

EPISODE NO. 330

Gal. 3:1-14

Living by Faith

Paul wrote these words: 1 You people in Galatia were told very clearly about the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. However, you were very foolish; you let someone trick you. 2 Tell me this one thing: How did you receive the Holy Spirit? Did you receive the Spirit by following the law? No! You received the Spirit because you heard the Good News and believed it. 3 You began your life in Christ with the Spirit. Are you trying to continue it by your own power? You are so foolish! 4 Many things have happened to you. Was it all a waste of time? I hope not! 5 So, does God supply the Spirit to you because you follow the law!? No. Does God work miracles among you because you follow the law!? No. It is because you heard the Good News and believed it.

6 The Scriptures say the same thing about Abraham:

“Abraham believed God, and so God declared him to be a righteous man.”
(*Genesis 15:6*)

7 So, you should know that the true children of Abraham are those who have faith. 8 The Scriptures told what would happen in the future. These writings said that God would make non-Jewish people righteous — through their faith. The Good News was told to Abraham long ago:

“Abraham, God will use you to bless all people on earth.” (*Genesis 12:3*)

9 So, all people who believe are blessed in the same way that Abraham was blessed for his faith. 10 But those people who depend on following the law to make themselves righteous are under condemnation, because it is written:

“A person must do everything which is written in the book of the law. If he does not always obey those things, then that person is under condemnation!”
(*Deuteronomy 27:26*)

11 Now it is clear that no person may be made right with God by the law. The Scriptures say:

“The person who is right with God by faith will live forever.” (*Habakkuk 2:4*)

12 The law is NOT based on faith. On the contrary, the law says:

“A person who wants to find life by following these things must DO the things the law says.” (*Leviticus 18:5*)

13 The law put us under condemnation, but Christ took that condemnation away. He changed places with us; he put HIMSELF under that condemnation. It is written:

“When a person’s body is hung on a tree, it shows that the person has been condemned.”
(*Deuteronomy 21:23*)

14 Christ did this, so that God’s promised blessing to Abraham could be given to all ethnic groups. This blessing comes through Christ Jesus. God wanted us to receive the promise of the Holy Spirit through believing.