

Gal.3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

3:2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

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

3:4 Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

3:5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—

3:6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

3:7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

3:9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

3:11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."

3:12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."

3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

February 8, 2026 Galatians 3:1-14

Sermon Title: "For the Blessing to Reach the Gentiles"

[From Today's Sermon]

God showed Paul how full of error human ways are. The Jews believed this: "We are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners" (Galatians 2:15).

They were God's chosen people, the people of the Law. Chosen by God, they were to reveal His glory. Yet, as depicted in the Old Testament, Israel—the Jewish people—though chosen by God, did not become the model people for the world. As it is written, "There is no one righteous, not even one."

"A person is justified by faith in Jesus Christ, not by works of the law." This is the new

covenant given by Jesus. It did not invalidate the old covenant; it was the only salvation measure because humans are truly powerless to be justified by keeping the law.

Yet people persist in the path of seeking justification through the law, overconfident that they are fine. And the high priests and scribes of that time committed the great sin of crucifying Jesus.

Salvation was not meant only for the Jews, but for all peoples of the world—this was declared long ago to Abraham. Yet the Jews insisted on being a privileged class. They called the Gentiles sinners, while closing their eyes to the fact that they themselves were the same. Let us fix our eyes on the Lord's grace.

Introduction: The Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12:1 The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

12:2 I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

(New Revised Standard Version) 12:1 The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your native land, your relatives, and your father's household, and go to the land I will show you.

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Prologue: The Conversion of the Gentiles and the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Acts 10:1 Now there was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Regiment.

10:2 He was a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

10:3 About three in the afternoon he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming to him and calling him.

10:4 Staring at the angel, he was terrified and asked, "What is it, Lord?" The angel replied, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

10:5 Now send men to Joppa and summon a man named Simon, who is also called Peter.

10:6 He is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea."

10:7 After the angel who had spoken to him departed, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among his attendants.

10:8 He explained everything to them and sent them to Joppa.

10:9 The next day, as the three were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray, about noon.

10:11 Suddenly he saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners.

10:12 It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, reptiles, and birds of the air.

10:13 Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter! Kill and eat." 10:14 But Peter said, "No way, Lord! I've never eaten anything unclean or impure."

10:15 Then the voice spoke to him a second time, "Don't call anything impure that God has made clean."

10:16 This happened three times, and immediately the container was taken back up into heaven. 10:17 While Peter was wondering what the vision meant, the men sent by Cornelius had found Simon's house and were standing at the gate.

10:18 They called out, "Is Simon, also called Peter, staying here?" 10:19 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three men are looking for you.

10:20 Get up, go downstairs, and don't hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

10:21 So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am Peter, the man you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?"

10:22 They replied, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man who fears God and is well-regarded by all the Jewish people, was instructed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear what you have to say." 10:23 So Peter welcomed them and lodged them for the night. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

10:24 The following day they arrived at Caesarea. Cornelius had called together his relatives and close friends and was waiting for them. 10:25 When Peter finally arrived, Cornelius met him, fell at his feet, and worshiped him.

10:26 But Peter helped him up, saying, "Stand up. I am only a man myself."

10:27 As they talked, they went up into the room, where a large gathering of people had already assembled. 10:28 Peter addressed them: "You know very well that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call any person impure or unclean.

10:29 That is why I came without objection when I was invited. Now I ask you, why did you send for me?"

10:30 Cornelius answered, "Four days ago at this very hour, I was praying in my house at three

in the afternoon, and suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me

10:31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your gifts to the poor have been remembered before God. 10:32 Now send immediately to Joppa and summon a man named Simon, who is called Peter. He is staying at the house of Simon the tanner, by the sea.'

10:33 So we sent for you immediately. Welcome! We have all come before God to hear everything the Lord has told you." 10:34 Then Peter began to speak: "I now truly understand that God shows no partiality,

10:35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. 10:36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

10:37 This message was preached throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with him.

10:39 We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They crucified this Jesus.

10:40 But God raised him from the dead on the third day,

10:41 and allowed him to appear to us who had been chosen beforehand as witnesses—to all the people, though not to them. We ate and drank with him after he was raised from the dead.

10:42 And God has commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.

10:43 All the prophets testify about Him, that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening.

10:45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.

10:46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and extoling God. Then Peter said,

10:47 "Since these people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have, who can stand in the way of their being baptized with water?"

10:48 After saying this, Peter ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for several more days.

Good morning, everyone. Another cold snap has arrived this weekend. It's a chilly dawn and a snowy morning—I hope you're all doing well.

