

# Reading Scripture with Paul

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For Doctrine...

# “The ones who are of circumcision”

- Made up of Jewish believers
- Connected to the Circumcision Party of Jerusalem who taught that
  - Baptism into Christ is only a starting point
  - Circumcision and keeping the Law of Moses are also required
- A key passage for them may have been Genesis 17 v 14  
*“Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”*

# “O foolish Galatians...”

- “*You stupid Galatians!*” New English Bible
- “*O thoughtless Galatians*” Youngs Literal
- “*O senseless Galatians*” Moffatt
- “*You dear idiots of Galatia*” JB Philips



# “When do you receive the gifts?”

- Was it after you believed the gospel?
- Was it after you had taken on the burden of the Law?
- Paul knew when it was
  - Acts 13 v 52 *“the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Spirit.”*
- It was after the Galatians had believed.
- *“Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”* Galatians 3v3 English Standard Version

# Abraham believed God...

- “*Abram believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness*” Genesis 15v6
- Why was Abrams belief impressive?
  - Abram and Sarai were childless
  - “*Sarai was barren; she had no child*” Genesis 11v30
- But 25 years after that first promise, Abraham still believes

# Galatians 3v7

- *“they that of faith are – these are sons of Abraham”*  
Interlinear Greek New Testament
- *“those of faith--these are sons of Abraham”* Youngs  
Literal
- *“it is the men of faith who are Abraham’s sons”* New  
English Bible
- *“it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham”*  
English Standard Version



# Galatians 3v5-7 thought flow

- Abraham counted as right before God by belief in God
- Those who have faith like Abraham are counted as his sons
- You believed God and know you were approved by Him because you received the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- By faith, you are righteous in God's sight
- Therefore by faith you are children of Abraham
- How can you make things any better than this by works of Law?
- You can't!

# Scripture foreseeing...

- “Now Yahweh had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house...” Genesis 12 v 1
- Paul says that it's Scripture who speaks them in Galatians 3v8
  - Scripture foresees
  - Scripture preaches
- “Scripture locked up all things under sin...” Galatians 3v22 Literal Translation of the Holy Bible
- Scripture foresees therefore it preaches before



# The pre-preached gospel

Genesis 12 v 3 – “in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”

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Genesis 22 v 18 – “in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed”

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Galatians 3v8 “In thee shall all nations be blessed”

The blessing that comes on the Gentiles through Abraham, is of being counted as righteous

# Righteousness not by Law

1. The Law curses all who fail to keep it Deuteronomy 27v26  
Since you will fail to keep it, you will be cursed
2. The Law can't make you right in the sight of God  
It's the righteous that live by faith Habakkuk 2v4  
The Law isn't about faith Leviticus 18v5  
Therefore the Law isn't about righteousness or justification

# The one that hangs on a tree...

- “(for he that is hanged is accursed of God;)”  
Deuteronomy 21v23
- “Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree” Galatians  
3v13



# The results of being redeemed are?

1. The blessing of Abraham can be extended to the Gentiles – through Jesus Christ
2. *“that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith”*
  - The promise of the Spirit is what has been promised through the work of the Spirit – and sharing in that promise is by faith
- Paul is not referring to being given the Spirit (whatever that might mean...)