

# Galatians 4

## God's Way to Righteousness

### Galatians 4:8 –18

In the harsh winters of Northern Alberta some residents have committed enough of a crime to have them incarcerated for the cold winter months. To us that is absolutely despicable. This, as many other traits in the criminal mind are at the tax payer's expense let alone what it contributes to the additional fall of the individual and his family.

The application is that the Galatians were deliberately placing themselves under law, which would seem despicable as well. Was Abraham not living under grace and not under the law? Abraham was a Gentile to whom God gave the promise of salvation through faith in Christ. The first that we discover the term "Israel" is in Genesis 32:28 Abraham continued in this promise for 430 years before God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

Abraham's faith was the basis for his righteousness apart from the law which did not yet exist. If righteousness was imputed before the law, it is also possible after the law. The wanderings of Abraham ought to be a great example to us as we see him leave what-ever comforts he may have had in Ur of the Chaldeas to go to a place which he knew not. By faith he sojourned, and by faith he sought a city whose maker is God. If that was not enough of the trial of one's faith, he was called upon to offer Isaac, his only son, and heir to the promises that God had given him (Hebrews 11:8-10, 17).

Paul sets the record straight by making the statement, "They which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham" (3: 7). The judiazers would argue that they were the children of Abraham, which loses credibility in the light of John 1:12,13 "But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe in His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God". Man is saved by the faith principle in every

age. This is not some new thing – it was so before the Law of Moses. Paul, as a Jew, reveals the fullness of this promise to the Gentiles.

The Gentiles had been under a more severe bondage than the Jews, which was the bondage of man-made gods. The devil had these dear souls in bondage through superstition (v.8). In addressing the Jews, he asks, how can you return to the “beggarly elements which is bondage”? “How turn ye again to the week”. How can you impose this on the Gentiles? In so doing one would be turning from the riches in Christ. Why turn to a bankrupt system of days, months, times and years (V.10). Such entertainments would kill the church (v.11). How clear Paul relates what he is thinking in verse 12 – “You are saved like I am, be free as I am”. All the liturgy then was as damaging as it may well be today. Have faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, which brings imputed righteousness to all who come repentantly to God and exercise faith in Jesus Christ.

Rev. Jerry Vander Veen

We encourage your enquiries and comments at [jandrvdv@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:jandrvdv@nbnet.nb.ca)