

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this series about sharing from our quiet times you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will share from what they have learned from their quiet times. Every day during the past week we had a quiet time from a passage in the New Testament. Once a week we come together to share what we have learned. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. We will share the important truths and lessons from our quiet times and try to answer some difficult questions.

Today's topic is: A DISCIPLE SHARES WHAT HE LEARNS FROM GALATIANS 1-3.

(S) **POINT 2. SHARING FROM GALATIANS 1-3**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from Galatians 1-3. Now we will use our quiet time notes to share truths and lessons from the assigned passages and discuss some questions.

Sharing quiet times from Galatians chapter 1.

We want to share from Galatians 1:6-12 about the true and false gospel.

First. The difference between the true gospel and the false gospel.

In the year AD 47-48 Paul and Barnabas went on their first missionary journey and preached the gospel in cities in Galatia, an area in modern Turkey. The true gospel that they preached was *salvation through faith alone without the works of the law*. In the Old Testament period Abraham was saved or justified by faith alone without the works of the law. The law came 430 years after Abraham and was never intended as a means to salvation or justification. The moral law was intended to be the way how a saved person should live and the ceremonial law was intended to be the way how a saved person should approach God in worship. In the New Testament period believers in Jesus Christ are likewise justified or saved by faith alone without the works of the law. Jesus Christ fulfilled the requirements of the ceremonial law and cancelled the ceremonial law with its sacrifices, circumcision, feasts, fasts and food rules. Jesus Christ became the last sacrifice that made atonement for sins. The Spirit of Jesus Christ circumcises hearts. And Jesus Christ pronounced all food clean (Mk 7:19). The true gospel is *salvation or justification by faith alone without the works of the law*.

The Galatians had accepted the true gospel even in the face of opposition and persecution. After this first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas had returned to Antioch in Syria.

In the mean time in Jerusalem a number of Jews, who had become Christians, proclaimed a different gospel than the true gospel that the apostles preached. This false gospel was *salvation or justification through faith and the works of the law*. These false teachers and preachers were called Judaizers. They required that all the non-Jews (Gentiles) had to keep the Jewish law before they could be saved or justified. They proclaimed that non-Jews first had to become Jews before they could become Christians. In about AD 49/50, these Judaizers came from Jerusalem to Antioch, saying that unless Gentile Christians were circumcised, they could not be saved (Act 15:1). Paul vigorously opposed them. As a result, a council or conference was held in Jerusalem to speak about the relationship between the Jewish and the non-Jewish Christians. This conference is described in Acts 15 and Galatians 2. At this council, the Judaizers received a severe blow. They immediately plotted revenge and their plan seemed to have been to follow the missionaries everywhere and *oppose the gospel of salvation or justification by faith alone*. These Judaizers came to the South Galatian churches in Asia Minor and succeeded to pull many new Christians into their legalism. So in AD 50 Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians especially to counter the false teaching and false gospel of the Judaizers.

(T) **Second. Paul pronounces a curse on people who preach a false gospel.**

As an apostle, Paul had received authority from Jesus Christ to include or exclude people from the kingdom of God (Mt 16:18-19) and authority to give a blessing to believers or pronounce a curse on those who opposed Jesus Christ. In this letter Paul pronounces a curse on these Judaizers and on all other false teachers. He says, "If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned" (1:19).

Paul says that the only true gospel is the gospel which he had *received through revelation from Jesus Christ* (1:12), the gospel which was *exactly the same gospel that the other apostles proclaimed* (2:7), the gospel which Paul had *preached to the Galatians* (1:8) and preached everywhere and the gospel which the Galatians *had accepted by faith* (1:9). That gospel is *salvation or justification by faith alone, without any works of the law*. Christians were no longer required to do any of the Old Testament ceremonial laws. Christians were not required to be physically circumcised, because they were spiritually circumcised by the Holy Spirit (Rom 2:28-29). Christians were no longer required to keep the seventh

day of the week as a Sabbath, because Jesus Christ was resurrected on the first day of the week. Christians were no longer required to keep the Old Testament food laws, because Jesus had pronounced all food clean (Mk 7:19).

Sharing quiet times from Galatians chapter 2.

