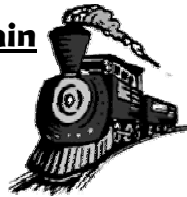


the irreligious CHRIST

Part 3: *Bewitched By Religion?*

INTRODUCTION – Gettin’ On The Good Train

Isaiah 32:15-17; 44:1-5;
Ezekiel 11:14-21; 36:26-27; 37:1-14
Joel 2:28-29



Cracking Open The Text

Galatians 3

PAUL’S POINT: The _____ of Moses is not necessary to become embraced by Christ.

THE EVIDENCE FROM EXPERIENCE...

vv. 1-5

- Paul compares advocates for religion with pagan sorcerers.
- The Galatians’ experience of God’s Spirit was somehow undeniable and corporate. It makes the foundational starting point for the rest of Paul’s argument.

THE EVIDENCE FROM SCRIPTURE...

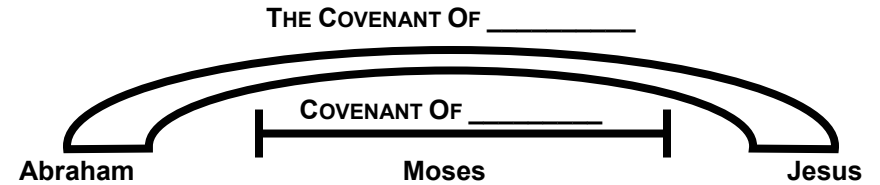
vv. 6-14

- While the religionists would have drawn people’s attention to **Genesis 17** where Abraham embraces circumcision, Paul points out that **Genesis 15** comes first, where Abraham is embraced by God and declared righteous because of his faith. (Also see **Genesis 12:2**.)

THE EVIDENCE FROM REASON...

vv. 15-18

- The Mosaic Law was a temporary sub-covenant designed to keep Jews separate, within the primal Abrahamic Covenant of faith, designed to lead all nations to God.



THE RADICAL REALITY OF THE KINGDOM...

Galatians 3:28

TAKE OUT: If we have Jesus in common, the unity of that identity should _____ all human differences.

CONCLUSION – Christocentric Faith

John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-15

The Spirit moves us to follow _____.

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week’s message, share one thing that most challenged you.
2. Catholic Theologian Luke Timothy Johnson says: *In his letter to the Galatians, Paul pushes the scandalous implications of the Gospel to their limits.* Brainstorm briefly – what are the potential scandals and offenses in the Gospel of Jesus?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. In **Galatians 3** Paul builds his case on the story of Abraham. Read about God’s original covenant of faith with humanity in **Genesis 12:1-2; 15:1-6; 17:1-8**. a) What verses or ideas stand out to you as you read through these passages? b) Is the faith of Abraham just a mental belief or something more? (Also see **Genesis 26:4-5**.) c) Knowing that the biblical word “faith” means trusting a person more than believing in a certain teaching, what are the implications of this for our “faith” in God? d) How can the analogies of marriage and/or parenthood help us understand what faith is?
4. If the Abrahamic Covenant is for all people and through faith, then we must ask with Paul, “Why the Law”? Read **Galatians 3:23-29**. In your own words, try to come to a satisfying answer to the question, “Why did God give Israel the Law of Moses?”

SO WHAT?...

5. Read **1 Timothy 2:4-6**. a) Given the historical context of first-century Israel, how is this verse a spiritually subversive (or “irreligious”) text? (Try to answer this question for each of the three verses.) b) How are you tempted to put anything or anyone in the place of Christ in your life? c) Pray for each other in this regard.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, November 9 / 16, 2003