

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of the Book of Galatians. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians Lesson

12-10-2017

1. Last week I taught in part Gal 5:2 by way of an analysis of the *Doctrine of Circumcision*.
2. Before beginning the exegesis of Gal 5:2 I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may be necessary.
3. I want to review some of that learned last week and then begin new material at point 4.5 on page three.

Expanded translation of Gal 5:1.

Expanded Translation

Gal 5:1 Christ has made it possible for believers to enjoy a unique freedom in Christ and we must never again become involved in the exasperating bondage of the Mosaic Law.

4. Now let's see what we can learn from Gal 5:2.

KJV-New Sentence

Gal 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

NIV

Gal 5:2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.

5. The best way to study this verse is to review the *Doctrine of Circumcision*.

Doctrine of Circumcision

1. Circumcision is the cutting away of the useless flesh of the male phallus.
 - 1.1 Circumcision is a training aid designed to teach.
 2. The ritual of circumcision is related to:
 - 2.1 A commemoration of Abraham's spiritual maturity,
 - 2.2 a commemoration of God providing the heir of promise, Isaac.

2.3 The dedication of the phallus to only the right woman.

3. The ritual of circumcision was established to commemorate the Lord giving Abraham several unconditional covenants. Gen 17:1-21

3.1 Circumcision, therefore, is related to the promise and the commemoration of the four unconditional covenants:

3.1.1 Abrahamic Covenant- Gen 12:1-3; 15:1-10, 12, 17 and 18; 17:1-11 and Gen 22:16-18.

3.1.2 Davidic Covenant - 2Sa 7:10-16

3.1.3 Palestinian Covenant - Eze 20:33-37 and 42-44; Gen 15:18-21

3.1.4 New Covenant - Jer 31:31-40

4. In Gen 17:1-11 God reaffirms the Abrahamic Covenant, Palestinian and the Davidic Covenant with the ritual of Circumcision.

4.1 At this time at the ripe old age of 99 Abraham is given the heir of the promise, Isaac, who is born that very year to his aged wife Sarah.

4.2 This is not a new promise but like all blessings for time God will not bless unless there is capacity for the blessing.

4.2.1 Capacity comes from Bible Doctrine resident in the soul.

4.3 You must have a cup if God is to pour goodness and mercy; God recall is glorified when He pours.

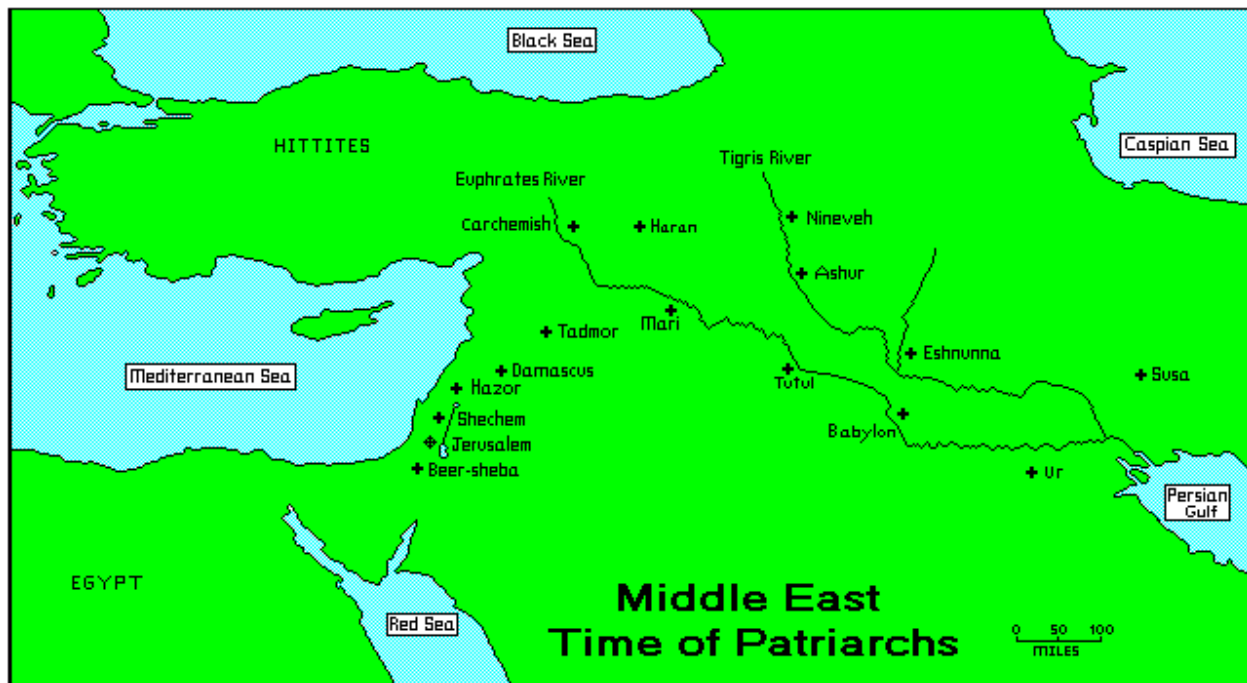
Isa 30:18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and **therefore will he be exalted**, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