(S) I want to share from Galatians 2:4-5 about the necessity to oppose false prophets and teachers. Paul writes that some false brothers had infiltrated the Christian Church and even called themselves 'apostles' in order to deceive the believers. These false teachers sought people who experienced the *freedom* in Jesus Christ in order to make them *slaves* again. The Gentiles in the churches at Antioch and Galatia were *spiritual slaves of the wrong god and moral slaves of all kinds of sin*. Then they believed the true gospel and were saved by their faith. They became spiritually free in order to live by God's grace and they became morally free in Jesus Christ to live holy lives. God pronounced them righteous because of the death of Jesus Christ as a punishment and atonement for their sins. God in Jesus Christ set them free from their feelings of guilt and shame. God through Jesus Christ set them free from the enslaving power of sin. They not only *wanted to conquer* the power of sin, but also *could and did conquer* the power of sin. Their faith in Jesus Christ had set them completely free!

Then these false teachers came to their cities and pretended to be prophets or apostles, while in reality they were false prophets and false apostles. They preached a false gospel that all people had to keep the law. *Their gospel was that without keeping the law no one would be saved or justified*. These false teachers infiltrated the Christian Church less than 20 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These false prophets and apostles came to turn the free Christians into slaves again. They wanted to turn them into slaves of the Jewish law! Paul says, "Some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves". Paul and Barnabas did not give in to them a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with the Christians in Antioch and Galatia.

Judaism (1:14) originated during the Babylonian exile about 500 years before the first coming of Christ. Because the temple had been destroyed, the Jews in Babylonia could no longer bring sacrifices in the temple to atone for their sins. So the Jews sought another way in which God would pronounce them righteous. They changed Gods law into a *means of justification*, spun the law out into 613 laws to keep and wrote an elaborate Babylonian Talmud that changed Gods original intention of salvation by grace into salvation by works. When the Jews rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah, Judaism became a distinct religion that opposes the Christian faith just like the other religions in the world oppose the Christian faith.

Like the apostle Paul I am determined to oppose the false gospel and proclaim the true gospel.

(T) I want to share from Galatians 2:11-21 about the necessity to oppose hypocrisy within the Christian Church. The apostle Paul had met the other apostles and particularly the apostle Peter, the apostle John and James, the brother of Jesus in Jerusalem. They were convinced that they proclaimed the same true gospel and gave one another the right hand of fellowship. They saw that Jesus Christ had entrusted Paul with the task of preaching the true gospel especially to the non-Jews and had entrusted Peter with the task of preaching the true gospel especially to the Jews.

Later Peter came from Jerusalem to visit Antioch. Peter lapsed into his old habit as a Jew and began to draw back and separate himself from the non-Jews, because he was afraid of the Judaizers that were in Antioch. Other Jewish Christians and even Barnabas were drawn into this hypocrisy of Peter.

When Paul saw that these Jewish Christians were not acting in line with the true gospel, he openly rebuked the apostle Peter in front of all the Christians. He said, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?" After Peter had become a Christian, he no longer lived as the Jews that separated themselves from all other nations, because Jews despised Gentiles. Paul continued to say that they as Jews who had become Christians knew that God would not justify any man by observing the law, but only by faith in Jesus Christ. All Jews who had come to Jesus Christ acknowledged that they were sinners and lost and needed to be justified by faith in the completed salvation work of Jesus Christ. All Christians have died to the law, that is, have stopped to rely on the law as a means of salvation or justification. All Christians rely only on Jesus Christ for their salvation or justification. All Christians live with the Spirit of Jesus Christ in their hearts and live by faith and no longer by the law. The apostle Paul warned that every person who still wanted to gain righteousness by keeping the law was NOT a Christian and would certainly NOT be justified, because no one in the whole world was able to keep the law 100% perfectly! A person will be justified 100% only by believing that Jesus Christ died for all his sins and by believing that Jesus Christ gained 100% righteousness for him in his place.

Sharing quiet times from Galatians chapter 3.

(S) We want to share from Galatians 3:6-14 about the curse of the law and the blessing of Abraham.

First. The blessing of Abraham.

The New Testament very clearly teaches that the Old Testament had exactly the same message of salvation, namely, that people are saved or justified by faith and not by observing the law. The Old Testament Scripture foresaw that God would justify people by faith when God announced the true gospel in advance in Genesis 12:3 and Genesis 22:18 to Abraham when God promised him, "All nations will be blessed with you". Genesis 15:6 says, "Abraham believed God and God credited it to him as righteousness". God promised that "the Seed" of Abraham, which is Jesus Christ, would bless all the nations. Abraham believed in the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. He believed that the Messiah would be the One who would bless all the nations. And God justified Abraham only by his faith. Thus, the only true gospel in the Old Testament is justification or salvation by faith in God's promise about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ not only becomes a true child of Abraham, but also a true child of God! The blessing of Abraham is that people of all nations are justified or saved only through faith in Jesus Christ.

