

The Benefits of Faith (Part 2) – Gal 3:7-14

Gal 3:7-14; We're working our way through the book of Galatians, where up to this point,

Paul has appealed to the *foundations* of our faith, and the *centrality* of our faith

And now, in v7-14, he appeals to the *implications* of our faith; The benefits

Saying in v7-9 – [7] *Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. [8] And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed [have benefits].” [9] So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.*

We found last week, from v7, that . . .

We are part of God's chosen people (v7)

That's what Paul means when he says that *those of faith* are *sons of Abraham*; Implying, that . . .

- **Those without faith are excluded**

Which ought to break our heart and spur us on to spread the word

And then, we found that Paul appeals to Abraham, b/c . . .

- **Abraham's the man**

The man of faith with whom our benefits *started*, and our *example* faith that enables us to *receive* them; So that, coming full circle . . .

- **The sons of Abraham and God's chosen people are one and the same**

That's why we are *part* of God's chosen people; B/c those of faith are *sons of Abraham*, and the *sons of Abraham* are God's chosen people; The Bible is clear; And . . .

- **It's all according to plan**

Spoken through the prophets, and applied by the apostles; To the extent that . . .

- **What was originally intended for ethnic Israel, is now intended for spiritual Israel**

Something Jesus was *painfully* clear about; So that people of faith from *every* tribe, tongue, and nation benefit; That was *last* week

➤ This week, we'll find 3 *more* benefits; Starting with this . . .

We are blessed like Abraham (v8-9,14)

We are part of God's chosen *people* like Abraham, and we are *blessed* like Abraham

V9 – *Those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham*

The point being, b/c of our *faith* like Abraham, we can expect to *blessed* with Abraham
“In you shall all the nations be blessed.” God told him (v8; Gen 12)

And *part* of that blessing to which Paul refers, is justification by faith – God's declaration that we are *righteous* in his sight; Just like he considered *Abraham* righteous
It's the primary reason he wrote this letter, and therefore a significant part of blessing to which he refers

➤ And if that was it, that would be plenty; But that's *not* it

In v14 he seems to open it up; To include a *wider* scope of blessing

Saying – *Christ redeemed us . . . so that in Christ Jesus* [via a relationship with him] *the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles* (14)

It's not just that we're blessed *with* Abraham, v9, but *like* Abraham, v14

Implying that we stand to receive the things promised to *him*

➤ The question is, what things; And to find out, we need to turn to Gen 17
So keep your place in Gal 3, and turn with me to **Gen 17:6-8**

God is speaking to Abraham here, to reiterate and expand the *covenant* he made with him; The Abrahamic Covenant we call it; And says in v6 . . .

[6] I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. [7] And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you [aka the sons of Abraham] throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. [8] And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

That's the blessing of Abraham, that Paul said is for *all* of us; *Christ redeemed us . . . so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles* (14)
And there are 5 parts to it; Starting with fruitfulness

➤ We're blessed like Abraham, **with fruitfulness** – *I will make you exceedingly fruitful*
God said in v6; Fruitful to multiply and reproduce; Not just physically, but spiritually
30, 60, and 100 *fold* Jesus said; *Being* disciple, and discipling others

2nd like Abraham, we're blessed **with community**

A community of *lots* of people; *I will make you into nations* God said (6); A *multitude* of nations; People groups; Not ethnically or *culturally* connected, but spiritually
In like-minded solidarity; And lo and behold, we're living it; In the local church
We *are* the community, comprised of a multitude of people groups

3rd, we're blessed **with influence** – *kings shall come from you* God said (6b)

Referring to leaders; Men and women of *influence*; Not just in government, but in all *kinds* of areas; All kinds of vocations; All kinds of roles
Not for personal gain, or personal fame; But kingdom gain, kingdom fame

4th, we're blessed like Abraham, **with assurance**

V7 – *I will establish my covenant . . . throughout their generations* [the generations of God's people] *for an everlasting covenant* God said; That's assurance

As is his promise in the *last* part of v7, *to be God to us*; Speaking of his presence; And guidance; And watch-care

One of the benefits of faith in Jesus, is the assurance that God will never leave us or forsake us; Individually *or* corporately

And 5th, we're blessed **with a home**

I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings God said;
Which for them, meant the land of Canaan (8)

But for us, it's the earth; The *whole* earth; And a new one at that

The meek shall *inherit the earth* Jesus said (Mt 5:5); Over which we will rule and reign on his behalf someday (Rev 20:4)

