

Theme: Through faith in Christ we are redeemed from the curse and receive all of the blessings of God.

I. Intro – Red Pill or Blue Pill? (Matrix)

- A. Red pill or blue pill in matrix
- B. Two completely different outcomes
- C. Faith and law are like the two pills
- D. What are the outcomes of faith and law?

II. A Brief Overview of the Passage

- A. Two key appeals
 - 1. Experience of Galatians (3:1-5)
 - 2. Testimony of Scripture (3:6-14)
- B. A series of contrasts
 - 1. Faith (10x) and law (9x)
 - 2. Blessing (4x) and curse (5x)
- C. Chiastic structure of passage
 - 1. Spirit (1-5), Abraham (6-9), curse & redemption (10-13)
 - 2. Curse & redemption (14), Abraham (14), Spirit (14)

III. The Blessings of Faith

- A. The Spirit is given through faith (1-5, 14)

- 1. Galatians received Spirit through faith (1-5)
- 2. Spirit promised to all who have faith (v14)
- 3. Spirit is Christianity (Rom 8:9; Eph 1:13-14)
- 4. This comes from faith – not works (2-5; Eph 1:13-14)

B. Abrahamic blessings given through faith (6-9, 14)

- 1. Abraham justified by faith (6)
- 2. Children of Abraham by faith (7)
- 3. God justifies Gentiles by faith (8)
- 4. Abrahamic blessings given through faith (9)

C. Redeemed from the curse of law by faith (10-13)

- 1. Works of law bring curse – not blessing (10-13)
 - a. Cursed for not doing everything in law (10; Dt 27:26)
 - b. The law does not justify – faith does (11; Hab 2:4)
 - c. The law is the opposite of faith (12; Lev 18:5)
- 2. Christ redeemed us from curse of law (13; Dt 21:23)
- 3. Christ took the curse – to give us the blessing! (13-14)

IV. The Path of Cursing, the Path of Blessing

- A. Do you see there are two separate paths?

1. Works of law only lead to curse
 2. Law is not based on faith – opposite of faith
 3. Law thunders against us – shows no mercy
- B. The Good News: the blessings of faith!
1. Christ has redeemed us from this path of cursing
 2. In him we receive righteousness
 3. In him we all spiritual blessings
 4. In Him we receive Spirit – greatest gift of all!
 5. All this comes through faith in Christ – not works
- C. Turn to Christ today and be blessed!

The Blessings of Faith

Galatians 3:1-14

February 20, 2005

?????

Numbers 6

¹ You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ² I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by **observing the law**, or by **believing** what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by **human effort**? ⁴ Have you suffered so much for nothing-- if it really was for nothing? ⁵ Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you **observe the law**, or because you **believe** what you heard? ⁶ Consider Abraham: "He **believed** God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." ⁷ Understand, then, that those who **believe** are children of Abraham. ⁸ The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by **faith**, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be **blessed** through you." ⁹ So those who have **faith** are **blessed** along with Abraham, the man of **faith**. ¹⁰ All who rely on **observing the law** are under a **curse**, for it is written: "**Cursed** is everyone who does not **continue to do everything** written in the Book of the Law." ¹¹ Clearly no one is justified before God by the **law**, because, "The righteous will live by **faith**." ¹² The **law** is not based on **faith**; on the contrary, "The man who **does these things** will 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 hung on a tree." ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the **blessing** given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by **faith** we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Galatians 3:1-14

⁹ You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. **And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.** Romans 8:9

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. **Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,** ¹⁴ **who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13-14