

“Jesus + Nothing Pt. 2”
Galatians 3:15-29
7/23/23
Message 5

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Jesus + Nothing Pt. 2”

- **Illustration**

- **A Businessman Selling his Property**
 - He was selling a Warehouse
 - The building had been empty for months, and needed repairs!
 - Vandals had...
 - Damaged the doors
 - Smashed the windows
 - Scattered trash around the interior.
 - The Building's owner showed a prospective buyer the property
 - The whole time making a point that he would fix the things that were wrong
 - The Buyer said;
 - "Forget about the repairs and cleaning"
 - "When I buy this place,
 - I'm going to build something completely different
 - I don't want the building - I want the site

○ **Now Compared that with what God Does when He Saves us**

▪ **Salvation bring TRANSFORMATION**

- Not just a Reformation – BUT RENEWAL

▪ **And Our Efforts to improve our own lives are AS Trivial**

- As sweeping a warehouse slated for the wrecking ball.

▪ **When we receive God's Free gift of Salvation**

- We become a NEW CREATION

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- We Have been JUSTIFIED
 - Just – As – If – We – Never - SINNED
- Even the Sanctification Process is all a gift of His Grace

Galatians 3:3 (NKJV)

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

- YOU CAN'T NOT ADD ONE THING TO YOUR SALVATION & SANCTIFICATION
- It is ALL a Work of GRACE
- **Now - Someone might say what about works?**
 - Doesn't James say something about Works?
 - Yes, he does

- BUT you are NOT SAVED NOR are you SANCTIFIED by Works
- BUT - Works are the natural by-product of someone who IS SAVED
 - If you are saved – works will follow your life!
- This is the purpose for Paul writing this letter

• **Review**

- **1st The Letter was sent to**
 - The area known as Galatia
- **2nd Purpose for The letter**
 - **1st To Confront the Evil LIES of the Judaizers (Legalist)**
 - Salvation by WORKS
 - Christ PLUS the Law of Moses – (Circumcision)
 - Paul has spent a Considerable amount of time confronting this issue in his writings
 - **2nd To Stand UP for the TRUTH**
 - Stood up for Salvation By - GRACE & FAITH ALONE
 - **3rd Paul's Defense**
 - Now Remember The Judaizers
 - UNDERMINED Paul's Authority
 - UNDERMINED Paul's Teaching
 - So Paul Defends

- The Gospel of GRACE not of Works
- His Apostleship
- **3rd Review - 2 Last weeks –**
 - **1st Crucified With Christ**
 - 1st The Confrontation of Peter
 - For Being a hypocrite
 - One way with the Gentile Believers another with the Jewish believers
 - 2nd He will also defend – Justification (Salvation) by Grace and Faith Alone

Galatians 2:20–21 (NKJV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

- **2nd Jesus + Nothing**
 - The Experience Of The Galatians vs. 1-5
 - Paul Reminded them of their Experience with Salvation (Justification) All a Work of GRACE
 - Paul informed them that if they wanted to work for salvation
 - They are FOOLISH
 - That someone has Bewitched them

- How can you Begin in the SPIRIT now you want top perfect in the flesh – Can't Happen!
- The Examples (Scripture) Paul Gave vs. 6-14
 - Paul points to the OT to show that their experience was real
 - That salvation is only by faith alone
 - Quotes several OT scriptures that show God's plan for salvation

- **Now this morning**

- **Well as we pick it up in v. 15**
 - Paul Anticipates 2 Questions from the Judaizes
 - 1st Since the law came after Abraham
 - Doesn't that mean that the LAW IS now greater than the Promise &
 - And now the promises is nullified?
 - 2nd If that is NOT the case
 - Then what is the purpose of the law?
- **We will look at 3 More Powerful Truth in - Jesus + Nothing Pt. 2**
 - The Promises To Abraham vs. 15-18
 - The Purpose Of The Law vs. 19-25
 - The Position We Have vs. 26-29

The Promises To Abraham vs. 15-18

- **First: The Reality Of A Covenant v. 15**

- **1st Brethren v. 15a**

Galatians 3:15 (NKJV)

15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.

