

Salvation by Faith

1st - 3rd Grade
Lesson 9

Without the Law

Today we are going to learn about the letter Paul wrote to the church in Galatia. This letter is the book of Galatians in the Bible.

It had been only about thirty years since Jesus died and rose again. But the devil was also working to confuse people about how to be saved. No one is saved by keeping the Ten Commandments or any other set of rules. Salvation is a free gift.

Jesus has always been the only way to be saved, even in the Old Testament. That means that Adam and Eve, Moses, Abraham, and all the other Old Testament people had to believe in Jesus to be saved. Genesis 15:6 says that Abraham “believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.” Faith in Jesus saved Abraham.

In the Old Testament, people had to offer animals as sacrifices for their sins. But this was only a picture of when Jesus would come and die on the cross. The offerings could not save anyone.

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

—Hebrews 10:4

The reason Paul wrote this letter to the Galatians was to make salvation clear and simple. Doing good works or keeping laws cannot save us. We are saved only by faith in Jesus.

Salvation Without the Works of the Law

The word *another* has two different meanings. If someone offers you a piece of your favorite candy, you might ask if you can have another piece. What you mean is that you want another piece of the same kind of candy.

If they offer you some candy that you don't like, you might ask if they have another kind. In this case, you are asking if they have a different kind of candy.

There is only one way to be saved. There is not another way. Any other way is not salvation. Some false teachers told the Galatians that they had to obey God's laws to be saved. This is not true. Paul was very surprised at the Galatians:

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another.

—Galatians 1:6

Paul reminded the people in this church that there is only one way to be saved. There is not another way. We can be saved only by faith in Jesus.

Growing in Grace Without the Works of the Law

After we have been saved, something else is supposed to happen. We are supposed to grow as Christians. That means we are supposed to let God’s Holy Spirit guide us. We should let Him teach us how to live. He wants to make us think and talk and act like Jesus would.

Paul tells us in Galatians 3:3 that we grow as Christians in the same way we become Christians—by faith in Jesus. Keeping all the rules doesn’t make us better Christians. Paul tells the Galatians that God gave His Law to show us how sinful we are. The law is like a teacher that shows us what we do wrong. Trusting Jesus helps us to grow as a Christian. His Holy Spirit helps us do the things we should.

Spiritual Warfare Without the Works of the Law

If we did not have God’s Holy Spirit to guide us, we would do evil, sinful things. But when we obey the Holy Spirit, He makes us like Himself. Galatians 5:16 tells us to “walk in the Spirit.” That means to trust in Him to help you in everything you do. If we think we can just keep a bunch of rules and be a good person, we are wrong. We will fail. Only the Holy Spirit can help us do what is right.

Conclusion

The book of Galatians is a wonderful book. It reminds us that we are saved by faith in Jesus. We can do nothing to earn salvation. It is a free gift.

Teacher’s Notes