(T) Second. The curse of the law.

Since the Babylonian exile 500 years B.C. the Jewish religious leaders and teachers have taught that Jews would be justified if they kept the moral law of God, the ceremonial law of God and the civil law of Israel. They believed that they *could* keep the law and believed that God *would* justify them. The Jews were wrong, because they did not listen to God's message in the Old Testament. Already the Old Testament revelation clearly taught that not a single person would be justified or saved by keeping the law. Psalm 14:1-3 says, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'. They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is *no one* who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. *All* have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is *no one* who does good, *not even one*." And also the New Testament revelation teaches clearly that that not one man will be justified by keeping the law. On the contrary it teaches that all who rely on observing the law are under a curse. In Deuteronomy 27:26 and in Galatians 3:10 the Bible says, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do EVERYTHING written in the Book of the Law". Because there is not a single person in the history of the world, except Jesus Christ, who kept the whole law, everyone in the history of the world, except Jesus Christ, is under God's curse. James 2:10 says that even if a person kept all the laws of God, yet failed to keep just one law, he is already guilty of transgressing all the laws of God. He is guilty of transgressing all the laws of God, because he transgressed against the Lawgiver, God himself. The God of the Bible is 100% holy and 100% righteous. He demands 100% obedience to his words and he must punish for 100% all sins. With the God of the Bible nothing less than 100% perfection is the standard. By nature every human being on earth is under God's curse, no matter what religion he practices.

(S) Third. Jesus became a curse for everyone who believes in him.

Deuteronomy 21:23 says that everyone that is hung on a tree is cursed. Jesus Christ was rejected and condemned by the Jewish religious authorities and the Roman civil authorities and nailed onto a tree. Thus Jesus Christ became a curse in the place of everyone who believes in him. Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay 100% the punishment for the sins of believers in him and he was resurrected from the dead to credit his 100% righteousness to the account of everyone who believes in him!

(T) Fourth. Jesus Christ gives the blessing of Abraham to everyone who believes in him.

Jesus Christ is the promised "Seed" of Abraham. Jesus Christ is the One through whom believers from all the nations in the world will be blessed. Through Jesus Christ the blessing of Abraham comes to believers from every nation in the world. The blessing consists of the Holy Spirit that Jesus Christ gives to everyone who believes in him. The blessing consists of being 100% justified or saved, because the Spirit of Jesus Christ lives in the heart and body of believers in Jesus Christ. By the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit believers are born again and by faith in Jesus Christ believers are justified (2 Thes 2:13).

(S) We want to share from Galatians 3:15-29 about the purpose of the covenant and the purpose of the law.

First. The purpose of the covenant.

God made the first promise to people when he promised Adam and Eve that in the future a person would be born who would crush the head of Satan (Gen 3:15). God established the covenant with Abraham. He said to Abraham that he would be his God and Abraham and Abraham's spiritual descendants would be God's people. God would bless all the families of all nations on earth through this one person that would be born from Abraham's descendants. Abraham believed God's promise or covenant. Then God said to Abraham that because he believed God's promise or covenant, Abraham's faith would justify him 100%. The purpose of the covenant is to establish a permanent and personal relationship between God and people through faith. The way into which people enter into this covenant relationship with the God of the Bible is faith.

(T) Second. The purpose of the law.

Four hundred and thirty years *after* Abraham God *added* the law to the covenant. The purpose of the law was *never* to replace the covenant. The purpose of the law was *never* to replace justification by faith with justification by obedience to the law. God's people would only be justified by faith alone. The purpose of the law was to help God's saved people how to live as God's saved people in this corrupt world. The purpose of the law was show people just how sinful they

really were so that they would desire to be saved by God. The purpose of the law was to condemn every human being on earth as guilty before God's eyes, so that no man would try to justify himself by keeping any law or by following any religion! God added the law, not that it should become a new means of gaining justification or salvation, but as a means to condemn every human being guilty and to function as a kind of schoolteacher that guides lost people to the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Now that the Saviour, Jesus Christ, has come and has died for the sins of the world, the schoolteacher is no longer needed. Believers in Jesus Christ are no longer kept in check by the law, but by Jesus Christ living in their hearts through the Holy Spirit.

(S) **ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Divide Galatians 4-6 into seven passages. Every day have a quiet time from one passage. Record the meditations of all your quiet times in a notebook. Once a week meet with a friend or with a house fellowship or discipleship group and share from your quiet times.

Second. See the workbooks "Go and build Christ's Church" and Internet on www.dota.net

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to "Discipleship training on the air".