Galatians 3

V1-14
In this passage, Paul presents a series of arguments demonstrating the folly of starting the Christian life by faith and then continuing by works.

The language is strong. Paul wants the Galatians to see just how inconsistent and illogical it is to live this way because at the end of the day it results in a denial of the gospel which means (as he stated at the end of chapter 2) Christ died for nothing!

In these first 14 verses, Paul draws the reader’s attention to evidence from their personal experience (v1-5) the Old testament story of Abraham (v6-9) and what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross (v10-14).

**Big Idea:** *We are not only saved by faith in Christ alone, but that is how we are to continue to live our live from that point forward.*

1. Read v1-5. What does it mean that “Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified” to the Galatians?

2. What is the significance of their receiving the Spirit? (compare Acts 11:15-18) So what is Paul’s argument in v3?

3. Read v6-9. What did Abraham have to do to have righteousness credited to him? What does it mean? How do we obtain the same blessing as Abraham (v9)?

4. Read v10-14. If you choose to justify yourself by the law, how much do you have to keep (v10)? What is the alternative (v11)? How does the cross of Christ bring us under God’s blessing? What is the promise we receive (v14)?

5. Are we guilty of making the same foolish mistake as the Galatians? In what ways do we return to law-keeping in an effort to earn God’s approval?
V15-29
In these verses Paul continues to explore the relationship between the Promise given to Abraham and the Law given to Moses.

In v15-18 he uses the illustration of a will which names those who are going to inherit. The promises given to Abraham are like a will in that once they have been formally laid down, nothing can alter or overrule them – not even the Law given later on to Moses.

So, if the promises have always stood firm, even with the addition of the law, what was the purpose of the law (v19)?

The rest of this chapter explores the correct function of the law and ends with the conclusion that we are no longer under its supervision (v25).

Big Idea: **We inherit the blessings of God (our salvation) because of the promise made to Abraham and Christ (his seed). The law was never given as an added condition.**

6. Read v15-18. How does Paul illustrate the relationship between the promises given to Abraham and the Law given through Moses? Who were the promises ultimately given to (v16)? Did the law add conditions to receiving the promises?

7. Read v19. Why does Paul say God gave the Law to Israel? What does this mean? ...and how long was the Law supposed to serve this function?

8. Read v21-22. Are the Law and the Promises to Abraham opposed to each other? How would you explain why they aren’t (see also v24)?

9. Read v23-29. Paul illustrates our relationship to the Law being like that of a child and their guardian. Once we have grown up, we take our place in the family and we are no longer under the supervision of the guardian. What are some of the blessing of belonging to Christ listed in v26-29?

**Bonus Question:** What do you think we (as Christians today) are supposed to do with the Law of Moses?