All while waiting for a new heavens and a new earth (2 Pet 3:13) (**Summary**)

5 blessings, that leads Paul to say – *So then* [v9 of Gal 3], *those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham . . . [with] the blessing [v14] of Abraham*
We're blessed *with* Abraham, like Abraham; I love that

➤ But that's *still* not it; B/c there are 3 **Bonus Blessings** in Gal 3, that are *also* ours
Things we have, that Abraham didn't; Or couldn't fully see
Like Scripture, the Bible; And the fact that it's God's spoken word
That's the first bonus blessing

• **The Bible is God's spoken word**

Something Paul implies in v8; Where he says – *Scripture* [the sacred writings of our faith, found in the Bible], *foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached* Scripture foresaw, and Scripture preached

Does that mean that this book has a magical mind of its own? And the ability to speak?
No; B/c 2 Tim 3:16 says that – *All Scripture is breathed out by God*; It's the expression of God's mind
And 2 Pet 1:21 says that Scripture came about when *men spoke from God, as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*; They wrote, as he inspired

So v8 *can't* mean that the Bible has a mind of its own; Rather, it perfectly expresses the mind of God; So that the Bible and God's spoken word, are one and the same
What he spoke, the Bible says; And what the Bible says, he spoke
So that when we read it, it's no different than if he was speaking to us *directly*
What a blessing

2nd . . .

• **The gospel is everything that points to Jesus**

Scripture [v8], *foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached – the gospel*; Namely, “*In you shall all the nations be blessed.*”
The only way that could be the gospel, by definition, is if it's good news about Jesus
And indeed it is; B/c it was *from* Abraham that Jesus was *born*, and went on to *bless the nations*, by saving us from our sins
That's how – “*In you shall all the nations be blessed.*” – is the gospel
It's good news about a Savior, who would come from Abraham

Which means that God considers the gospel to be more than just the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus; Way more
It includes the people and events that *foreshadow* him – like Jonah, in the belly of the whale 3 days and nights; Foreshadowing Jesus in the *grave* (Mt 12:39-41)
Not only that, but it includes the promises that *require* him – like the one at hand
And, it includes the prophecies that *allude* to him – from Genesis to Revelation

More than just John 3:16, the gospel is *everything* that points to Jesus
So that Scripture, *containing* those things, *preaches* it; Just like Paul said

And then 3rd, the third bonus blessing here, is that . . .

• **God's plan included the world all along**

The Scripture [foresaw] that *God would justify – the Gentiles* it says; In *addition* to those who are Jews
Implying, that God's plan included them all along; It was *never* just for the Israelites

Even in the *Old Testament*; Like **Is 56:6-7**; Where God says that the outcasts . . .
[6] “*And the foreigners* [Gentiles] *who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him,*

to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants . . . [7] these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

Indicating in no uncertain terms, that God's plan included the world all along (**Summ**)

It's the third of 3 *bonus* blessings, that *we* have and *we* see, but Abraham didn't/couldn't
Benefits that should fill your heart and fuel your faith, along with those that apply *directly* to your faith; We're blessed *like* Abraham, and even *more* than Abraham

➤ Which brings us to v10-14

And it's here that he gives us the *reasons* those of faith are so incredibly blessed
[10] *For all who rely on works of the law* [as opposed to faith] *are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”* [11] *Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”* [12] *But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.”* [13] *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—[14] so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.*

The 3rd benefit of our faith, is that . . .

We avoid the Law's curse (v10-12)

B/c of our faith in Jesus – we are part of God's chosen people, we are blessed like Abraham, and we avoid the Law's curse
For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; V10; Pretty straightforward

And this is where it gets really scary for people who live and believe that they have to *do* certain things, to *be* saved or *stay* saved; B/c they're under a curse
All who rely on works of the law [as in doing what you're supposed to do, being a good person] *are under a curse*
And to make matters worse, you have to do it *all*; Just like it says in v10b
“*Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.*” Quoting Dt 27:26

If you rely on good works to save and keep you, whether in whole or part . . .
And you fail to obey perfectly, doing *all* the things written in the Law, doing *everything* you're supposed to do – you sin; Subjecting yourself to God's curse
Which is an empty life, that ends in death; Spiritual death; Thrown in the Lake of Fire forever and ever; Where Jesus says *will be weeping and gnashing of teeth* (Mt 8:12)
That's scary; Relying even in *part* on good works to save you and keep you