I believe this is the coldest it will get, so I want to push through and do my best. Please take care of yourselves and watch your step.

Now, we've entered chapter 3 of Galatians. Last week covered the well-known passage:

2:19 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

What has died cannot rise, be tempted, or sin—because it is dead. Our old, natural selves—prone to anger, resentment, jealousy, worry, and despair—received a death certificate the moment we believed and accepted Jesus. Therefore, logically speaking, we are no longer crushed by sin's temptations or weaknesses. Within our dead hearts, Jesus lives, fills us, fills us with joy and wisdom, guides us in gracious leadership, lives through us, and speaks through us. Yet, even so, we still carry remnants of sin within this weak flesh and spirit. Therefore, the Bible says:

“The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Yet we live on. Amidst the struggle, in this state where we are ‘already’ saved yet “still” in suffering and conflict, we look up to the Lord, the merciful Son of grace who gave his life for our salvation and redemption.

3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.

3:2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by hearing with faith? 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

3:4 Did you experience such great things in vain? Surely not!

3:5 Then who gave you the Spirit and worked miracles among you—by the works of the law, or by hearing with faith? 3:6 Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.

3:7 So we know that those who have faith are the children of Abraham.

3:8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”

God showed Paul how error-prone human ways are. The Jews believed this: “We are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners” (Galatians 2:15).

They were God's chosen people, the people of the Law. Chosen by God to reveal His glory. Yet, as depicted in the Old Testament, Israel—the Jewish people—though chosen by God, did not serve as a model for the world. As it is written, “There is no one righteous, not even one.” “A person is justified by faith in Jesus Christ, not by works of the law”—this is the new covenant given by Jesus. It did not invalidate the old covenant; rather, it was the only means of salvation because humans are truly powerless to be justified by keeping the law.

Yet people persist in abandoning the path of being justified by keeping the law, arrogantly assuming they are fine. And the high priests and scribes of that time committed the grave sin of crucifying Jesus.

Though it was declared long ago to Abraham that salvation was not for the Jews alone but for all peoples, the Jews still clung to their sense of being a privileged class. They called the Gentiles sinners, yet closed their eyes to the fact that they themselves were equally guilty.

Why did Paul seek to turn them from righteousness by the law to faith in the Lord? There are two reasons. One was to break the Jews' pride that they were justified by their works of the law. The other was so that salvation might extend to the Gentiles who did not have the law.

No one is declared righteous by keeping the law. It is only through the Son's atonement as the new covenant. If salvation comes solely through Christ, then the Gentiles should not be left out.

The term “Gentiles” appears several times here, meaning non-Jews and unbelievers. Applied to us today, it refers to non-Christians.

We have often viewed the Jews as a rigid, privileged class of arrogant people, but we must be careful not to fall into the same trap as Christians.

3:9 Thus, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

3:10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse. For it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”

3:11 Therefore it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “the righteous shall live by faith.”

3:12 But the law is not of faith; on the contrary, “the man who does them shall live by them.”

3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

3:14 This was so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

“Christ became a curse for us, redeeming us from the curse of the law.”

1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

2:2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation. 2:3 For you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

2:4 He is the chosen stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him. 2:5 Come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him. You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

2:6 For, as the Scripture says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” and whoever believes in him will never be put to shame.“

2:7 For this stone is precious to you who believe, but to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,“

2:8 and “a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” But they stumble because they disobey the message—and to this they were appointed.

2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

2:10 You who were once not a people are now God's people; you who were once not shown mercy are now shown mercy.

For the sake of wretched humanity—both Gentiles and Jews, both those who had strayed and all sinners—for my sake, for my own sake, though I had strayed from God's teaching, the Lord has done a great thing. We desire to live this week responding to that grace.

3:4 Was such a great experience in vain? Surely not!

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2:12 For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and separate himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.

2:13 And the rest of the Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. 2:14 When I saw that they were not walking straight according to the truth

of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “You, being a Jew, do not live like a Jew but like a Gentile. How is it, then, that you compel Gentiles to live like Jews?” 2:15 We are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners,

2:16 yet we believe in Christ Jesus, knowing that a person is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ. This is so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

◇Prayer: **Heavenly Father God, we thank You for today's worship. We reflect on how the immaturity of human thoughts and the unfathomable depth of Your love stand in stark contrast. We give thanks for Your overwhelming grace. Please lead all those who suffer into Your salvation and peace. Bless our families and our neighbors. Use us. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.**