

After Faith In Christ
Galatians 3:25-29

Notes and Prayer
Requests:

Memory Verse: Galatians 4:7 - “Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

Text: “But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Monday

I want to talk to you about the benefits you receive after faith in Christ, which is the focus of this week’s text..

In the movie *The Black Stallion Returns*. A boy named Alec Ramsey stows away on a plane and flies to North Africa. He then begins to cross the desert; and, he is told something about the tribesmen of the desert that saves his life and his mission. He hears that they have such a high sense of honor that if you say you want to be their guest, they will stake their life and possessions on protecting you. So even though Alec was totally broke and could not purchase protection and help, he was able to get protection and care twice by simply declaring his need and desire to be their guest. In other words, he appealed to ***their honor and not his worth***, and therefore he was saved.

That’s exactly how it is with Christ. If you entrust yourself to Christ, and sincerely say you want to be his eternal guest and wear his garments and accept His customs, His honor and His promise is at stake. He will not refuse you. Why? Because you have so honored His value and trustworthiness by your faith in Him, that He would be denying Himself to turn you away. And so, all He has is yours. What are the benefits of faith in Christ that the Spirit explains to us here.

The first comes from verse 25, and It is this:

1. You are no longer under the tutor of the law.

Verse 25 says, “But after faith has come, you are no longer under a tutor.”

What does it mean to be “under a tutor”?

Instead of being under the tutor of the law, what is the believer under now? (Rom. 6:14)

What should this mean for us in terms of our daily practice? (Rom. 6:12-14)

Before faith came you were confined under the law, it was a prison that shut you up in sin and condemned you. It functioned like a custodian, which gave condemnation, restraint for some out of the fear of greater condemnation and guidance, teaching you of your need for grace. But, the law itself couldn't give the inheritance (3:18). As verse 21 says, if the law “could have given life, then righteousness would have come by the law.” But it simply could not do it. For though the law is good and beautiful and leads to what is abundant and wonderful in life, men are hopelessly sinful and incapable of abiding by it.

Christ, however, does what the law could never do. He justifies men and women freely, a gift that is received by faith. And wherever men and women unite with Christ by faith they are forgiven of their lawlessness and declared not guilty before God.

Tuesday

We saw yesterday from verse 25 that one of the benefits of salvation is that we are no longer under law, but under faith. Does this mean that we can simply set the law aside? This is the question that confronted Paul in Romans chapter 6, verse 15, “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!”

When faith comes, Beloved, and one is no longer confined in the prison of sin by the law, but living before God in His grace, that does not mean that you cast the law aside, anymore than you would cast aside a beloved physician who showed you a cure for the cancer that was destroying your body, any more than you would cast aside a manual that shows you

how to take care of your car so that it doesn't totally fall to pieces.

What is the Christian's relationship to the law after faith in Christ?

Though much of the law does not apply to you personally for it deals with the theocratic government of Israel or with the priesthood and sacrificial ceremonies that foreshadowed and were fulfilled in Christ, the moral law of God still applies and is reiterated for us in the New Testament. The difference is that it is no longer a prison condemning us to death since we are now under grace and have forgiveness for our failures. The law, then, is a joy, a way of pleasing the heart of the one who loved us and gave Himself for us. And for the first time there is hope of growing in godliness, because the law of God is met with faith and the power of the indwelling Spirit of God, who loves us and helps us on the way, and does not condemn us when we fail, but picks us up and sets us back on our feet again in love. Why does He do this? For we are not under law, but we are under grace.

And though all that you do is still tainted by sin, sin shall not have the victory over you, for there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). And God is pleased with your efforts and strivings in godliness (e.g. Heb. 6:10)! He loves it when you pray and read His word and listen and give to the needy and serve Him. And even though it is tainted by the remaining vestiges of sin, it touches His heart and delights Him when it is done not out of self-righteousness, but out of faith in Christ and love for your glorious holy God. He will not forget the sacrifice and service of faith. Though you struggle with sin every day, Beloved, there is never any reason to despair, feel you have no hope of pleasing Him or give up in your loving service for Him, for you are under grace, and God loves the efforts of His children.

