Sons of God by Faith in Christ Jesus

Galatians 3:19-4:7
March 17, 2019
Purpose of Galatians

Paul warns the Galatians not to tolerate any addition to the gospel of grace, particularly ritual circumcision, because a Gentile following Jesus does not need first to become a Jew.
I. Introduction (1:1-10)
   A. The Apostolic Greeting (1:1-5)
      1. Author (1:1-2a)
      2. Audience (1:2b)
      3. Greeting (1:3-5)
   B. Rebuke: the occasion of the letter (1:6-10)

Where we would normally expect to find an apostolic blessing, we hear instead an apostolic curse!

1. Paul’s amazement at their departure (1:6-7)
2. A curse on those who proclaim or receive a false gospel (1:8-9)
3. Paul’s model of not trying to please people (1:10)
II. Using autobiography, Paul defends his apostleship and gospel (1:11-2:21)

A. Paul’s gospel comes directly from God (1:11-24)

B. The Apostles endorse Paul’s ministry and gospel (2:1-10)
   1. Paul travels to Jerusalem (2:1-5)
   2. The Pillars gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship (2:6-10)

C. Paul consistently was committed to the true gospel (2:11-21)
   1. Paul rebuked Peter at Antioch which proves his apostolic authority (2:11-14)
   2. Paul proclaims the biblical gospel: both Jews and Gentiles are justified by faith alone (2:15-20)
III. Using doctrine, Paul defends Justification is by faith alone (3:1-4:31)

A. The Holy Spirit is received by faith alone (3:1-5)

B. Gentiles become sons of Abraham by faith alone (3:6-14)
   Paul proves this point by quoting the Old Testament 6 times
   1. Blessing comes by faith alone through the Abrahamic Covenant (3:6-9)
   2. Relying on the Law for justification brings a curse (3:10-14)

C. If the Law does not save, then what is the Purpose of the Law? (3:15-29)
   1. The Mosaic Law does not void the Abrahamic Promise (3:15-18)
      ○ Human covenants are irrevocable and unchangeable (3:15)
      ○ God’s covenants are irrevocable and unchangeable (3:16-18)
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   1. The Mosaic Law does not void the Abrahamic Promise (3:15-18)
   2. The Law shows us our sinfulness... (3:19-22)
      o The Law was not given to earn righteousness, but to bring an awareness of sin (3:19)
         • The promise was permanent, but the Law was temporary.
      o Since God used a human mediator with the Mosaic Law, both God and man had obligations. Man can never meet those obligations (3:20)
         • The mediator of the Mosaic Law says, “Keep this Law or you will die.”
         • The mediator of the New Covenant, through His High-Priestly ministry, guarantees forgiveness
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   - God certainly did not contradict Himself by giving the Mosaic Law (3:21)
     - The Abrahamic Covenant did not contradict the Mosaic Law because the Mosaic Law never provided righteousness (3:21)
     - Since everyone is under the power/penalty of sin, we can only receive salvation by faith alone (3:22)
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   2. The Law shows us our sinfulness... (3:19-22)
   3. ...then leads us to Christ as the only source of righteousness (3:23-29)
      ○ The Law imprisons guilty sinners on death row (3:23-25)
         • Faith in Christ alone releases sinners from the bondage of the law (3:23)
         • The Law exposes our disobedience, and concludes salvation can only be by faith alone (3:24)
         • As sons of God, we are no longer under the teachings of the Law (3:25)
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      ○ The Law imprisons guilty sinners on death row (3:23-25)
      ○ The Law separated Jews from other people groups. Now that Jews and Gentiles are equally sons of God, there is no need for the Law to separate (3:26-29)
         • Everyone who believes are equally part of the family of God (3:26-27)
         • Everyone’s standing in the Church is equal. God ordained roles still apply (3:28)
         • Every believer receives the spiritual blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant (3:29)
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D. Through the cross, Christ makes us Sons (4:1-7)

1. An heir does not receive an inheritance until he reaches the legal age (4:1-2)
   ○ Living under the Law is like being a child/slave. They have no access to the inheritance.

2. God sent Christ to redeem guilty sinners (4:3-7)
   ○ Children try to earn salvation by works (4:3)
   ○ Through Christ, we receive adoption (4:4-5)
   ○ Through Christ, we receive our inheritance (4:6-7)
Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Adding any religious/ceremonial work results in a message that does not save.