

Sunday, April 23, 2023—Galatians 3:13-14 Christ Our Curse

Galatians 3:13

- **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:**
- **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law**—the first part of the verse tells the whole story, “Christ hath redeemed us.” To redeem means to rescue from loss, or to deliver by paying a price.
- A complete understanding of redemption is gained from looking at the three Greek words that are translated redemption:
 - *Agorazo*—to purchase in the market. The underlying thought is of a slave-market. The subject of redemption is sold under sin, under the sentence of death, and the purchase price is the blood of a redeemer who dies in their stead.
 - *Exagorazo*—to buy out of the market. The redeemed are never again to be exposed to sale.
 - *Lutro*—to lose. To set free by paying the price. (Scofield, 1195)
- Romans 3:24
- Ephesians 1:7
- Colossians 1:13
- Who is the “us” that God has redeemed? Given the greater context of the Chapter 3 I think it all the believers in the churches of Galatia.
 - Galatians 3:1— “O foolish Galatians . . .”
- What has God redeemed “us” from? The curse of the Law. In other words, Christ paid the necessary price to redeem or deliver us out from under the curse of the Law.
- The word curse in verse 13 is the same word that is used in verse 10. Our English word “curse” comes from the Greek word *kata*, which carries the following meanings: a) the curse proceeding from God, b) the rejection caused by judgment, c) the destruction caused by judgment. It is the equivalent to judgment without mercy.
- We were all under the curse of the Law because the Law declares us all guilty.
 - Romans 3:19-20
 - I Timothy 1:7-10

- **being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:**
- How did Christ redeem us from the curse of the Law? By being made a curse for us. That is to say that Christ accepted the punishment the Law required for disobedience which is death. The curse of the Law means ultimate physical death and, unless a way of salvation is provided, it results in eternal death.
 - Hebrews 2:9
- The second half of this verse is a quotation from Deuteronomy 21:23.
- Deuteronomy 21:22-23—what is the punishment according to the Law for failing to obey the Law? Death. What should our punishment be because we are under the curse of the Law due to our failure to obey it? Death. Who has made it possible for us to be saved from the curse of the Law (i.e., death)? Jesus Christ.
- Christ did what no other human being has ever done. He kept the entire Law perfectly. Judicially, He did not deserve the death of Deuteronomy 21:23.
- Matthew 26:65-66—Christ is charged with blasphemy. Christ should not have been the one to hang on the tree, but He did.
- What happened to Christ while He was upon the cross is as close to blasphemy as you can get without being a heretic.
 - John 3:14
 - II Corinthians 5:21—on the cross, Christ was made sin for us and suffered the curse of the Law on our behalf.
 - Matthew 27:46—while on the cross, Christ became so identified with our sin that God the father had to forsake Him.
- In light of these scriptural realities, how pitiful and pathetic are our good works?

Galatians 3:14

- **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**
- What is the first word of verse 14? That. Always remember in your Bible study when you see the word “that,” it deals with the purpose or the intent of what was just said.
- The reason that He was made a curse for us in verse 13 is so that the blessings of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles through Jesus Christ.

- The blessings of Abraham within the context of Galatians 3 are righteousness in verse 6 and justification in verse 8.
- The blessings of Abraham deal with the fundamental issue of eternal life.
- Romans 4:13—in order for Abraham and his seed to inherit the world, what must they possess? Eternal Life.
- Genesis 15:12-15—God told Abraham he would die before his descendents entered into the land.
- Hebrews 11:19—Abraham understood that in order for God to fulfill the promise made unto him, He would have to be a possessor of eternal life.
- This is Paul's point in Galatians 3, because God did something special in the justification of Abraham. He provided for our eternal life as well through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- Notice how Paul also answers the question he raised in verse 2 about how the Galatians received the Holy Spirit. As Gentiles we received the Holy Spirit in the same manner in which we were justified, through faith.
- The Holy Spirit was one of the things promised to Israel.
 - Joel 2:28
 - John 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:7, 16
 - Acts 2
- In Galatians 3, we learn from Paul how the Gentiles can receive this spiritual blessing also because of how God justified Abraham.