian until Christ came and justification by faith in Him was made possible.

**Lesson aim:** To show that salvation is not based on works (perfect keeping of law) but on faith in Christ, appropriated by gospel obedience.

### **Paul appeals to the Galatians' own experience--Gal. 3:1-5**

1. How did Paul describe the Galatians? What did Paul think had happened to them?
2. Who had the Galatians received? On what basis had they received Him?
3. The Galatians, having begun by the Spirit, thought they could be perfected by what? What consequence did this decision have for the suffering they had endured?
4. What two things was God (or Christ) doing among them? On what basis did these things happen?

### **Paul appeals to the example of Abraham--Gal. 3:6-14**

1. On what grounds was Abraham justified or reckoned as righteous? Who then are true sons of Abraham?
2. Did God preach the gospel to Abraham? In what words? What was this promise predicting, according to Paul?

3. What is the state of those who seek justification by works of law? What did the Law say about this? How did God say the righteous man would live?
4. Was the Law a system of faith (based on forgiveness) or of works (based on perfect obedience)? What OT statement indicates this?
5. What did Christ do to remove the man under the Law from the curse? What Scripture statement proves this?
6. Christ's death makes it possible for the "blessing" promised to Abraham to come to whom? What then could man receive? How?

**The purpose of the Law was to lead men to faith in Christ—  
Gal. 3:15-29**

1. If two people make a covenant and ratify it, can it be set aside or have conditions added to it later?
2. To whom did God make a promise? Who is the "seed" to whom the promise was made? Was it possible for that promise to be set aside or conditions added to it?
3. How long after the promise was made to Abraham and his seed was the Law given? Could this law nullify the promise God had made earlier to Abraham? If the inheritance God promised to Abraham was based on law, then it would no longer be based on what?
4. Why then was the Law given? It was given until who came?
5. Does this mean the Law was contrary to the promise (Could it impart to man righteousness in another way besides faith in Christ)? What in fact do the Scripture do?
6. What was the state of the sinner before faith came?
7. What then did the Law become to those who lived under it? Now that Christ is come what is true?

8. How do people become sons of God? We are all \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. And in addition, if we belong to Christ, we are what?