

Sunday, March 19, 2023—Galatians 3:8-9 Blessed With Faithful Abraham

Galatians 3:8

- **And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.**
- Let us talk about what the verse does not say:
 - It does not say that Scripture foretold that God would justify the Gentiles through faith. The word is foreseeing, not foretelling.
 - It does not say that God told Abraham that He would justify the Gentiles through faith.
 - It does not say that God preached to Abraham the good news that he was justified by faith. It was not until five centuries later that God moved Moses to write the book of Genesis.
 - It does not mean that God preached to Abraham the Gospel of the Grace of God.
- So, then what does it mean? Did God know that eventually He was going to justify the Gentiles (uncircumcision) by faith alone? Yes. So, then God justified Abraham in a particular way so that he could be our spiritual father and we his spiritual children even though we are not his physical seed.
- Genesis 15:6—when faith alone was counted to Abraham as righteousness in Genesis 15, was he in circumcision or uncircumcised?
- Romans 4:9-12—Abraham was not circumcised until Genesis 17 after faith alone had been counted to him as righteousness. The entire chapter of Romans 4 is proving the fact that Abraham was not justified by works when God counted his faith for righteousness.
- James 2:21-26—so, what should we do with these verses? Should we throw this “epistle of straw” out of the Bible like Martin Luther suggested?
 - James 2:21-22—seem to suggest that faith alone was not enough to justify Abraham when he offered Isaac upon the altar. When did this occur?
- Genesis 22:1-3—in this case, if Abraham believed God, what would he have done? Taken Isaac to the top of the mountain and killed him.
 - Hebrews 11:8-19

- In this case, works were required of Abraham to demonstrate that he had faith. In Genesis 22, was Abraham in circumcision or uncircumcision? James 2 is clearly speaking about a different justification than Paul talks about in Romans 4.
- **justify the heathen through faith**—we as Gentiles are justified through faith. That is, faith is the exclusive channel through which our justification comes.
- Galatians 3:8—God justified Abraham in a special way in Genesis 15 because He foresaw how he would justify the Body of Christ. It is because of this dual justification of Abraham that we are able to be the spiritual children of Abraham.
 - Romans 3:28-30—verse 30 is a hard verse for a lot of people because it seems to imply that the circumcision i.e., Israel and the uncircumcision i.e., Gentiles are justified in two different ways. One “by faith” and other “through faith.”
 - **By**—is a translation of the Greek preposition *ek*. It is various translated by the King James translators as “of” 366x, “from” 181x, “out of” 162x, “by” 55x, “on” 34x, “with” 25x.
 - According to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* the third definition of the English preposition “by” means:
 - “Through, or with, denoting the agent, means, instrument or cause; as, 'a city is destroyed by fire; 'profit is made by commerce; 'to take by force.' This use answers to that of the Latin *per*, through, denoting a passing, acting, agency, or instrumentality.”
 - Galatians 3:8—the word rendered “through” is the Greek preposition *ek* that same word translated “by” in Romans 3:30.
 - **Through**—is a translation of the Greek preposition *dia*. This preposition is elsewhere translated “by” 241x by the King James translators.
 - Noah Webster records two different meaning for the English preposition “through” that are related to “by” in his *American Dictionary of the English Language*.
 - 3. By transmission, noting the means of conveyance.
 - 4. By means of; by the agency of; noting instrumentality. This signification is a derivative of the last.
 - Galatians 2:19—“through the law”

- Galatians 2:21—“by the law” the Greek work is the same in both verses in the same context.
- **In thee shall all nations be blessed**—notice that because God foresaw how He would justify the Gentiles, He justified Abraham in the same way, thereby allowing for all nations to still be blessed through Abraham.

Galatians 3:9

- **So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.**
- Note the expression “of faith” in this verse. This is second time in this context this phrase has appeared.
 - Verse 7—“are of faith”
 - Verse 9—“be of faith”
- Because we are of faith, we receive the spiritual blessings of Abraham, justification and eternal life.
 - Romans 4:16-25