

Galatians Study Five

Read Galatians 3:15-29, The History of the Gospel

Summary: Every part of the Bible and all its history is really about the rejection or the unfolding of the gospel!

What was your favorite Bible story or fairytale as a child? Why?

Tim Keller: “The Bible is not a collection of “Aesop’s Fables,” it is not a book of virtues. Paul shows us in this passage that there is a complete unity in the Bible. There is a story within all the Bible stories. God is redeeming a people for Himself by grace in the face of human rebellion and human desire for a religion of good works. Martin Luther shows that he understands this when he says that Satan’s original temptation was to get us to not trust the love/grace of God, but to seek salvation through our won efforts. So all the Bible is about the unfolding of the gospel in stages through history.”

If the Old Testament isn’t about “moralism” but rather points to the gospel (Christ) in every event and person, discuss the common use of Bible stories for our children. What did you learn in church school as a child? Are we creating little moralists in our families? How would we go about making this mistake right?

Read Galatians 3:15-29

1. Why does Paul in verse 16 make a point about the promises to Abraham (Gen 12: 2,3,7) applying to a singular noun (seed), not a plural one? How does that help him make his statement in verse 18 that the law does not save?

2. If, as verse 18 says, the law is not the way we inherit the Spirit or a right relationship with God, then what is the law for? (v 19-22)

3. Make a list of the benefits and blessings that come to us through faith.

4. What does it mean that we “clothe ourselves with Christ (v 27)?” How does the gospel of grace lead to the unity of verse 28?

5. How can you be passionate (zealous) for Christ and add spiritual disciplines to your life (reading and memorizing the Bible, prayer, fasting, etc) without being legalistic?

Extra read and study to do when you have some time... **The Story in the Stories**

“There are great stories in the Bible ... but it is possible to know Bible stories, yet miss the Bible story ... The Bible has a story line. It traces an unfolding drama. The story follows the history of Israel, but it does not begin there, nor does it contain what you would expect in a national history If we forget the story line ... we cut the heart out of the Bible.

Church school stories are then told as tamer versions of the Sunday comics, where Samson substitutes for Superman. David ... becomes a Hebrew version of Jack the Giant Killer. No, David is not a brave little boy who isn't afraid of the big bad giant. He is the Lord's anointed ... God chose David as a king after his own heart in order to prepare the way for David's great Son, our Deliverer and Champion... - E. Clowney, *The Unfolding Mystery*

The one supreme doctrine

“The one doctrine which I have supremely at heart, is that of in Christ, from whom, through whom, and unto whom all my theological thinking flows back and forth day and night. This rock ... which we call the doctrine of justification ... was shaken by Satan in paradise, when he persuaded our first parents that they might by their own wisdom and power become like God Thereafter the whole world acted like a madman against this faith, inventing innumerable idols and religions with which everyone went his own way, hoping to placate a god

or goddess, by his own works; that is, hoping without the aid of Christ and by his own works to redeem himself from evils and sins. All this is sufficiently seen in the practices and records of every culture and nation....

b. The devil, our adversary, who continually rages about seeking to devour us is not dead. Likewise our flesh and old man is yet alive. Besides this, all kinds of temptations vex and oppress us on every side, so that this doctrine can never be taught, urged, and repeated enough. If this doctrine is lost, then is also the whole knowledge of truth, life and salvation lost; if this doctrine flourish, then all good things flourish..." –Martin Luther
(See how Luther uses the doctrine of salvation through Christ to interpret the story of the fall in Genesis 3?)

A Survey of the Old Testament through Jesus

Jesus fulfills the writings of the prophets (I Peter 1:11)

The Redeemer will be human (Gen..3:15-the seed of the woman)

The Redeemer will be God (Isaiah 9:6- the Mighty God)

The Redeemer will suffer and be killed (Isaiah 53:6--our iniquity on him)

The Redeemer will rise again (Psalm 16: 10; Acts 2:3 1)

The Redeemer will be a Jew (Gen..49:10) yet bring in the Gentiles (Gen..12)

Jesus fulfills all the ceremonial law and writings

Jesus is the sacrifice all the sacrifices point to (Hebrews 10).

Jesus is the bread on the altar in the temple (John 6), the light stand in the Holy Place (John 8), and the temple itself (John 2), for he is the presence of God with us.

Jesus fulfills all the ceremonial clean laws about foods and ritual purification (Acts 10 and 11).

Jesus fulfills circumcision--it represents how he was cut off from God. Now we are clean in him. (Col..2:10-11)

Jesus is the Passover lamb (I Cor..5:7)

Jesus Fulfills all the moral law

Jesus is the one who "fulfilled all righteousness" (Matt..3:15).

Jesus is the one who embodies the law. The law shows us who Jesus is.

Jesus fulfills all the characters of history

Jesus is the better Adam, the one whose obedience is imputed to us (I Cor..15)

Jesus is the better Moses, who mediates a new covenant (Heb..3)

Jesus is a better David, who delivers his people. (II Sam.7)

Jesus is a better Job, who truly suffers in innocence and then intercedes for us (Job 42)

Jesus is the better hero than Samson, whose death accomplishes so much good (Judges 16:31)

Jesus is the judge all the judges points to (since he really administers justice), the prophet all the prophets point to (since he really shows us the truth), the priests all the priests point to (since he really brings us to God), and the King of kings.