➤ It's scary, and it's *futile*; V11

Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” Quoting Hab 2:4
To say that you can't *obey* your way to God; That's not how it works in his world
We're not *justified* before him by keeping the Law
It's by faith; “*The righteous shall live by faith.*”
Meaning, that it's by faith that we *get* life, and it's by faith that we *live* life
We *get* the life he gives by faith, and we *live* the life he gives by faith; It's all by faith

Which is just the opposite of living by the Law

“*The righteous shall live by faith.*” Paul says – [12] *But the law [v12] is not of faith,*

rather “*The one who does them shall live by them.*” Quoting Lev 18:5 this time

Implying, that if you were to keep the Law completely and perfectly, you *too* would live

The problem is, you can’t; You can’t keep it perfectly; And won’t

Which makes trying, futile

So the only way to avoid the Law’s curse, is to put your faith in Jesus

Letting go of every last trace of a *works*-based mentality, and trusting *him* to save you

and keep you; It’s a benefit we can’t afford to live without; And won’t

4th, from v13, is the key to it all – Christ’s death; By faith . . .

We are redeemed by Christ’s death (v13)

That’s the 4th benefit we find here; V13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is

written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree;” Dt 21:23

Apart from faith, you’re cursed; Afflicted with harm; Despised; Scourged

The Law *says* it, and you can’t change it

But Jesus can; And did; By becoming a curse *for* you

And the way he did that, was to hang on a *tree*; Old *Testament* verbiage to describe

death by being hoisted onto a piece of timber

Whether a stake, a pole, an actual tree, or a *cross* as the Roman’s did it

Whatever the case, it was considered the ultimate disgrace, and a sign of God’s *curse*

So when Jesus hung on a cross, he was cursed; Not b/c *he* did something wrong, but *we*

did; And still do; Deserving God’s wrath, punishment, and affliction *ourselves*

➤ But *b/c of the great love with which he loved us* (Eph 2:4), he became a curse for us

Two of the most important words in all the Bible – *for us*

Implying that he *took*, what we *deserved*; What *we* had coming

Suffering in our *place*, and paying a price that we couldn’t; A curse that would take all

eternity to satisfy; So he became a curse for us

And in so doing, he *redeemed* us from the curse; He *redeemed* us from the condemnation

of failing to live up to God’s law

It’s a word that literally means to “buy off;” Or “set free by the payment of a price”

Used in the marketplace of Ancient Rome for servants and slaves

So when Jesus died on the cross, he took on the curse we deserved, and thereby paid the

price for our freedom – freedom from the bondage and consequences of sin

All of which is applied to our account, when we *believe* in him; When we *trust* him

It’s yet another benefit of faith

And as if that wasn’t enough . . .

We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit (v14b)

That’s the last benefit we find here

[13] *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law [v14] . . . so that in Christ Jesus the*

blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the

promised Spirit through faith.

We might be indwelt, by God’s Holy Spirit; He might live *within* us, as his temple

To do what?

To wash us; Renew us (Titus 3:5); Awaken us (Jn 6:63); Purify us; Convict us, Sanctify us; Empower us; Unify us; Enlighten us; Teach us . . .

Seal us for all eternity; Guarantee our inheritance in heaven (Eph 1:13-14); Assure us of our salvation (Rom 8:16); Guide us through life; Point us to truth

Comfort us in difficulty; And the list *literally* goes on; What a benefit; What a blessing

And it’s all a result of our redemption, which is a result of Christ’s death on our behalf – when we believe in faith

So as the servers prepare for The Lord’s Table, let me encourage you to keep these

benefits in mind; And thank *God* for them; Revel in them; Cherish them

It’s one of the reasons we do this – to remember all his benefits

➤ But if they don’t *apply* to you, if you haven’t put your faith in Jesus to save you from the consequences of your sin – let the bread and the cup pass

Otherwise you risk bringing *judgment* on yourself; Saying something *outwardly* that’s not true *inwardly* – that Jesus is yours, and so are his benefits

If that’s not true, let it pass; And consider what’s *keeping* you from him; What’s *keeping* you from faith

Better yet, *make* it true; Make a decision right now to believe in faith; Repenting of your sin, and receiving his Spirit into your life; You can do that right where you sit

And if you do, you should *definitely* participate; B/c the benefits are yours as well