▪ **Brethren**

- Paul has been using some pretty harsh tons
- Dealing with false teaching – needs harsh tons
- BUT Paul still has A tender heart to those struggling with confusion

○ **1st I Speak In the Manner of Men v. 15b**

Galatians 3:15 (NKJV)

15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.

▪ **That even with a covenant among men**

- The covenant stands firm once it is made
 - No one annuls or adds to it!
- Illustration
 - Let's say that Zack and I make an agreement
 - For Zack to wash my windows every week for a year.
 - We write up a formal contract, and then sign it.
 - Then If Vic then comes up and makes a contract with Zack
 - Does that cancel my contract Zack

- No.

- Only Zack and I together can change our contract.

- **HOW much More With God**

- Paul's using the covenants among men to Illustrate more with God
- Even with men a contract (Covenant will Stand)
- SO HOW MUCH More With God Covenant

- **2nd Lesson – Understanding God's Covenant**

- **1st Conditional Covenant**

- Some of God's Covenants are Conditional
 - The Mosaic / Law
 - Blessing or Cursing

- **2nd Unconditional Covenant**

- Some of His Covenants are Unconditional
 - The Abrahamic
- Illustration
 - OT - When a covenant was struck between two parties
 - The men would gather a series of animals & slice them in half from head to toe
 - Separating the pieces to create a corridor a walkway between the two halves of the animals.

- Then both men would walk side-by-side down the path through the animal parts.
- Standing between two halves of one animal was a symbol of agreement and oneness.
- It meant they were both committing themselves to carry out their part of the covenant.
- It was an agreement that was binding & could not be Broken
- Well in Gen 15
 - God makes this promise to Abraham
 - That He was going to make him a great nation
 - From his seed all the world would be blessed
 - When Abraham finished slicing the beef he sat down.
 - He fully expected God to appear and walk with him through the animal halves - sealing the Covenant
 - God Put Abraham to SLEEP
 - The Covenant God made with Abraham was one sided
 - NOT CONDITIONAL on man BUT all on GOD
- When they are “unconditional”
 - Not even our disobedience can invalidate His promise.
 - Though we fail to keep His Law
 - God never fails to keep His Word!

- His promises are timeless & trustworthy!
- So
 - Your salvation
 - The blessings which are poured upon you
 - The work of the Spirit which flows through you in ministry
 - It's ALL God!

• **Second: The Reach Of God's Promise v. 16**

Galatians 3:16 (NKJV)

16 *Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.*

- **1st Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made:**
 - The Promise - In Genesis 22:18

Genesis 22:18 (NKJV)

18 *In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

- NOTE - the singular for seed is used, not the plural.
 - The point is clear: "And to your Seed,"
 - Who is Christ.
 - God is referring to one specific descendant of Abraham
 - Not all his descendants in general
 - SEED = Messiah

- Abraham Believed this Promise of the Messiah (Jesus) coming from his line

- Abraham look forward to the cross we look back

- **2nd Jesus is The Messiah**

- The Promised SEED

- Every promise given in the covenant with Abraham

- Was fulfilled in Jesus Christ and only Jesus Christ.

- The only way a person can participate in the promised blessings to Abraham is to be a fellow heir with Christ through faith in Him

- *The Bible Knowledge Commentary; "The promises... spoken to Abraham and to his seed were not fulfilled before the giving of the Law. Rather, they found fulfillment in Christ and are in effect forever. The blessing of justification by faith is therefore permanent and could not be changed by the Law"*

- **Third: The Reasoning Paul Uses vs. 17-18**

- **1st The Law Cannot Break God's Promise v. 17**

Galatians 3:17 (NKJV)

17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.

- **God made this covenant of promise with Abraham through Christ**

- So that the only two parties who can make any changes are God the Father and God the Son.

- **Moses cannot alter this covenant!**

- He can add nothing to it
- He can take nothing from it.