Moreover, God in his super abundant grace will reward those faithful to Him. There are literally dozens of Scriptures to encourage us with this truth. Can you name a few:

Finally, the word for "tutor" in this verse refers to a servant of the family responsible to watch over the children from the nursery to their entrance into adulthood. He governs the child's behavior until the child has the

How did the law serve as a tutor in your own personal life?

maturity to do what is right without external constraints. The "custodian" or "tutor" or "schoolmaster" does not have the power to make the child's heart good, nor can he give the child his inheritance, but he leads the child in the right direction. That's how the law functioned for Israel. It provided direction and restraint. It prescribed the way a mature child should behave. But it could not give Israel a new heart nor could it give the inheritance. And according to Hebrews 4:2, the reason the law did not benefit Israel was that it was not met with faith. Faith is the mark of maturity which the law prescribed, and so the law kept Israel in prison until faith came into the individual heart. The law was designed to move the people to live a life of faith in the merciful promises of God (cf. Ex. 14:31; Num. 14:11; 20:12; Deut. 1:32; 8:17; 9:23; 28:52; 32:37). But rather than listening to the tutor, Israel by and large rebelled against him with stubborn, hardened and proud hearts.

And the law works that way today, too. If you don't have a heart to trust God and rely on mercy, the law will feel like a burdensome, offensive, deadening weight given by a harsh schoolmaster. But if you do have a heart to trust God and rely on his mercy, then the law will feel like a much-needed and desired prescription from a wise and beloved Physician. It will be the joy and love of your heart. What the law is for you depends on what you are toward the Law-giver. 1 John 5:3 says, "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." Why? For you are no longer under the tutor, but under grace.

Wednesday

The second benefit that comes to a person after faith in Christ is this:

2. You have become a child of God (v. 26).

Verse 26 says, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

One of the most wonderful things in the household of Christ is that it is a place where sinners and outcasts become children. They become family members. To belong to Christ is to be a child of God with all the stupendous privileges implied in that relationship. Another way to say the same thing is verse 29: "If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise." To be a descendant of Abraham and to be a child of God are the same in Paul's mind. You

become both when you as an outsider entrust yourself to Christ.

What is the vehicle through which this marvelous transaction takes place according to verse 26?

What is true faith?

Now, what does it mean to be a child of God? To be a child of God according to Scripture means that you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. It means that you are a part of the true vine, which is Christ, that you have been appointed by Christ to bear His fruit. To be a child of God means that you are His temple, the dwelling place of His Spirit, that you are a new creation, reconciled to God and a minister of reconciliation. It means that you are a saint in His eyes, that you are God's workmanship, His poem, His masterpiece. It means that you are a fellow citizen with the rest of God's family, that you are now righteous and holy in Christ. It means that your life is hidden with Christ in God, that He is your life, that you are chosen of God, holy and dearly loved. To be a child of God means that you are a son of light and not of darkness, that you are a partaker of a heavenly calling, that you are one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house, that you are a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession that you might show forth the praises of Him.

To be a child of God means that you are an alien and stranger in this world, that you are an enemy of the devil. It means that you will resemble Christ when He returns, that you have been bought with a price and are not your own but belong to God. It means that you have been established, anointed and sealed by God in Christ and have been given the Holy Spirit as a pledge guaranteeing your inheritance to come. To be a child of God means that you have been gifted for service, that you have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms, that you were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blame before Him, that God has determined to adopt you, that you have been redeemed, forgiven and received the lavish

grace of God. To be His child means that you have direct access to God through the Spirit in prayer, that you may approach Him with boldness, freedom and confidence, that you have been rescued from the domain of Satan's rule and transferred to the kingdom of Christ. It means that you have been and will be made complete, perfected by His sanctifying power. It means beloved that God is not ashamed of you but rejoices to call you His own precious possession.

Beloved, everything I just said is a quote from Scripture explaining what it means to be His child, and I barely even scratched the surface of the things that could have been said. What else does it mean for us when we become children of God through faith in Christ Jesus?

Thursday

The third benefit mentioned in the text after a person comes to faith in Christ is this:

What does it mean to be clothed in Christ?

3. You have been clothed in Christ (v. 27).

Verse 27 says, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ," - This is not water baptism, but he is saying literally as many of you as were plunged into Christ, immersed, placed into His person. It is talking about a spiritual event, being immersed into His Spirit, being united with Him. This is something that happens at the point of faith, you are baptized, plunged into, immersed in the Spiritual person of Christ, and as have done that by faith in Him - "have put on Christ." The verb "put on" (ἐνδύω (enduo)) literally means have been "clothed with" Christ.

