

**Galatians: Paul's Gospel Defense** (Part 4)  
Jerry Cisar—December 9, 2007

**Text:** Galatians 3:6-29

**Intro: Forsaking the Gospel of justification by faith is foolish!**

*No one is justified by their observance of the law of Moses; rather, only through faith in Jesus Christ as declared in the Gospel can anyone be justified. And not only do we start by faith, we live this entire life in the flesh by faith.*

- Forsaking the Gospel of justification by faith ignores the reality you've experienced! 3:1-5

In regard to God's covenant with Abraham, **Paul says they had 2 things backward:**

- They have it backward as to how Abraham was justified.
- They have it backward as to who inherits the covenant of Abraham.

**I. When we misunderstand how Abraham was justified, we turn the Gospel backward.**

**A. Abraham is the father of faith.**

- Genesis 17:9-14

**THEME #3: Regulations**— The Judaizers had turned things around and thought Abraham was justified by regulations:

- **Circumcision**
- **Eating laws**

- Mark 7:14-23

*Regulations don't lead to righteousness or residence, only the Redeemer brings them.*

## **B. How was Abraham justified?**

- **Genesis 15:6**
- Genesis 12:3
- Genesis 18:18
- Genesis 26:4
- Genesis 28:14
- Deuteronomy 27:26
- Habakkuk 2:4

**II. When we misunderstand who inherits God's covenant with Abraham we get the Gospel backward.**

A. If Abraham was justified by faith, those who are of faith inherit the promise.

- Galatians 3:7, 9, 14, 28-29

i. **3:16** *The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.*

- Genesis 26:4
- Genesis 28:14

*It is Jesus... he is the only one who walked in the covenant....and the community that is found in Him!*

ii. **3:28-29**

***There are not two inheritors of the promise, but one!***

***The only way to inherit the promise given to Abraham is to belong to Christ.***

**Theme #3—Redeemer**

- Galatians 3:13
- Matthew 7:21-24
- Matthew 25:1-12
- Luke 13:22-30
- Philippians 3:7-9

**John Piper:** *"Salvation is not mainly the forgiveness of sins, but mainly the fellowship of Jesus. Forgiveness gets everything out of the way so this can happen...."*

**Drawing Lines**

*Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel and how we think and live.*

- Paul's reasoning to the Galatians moves from experience (3:1-5) to Scriptural proofs (3:6-14). Why do you think he started with experience? Why is it important that he moved to Scripture for additional proof?
- Why do you think Paul is so adamant that we understand how Abraham was justified? Why is this so important to us?
- Why is it so important to understand who inherits God's covenant with Abraham?
  - o Who does inherit it, and how?
  - o Is there any other way to inherit the promises to Abraham?
- How is it that we are found to "belong to Christ" or to "be Christ's"?
- Would you describe your relationship with Christ as "knowing Him? (Knowing Him involves listening to Him, and putting into practice. It is relational.)
- Has a relationship which began with intimacy diminished to apathy? How can that change?