○ **2nd The Promise Is Complete v. 18**

▪ **1st For if the inheritance is of the law v. 18a**

Galatians 3:18 (NKJV)

18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

- IF the inheritance offered to Abraham was on the BASIS of law
 - It might not be permanent
 - WHY?!
 - Because it would depend, on Abraham's keeping of the law.
 - But since the inheritance was offered on the basis of PROMISE
 - God's promise, it stands sure.

▪ **2nd God gave it to Abraham by promise v. 18b**

Galatians 3:18 (NKJV)

18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

- GAVE
 - Greek: charízomai
 - Means:
 - Which is based on the Greek word "Charis"

- GRACE
 - The word is also in the perfect tense,
 - Showing that the gift is permanent.

The Purpose Of The Law vs. 19-25

• Context

- Paul points out that the Law is inferior to the covenant of promise in 2 ways.

• First: The Mention Of The Law Being Temporary v. 19a

Galatians 3:19 (NKJV)

19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

- **1st What purpose then does the law serve?**
 - It was added because of transgressions:
 - To restrain the transgression of men
 - HOW
 - BY revealing God's HOLY Standard.
 - God had to give us His standard so we would not destroy ourselves before the Messiah came.
- **2nd Till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made:**
 - The Law was Temporary -
 - The Law was given till the Seed (Jesus) should come.

- NOTE

- The Law of Moses was NOT revoked when Jesus came
 - Jesus said that He came to fulfill the Law, not destroy it in (Matthew 5:17).
- What changed when Jesus came
 - We NO longer approach God with the LAW
 - We come to God through Jesus who fulfilled the LAW

- **Second: The Mediator That Was Used vs. 19b-20**

Galatians 3:19–20 (NKJV)

19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

20 Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.

- ***1st It was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator:***
 - According to ancient traditions – true traditions, according to Paul
 - The Law was delivered to Moses on Mount Sinai by the hands of angels.
 - Angels were the “go-between” or mediator for Moses when he received the Law from God.
- ***2nd Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one:***
 - Moses needed a mediator between himself and God
 - The law was a two-party agreement brought by mediators.

- But we don't need a mediator between us and Jesus –
 - He is our mediator
 - Salvation in Jesus by faith is received by a promise.

• **Third: The Motive In Giving The Law vs. 21-25**

○ **1st Is the Law then against the promises of God? v. 21**

Galatians 3:21 (NKJV)

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.

- The law is not something evil,
 - Opposing God's promise.
 - God gave both the Law and promises
 - But for different purposes.
 - And it was not the purpose of the Law to give life

○ **2nd But The Scripture v. 22**

Galatians 3:22 (NKJV)

22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

- **Paul paints a picture of imprisonment.**
 - The bars of the cell are sin, keeping us confined.
 - The Scripture put us in the prison, because it pointed out our sinful condition.
- **Given to those who believe:**

- Only faith can break us out of our confinement to sin.
 - The Law of Moses can show us clearly our problem and God's standard
 - BUT ONLY JESUS can give Freedom
- **3rd The Law was given to prepare the way for Christ vs. 23-25**

Galatians 3:23–25 (NKJV)

23 *But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.*

24 *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

25 *But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

▪ **1st Before faith came:**

- Before we were saved by faith
- Before we lived our lives by faith
- We were kept under guard by the law.
- The idea behind under guard is protective custody.
- There is also another sense in which it guarded us in protective custody.

▪ **2nd Kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed:**

- The Law of Moses prepared us to come to Jesus by the way it reveals God's character and the way it exposed our sin.

▪ **3rd Law was a Tutor**

- Tutor –

- The Greek word denotes a slave whose duty it was to take care of a child until adulthood.
 - The “tutor” escorted the children to and from school and watched over their behavior at home.
 - Tutors were often strict disciplinarians, causing those under their care to yearn for the day when they would be free from their tutor’s custody.
 - The law was our tutor which, by showing us our sins, was escorting us to Christ.
- Once we have come to a relationship of faith,
 - We no longer have to live under our tutor, though we remember the behavior he has taught us.
 - So we respect our tutor, the Law; but we don’t live under him. We live under Jesus by faith.

