



## One

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

GALATIANS 3:25-29

We start today in the verse we finished with last week, verse 25 of Galatians 3, where Paul writes 'But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor' and this idea continues into verse 26

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

Paul makes a clear declaration **if you are a true son or daughter of God it is through faith in Christ Jesus**. If you have not put your faith in Christ Jesus you are not a son or daughter of God. John says in the first chapter of his gospel verse 12,

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Notice to those who have received Him (Jesus Christ); to those who believe in the name of Jesus Christ. Do not miss the connection! Once faith has come; once your faith has been placed in Christ, the law has finished its work to bring you to Christ.

In Romans 8:1 Paul also writes,

There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

If you are in Christ you are free from the condemnation of the law. And look how Paul opens his first letter to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:2),

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified **in Christ Jesus**, called to be saints, **with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord...**

Paul is clear that you are **in Christ** if you have called on His Name, just as it was for those in Corinth, just as it is for all who will come. **Have you called on the Name of Jesus Christ?**

Again in 1 Corinthians 4:15 Paul says,



For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for **in Christ Jesus** I have begotten you through the **gospel**.

Whoever gave you the gospel gave you the place of entry and the means of entry into the family of God, the kingdom of heaven – through faith in Jesus Christ on account of His death burial and resurrection.



And I will add this too that Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17,

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

To summarise, you are sons and daughters through faith in Christ. You are no longer condemned, you are a new creation, you are sanctified if you have believed the gospel and placed your faith in Christ. You cannot add to your standing in Christ. You cannot improve it, you cannot secure it any more than He already has for you.



As he wrote back in chapter 2:16,

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be **justified by faith in Christ** and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.



So now Paul goes onto verse 27,

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

We get our word baptise from the Greek word *baptizo* which means to immerse or submerge. In 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, Paul mentions baptism to help us understand its rightful place in the life of a believer,



Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,



The pillar of cloud went before them and was over them and they passed through the sea on dry land. Both were a consequence of following Moses. But what lead to their redemption from the land of slavery (Egypt) was the blood of the lamb applied to the door posts and lintels of their homes. Trusting in the blood of the lamb was enough to save them from the tyranny and slavery of Egypt just as the blood of the Lamb is enough to take away the sins of the

world. What followed for the Israelites would all depend on how closely they followed all that Moses commanded them to do as given to Him by the Lord. Their obedience to the commands would start with a trip through the sea. You might wonder how this is in any sense a baptism into Moses. They had the dry land beneath them, the sea on both sides, and the cloud above them. They were totally immersed in God's will for their lives as His people and that step into the dryness of the Red Sea was their first step of obedience since leaving the captivity of Egypt.



**What is the Christian's first step of obedience after leaving the life of sin and calling on the name of Jesus Christ? To follow Him in baptism.** When Jesus was baptised, it was right at the beginning of His public ministry, it also revealed his heavenly relationship to a watching public and then God spoke from heaven in Mark 1, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

God affirms Jesus as His Son and confirms His pleasure in His Son after His obedience.

So all this talk of delay or I'm not ready or I need to understand, or I think I need to grow. Have you not yet taken this step? Are you holding back from committing all your ways unto the Lord? Are you questioning His authority over your new life? It is time to stop playing at being a Christian.

We want God to bless us, to increase us, to bring the fulness of His joy but we resist the first step of obedience and wonder why the answers aren't coming.



Listen to Paul's description of those who move forward in obedience to the person Christ in Galatians 3:28,

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.

When you place your faith in Christ and follow Him in obedience, fully clothing yourself with the likeness of Him, when everyone does that, then all the cultural differences disappear, your legal status disappears, whether you are a man or a woman, boy or girl, disappears. All those things which used to defined you are no longer the primary way of IDing yourself, because as Paul says in 1



Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit (the Spirit of God) we were all (without exception) baptized (immersed and fully submerged) into one body...

If you keep yourself from baptism you keep yourself away from fully identifying with the family of God. You distance yourself from being one with God's people and fully one with Him because of your own preferences.



Listen to Paul's closing words in this chapter,

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

All believers are heirs according to the promise. You will get all Jesus has. Why would you hold back all you are?

It is time.



Time to decide will you step out in obedience and go through the waters of baptism?

Time to decide will you step out in obedience and step up to serve your Saviour and His family, your church?

Time to decide will you step out deeper in obedience and step up further to serve your Saviour and His family, your church, and reach a dying world

The church of Christ is a unique place where we share our identity in Christ with others. It's a place of belonging, of serving, of giving, of being One together just as Jesus is One with His Father.