This is so important, my friends, because it means that when God looks at you who have believed in Jesus, who is the one that God sees covering you? Christ, the Lord of glory. Another way that the Bible speaks of this in the book of Romans is to say that when you trusted

Christ His righteousness was imputed to you. It was given to you. It was credited to your account before God. Christ took your sin, becoming sin for you, and gave you his personal righteousness, that you might become the righteousness of God in Him the Bible says. You have been clothed in Him.

So that when the Bible says, “Without holiness, no one will see the Lord,” you don’t have to be afraid! So that when the Bible says, “Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart,” you don’t have to be afraid! Because you do have clean hands. You do have a pure heart. You do have holiness. You do have righteousness. How? Because you have been clothed in Christ, and He has given His purity to you as a gift. He has given His beauty to you in exchange for your filthy ashes. God in His grace has given you this marvelous gift, when you trusted in Jesus Christ, cried out to Him for mercy and received Him as your Lord and Savior.

Oh Beloved, Jesus has done it all! He paid the sin debt that you could not pay on the cross; and, He has given you the righteousness you did not have. As many as have been united with Christ by faith have been clothed with Christ. Forever, in eternity, you will stand before God not because of what you have done, but because you are covered with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, the very Lord of Glory, Himself.

Spend some time today, praising and thanking God for the gift of His righteousness. Write out your prayer below:

Friday

Today, I want to mention to final benefits that come after faith in Christ. The first is this:

4. You have unity with all other Christians (v. 28).

Verse 28 states, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

One of the most wonderful things in Christ's household where sinners and outcasts become family members is that our own racial, social and sexual status does not make us any more or less than His very own child and heir. All human prejudice against other people is utterly cast aside and woe to the presumptuous sinner who thinks that his Jewishness or his wealth or his social status or his maleness has won his admission to the Lord's house, or merits a greater share in the inheritance of God's kingdom. Ephesians 2:19 says that Jews and Gentiles in Christ are “fellow citizens ... and members of the household of God.” Ephesians 6:9 says that masters and slaves have but one master in heaven who shows no partiality. 1 Peter 3:7 says that husbands and wives are joint-heirs of the grace of life in Christ. When Christ admits us into his protection and care by faith alone every possible ground for boasting is removed, whether racial, social or sexual. We are all utterly dependent on the grace of Christ not the value of our human distinctions.

What are the implications of this verse for such things as racial prejudice?

Beloved, there is hardly anything more wicked and hateful than prejudice, whether it is prejudice of men against women, women against men, rich against poor, poor against rich, black against white, white against black, one race against another race, the born against the unborn, or whatever. It stems from a heart of pride and arrogance which absolutely tops the list of things that God hates in the book of Proverbs. And God will have none of it in His kingdom. He has created all. He has created all in His image and He loves them all.

The last benefit that we see in this text that comes after faith in Christ is this:

5. You are an heir of God's kingdom (v. 29).

“And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Those who have faith in Christ receive the inheritance promised to Abraham. We've already done an entire lesson, so I won't cover it again this week. But let me close with this thought, “under the tutor” or “under la” means being oppressed when you have no power to fulfill it. A natural man, a man or a woman without God, does one of either two things in this circumstance: They either rebel against God's law or they try to keep it in your own strength. In either case according to 2 Cor. 3:6 “the letter kills” and they are spiritually damned.

But that is no longer the believer's relation to the law. We are not under it any more, crushed and trying to work our way to heaven. For us the law has become a matter of joyful obedience. It is not on us any more as a deathly burden; we are on it by the grace of God in the freedom and the power of the Holy Spirit.

What has happened? The answer is given in Gal. 5:18, “If you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law.” The Spirit so transforms our life as we trust in Jesus Christ, that we love what God loves and hate what God hates. And so His law is no longer a mountain to climb but an easy path through fields of joy. As Jesus, Himself, says, “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matt. 11:29-30). It is a path that we follow by grace and faith, without any fear, but having “rest for our souls.” Why? Because we know that in Christ alone we have already received freedom from condemnation, sonship from God, righteousness from Christ Himself, unity and fellowship in the precious and gloriously diverse family of God and a wonderful inheritance. Let us delight ourselves in the benefits that come from faith in Christ.