The Position We Have vs. 26-29

First: For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus v. 26

Galatians 3:26 (NKJV)

26 *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

○ **1st His Kids**

- God is now our FATHER whom we love because He has –
 - Redeemed us
 - Forgiven us
 - Accepted us

1 John 3:1 (NKJV)

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

- Behold = Look at & Be amazed!!!
- Be Amazed by what?
 - The manner of Love – that God has bestowed on us
- **2nd His LOVE**

- **1st Love that speaks of Protection**

Psalm 18:2 (NKJV)

2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

- **2nd Love that takes pleasure in it's Children**

Psalm 149:4 (NKJV)

4 For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.

- School play who are your eyes on?
- Who is your focus (Did you see my son / daughter)
- **3rd Love that speaks of acceptance**

Ephesians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

- **4th It is a love that says I will be there you can count on**

Hebrews 13:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

6 So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

- **5th A love that never gives up!**

- Story of the Prodigal Saw him a long way off

- **Second: For as many of you as were baptized into Christ v. 27a**

Galatians 3:27 (NKJV)

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- **1st Baptized Into Christ**

- He doesn't say we were baptized into water,
- But baptized into Christ.
- Just as in water baptism a person is immersed in water, so when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, we are immersed in Jesus.
- At the Moment of Conversion

- **2nd Bible speaks of several types of Baptisms**

- 1st Water baptism
 - Something a person does after they have put their faith in Christ: water Baptism is an outward sign of inward commitment to Christ
- 2nd Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)
 - Holy Spirit comes upon us in order to empowers us to serve & be witnesses for Christ
- 3rd Baptism with fire – (1 Peter 1:7-8)
 - Purifying of faith when tested goes through fire / become more like Christ

- 4th Baptism of suffering (Matt. 20:22-23)
 - Identify with Christ in fellowship of His sufferings - draws us closer to Him
- 5th Baptism into body of Christ (1 Cor 12:13)
 - When saved - emersed into family of God
 - That is what Paul is speaking of here when he says that we have been Baptized into Christ - being Baptized or brought into the body of Christ
- **3rd The Misuse of this verse**
 - Some have used this verse to support that a person must be water baptized to be save
 - WRONG

• **Third: Have put on Christ v. 27b**

Galatians 3:27 (NKJV)

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- **1st Put on Christ**
 - In the original language, the phrase has the idea of putting on a suit of clothes.
 - So we “clothe ourselves” with Jesus as our identity.

• **Fourth: Our equal standing with others who come to God through faith vs. 28-29**

Galatians 3:28 (NKJV)

28 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.

- **1st There is neither Jew nor Greek:**

- The whole problem among the Galatian Christians is that some wanted to still observe the dividing line between Jew and Greek.
- Paul writes, “In Jesus Christ that line is done away with.
- When we are in Jesus, there is neither Jew nor Greek.”
- **2nd There is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus:**
 - Every dividing line is erased.
 - Now that Jesus is our identity, that is more important than any prior identity we possessed.
 - We are all one in Christ Jesus.
 - NOTE
 - This DOES NOT mean we stop being what we are
 - Example
 - Man you’re still a man
 - White you’re still white
 - Women you’re still a Women
 - This is Spiritual – Before God
 - We Still have duties
 - Men must lead the Family the Church
 - Women have their responsibilities in the family
 - Slaves Still needed to Obey their masters

- BUT before the Foot of the cross
 - NO one is better or worse
- **2nd And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed v. 29**

Galatians 3:29 (NKJV)

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

- Since all Christians belong to Jesus the Messiah,
 - All Christians are spiritual descendants of Abraham and heirs of God.
- Tye Question – “If you are Christ's?”
 - Are you IN CHRIST today?
 - ABC

Closing

• It is SO CRITICAL that we understand

- WHO WE are IN CHRIST
- That we PUT ON CHRIST
- THAT WE LIVE IN HIS HOPE