

WRITE IT DOWN!

How Was Abraham Saved?

Getting Grace: A Study in Galatians

Galatians 3:6-9

Sunday, April 13, 2008

LISTEN UP!

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I. The TIMING of Abraham's Belief.

- Abraham believed God before
- Abraham believed God before . . .

II. The EFFECT of Abraham's Belief.

It was reckoned to him as righteousness. (Gen. 15:6, Gal. 3:6)

III. The CONTENT of Abraham's Belief.

The Promise of . . .

1. (Gen. 15:5)
2. (Gen. 22:18, Gal. 3:16)
3. (Gen. 12:3, 18:18, 22:18)
4. (Gen. 22:8 -14)

IV. The SIGNIFICANCE of Abraham's Belief.

- _____ Abraham believed points us to the Gospel of God's Free Grace in Jesus.
- _____ Abraham believed points us to the Gospel of God's Free Grace in Jesus.

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Galatians 3:1-9 again. What is the basis of Paul's argument in 1-5? What about in 6-9? How are the two arguments linked?
2. In 3:6, Paul quotes Genesis 15:6. Go back and read Genesis 15. What is the promise that God makes to Abraham? What's the challenge or barrier to the promise?
3. Is there anything strange to you about the first half of Galatians 3:8? What about the second half? (look & think hard!) Any implications or conclusions you draw?
4. How was Abraham saved or justified? How many times is this agency mentioned in these four verses? Circle them.
5. Who according to Galatians 3:16-17 is the Seed of Abraham? Who according to 3:7 are the children of Abraham? What is the blessing of Abraham mentioned in 3:8 and 9? Can you tie all this together?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in the text/message this week and why?
2. The Gospel in the Galatian churches was becoming confused with Jewish nationalism. Does that happen today? Give a couple examples. How does this passage challenge Jewish nationalism? Is there an application here for us today as well?
3. Talk about how you have previously read and understood the Old Testament, if you've read it at all. Have you always understood that the Gospel of God's grace in Christ was given immediately from the Fall in Genesis 3:15? Have you always understood that God's way of salvation has always been faith in Christ? If not, how have you understood the OT? What difference does understanding the Bible this way make to you?
4. What do you know about Abraham's faith? Read Hebrews 11:8-18 for a snapshot. Can you think of any episodes when he exercised faith? How about times when his faith failed? What was his faith like? What might it look like for us to have an Abrahamic kind of faith?

Spring Growth Groups start THIS WEEK! It's not too late to enroll today in the Courtyard!