4.4 Promises of an heir, numerous descendants, extensive land, a descendent on the throne forever, a promise through the seed of Abraham to bless the world and a people who in the Millennium would show the rest of the world how to live can be found many places some of which are:

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, **unto a land** that I will shew thee:

Gen 12:2 And I will make of thee a **great nation**, and I will bless thee, and **make thy name great**; and **thou shalt be a blessing**:

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.



And then: Gen 15:1-10; 12, 17 and 18

Gen 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Gen 15:2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

Gen 15:3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

Gen 15:4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

Gen 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Gen 15:6 And he had earlier believed in the LORD; and he had counted it to him for righteousness.

Gen 15:7 And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

4.5 Now for new material and Abram's question "how shall I know all this will happen?"

Gen 15:8 And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?

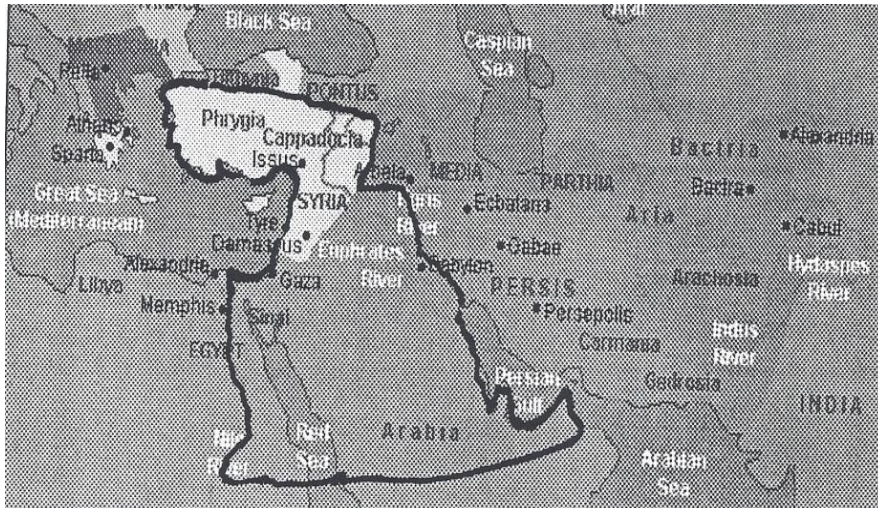
Gen 15:9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtle dove, and a young pigeon.

Gen 15:10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not ...

Gen 15:12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him ...

Gen 15:17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

Gen 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:



And then: Gen 22:16-18

Gen 22:16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

Gen 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Gen 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

4.5.1 There were later in Scripture many enhancements to the promises showing that the unconditional covenants extended to the heirs of Abraham.

4.6 Capacity for life comes from being positive to the Word of God.

4.6.1 Abraham and Sarah had grown in grace by repeated testing; they finally had capacity for their special blessing.

4.7 Circumcision was therefore a sign of Abraham finally getting enough doctrine to enjoy his special son Isaac his unique heir.

4.8 The circumcised phallus would from this point in time be an iterative memorial and sign to commemorate Abraham's maturity and the need to grow in the faith as a post salvation demand of God.

5. Circumcision is a memorial to spiritual growth and is only a ritual of remembrance; it was a poignant reminder of God's promise to Abraham as a mature believer.

6. That it does not commemorate Abraham's salvation but is rather a post salvation commemoration of maturity is made clear in Scripture.

6.1 He had already believed for salvation in Gen 12:1-3 (see above) and as recorded in Gen 15:6.

Gen 15:6 "And Abraham had earlier believed in the Lord and God counted it to him for righteousness."

7. Circumcision even when Israel was still under the conditional covenant of the Mosaic Law was not a product of the Law but a product of faith in Doctrine.

Rom 4:13 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

8. This act on the part of Abraham is used by Paul to differentiate how Abraham obtained spirituality by means of faith and not by the Law.

Rom 4:20 Yet Abraham did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

Rom 4:21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Rom 4:22 This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

Rom 4:23 The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone,

Rom 4:24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

9. Today in the Church Age, thanks to the Mystery Doctrines provided to us in grace, we know to call the sign of the commemoration - circumcision "**temporal sanctification.**"

Expanded Translation:

Jam 2:14 Now I want to ask you, my fellow Jewish believers, where is the benefit if a person says, I have faith and yet this faith lacks inherent power to produce? Can faith without inherent power deliver anyone? As a fact, the answer is a resounding no.

10. James provides a negative example showing how important it is to have an object of faith which can produce because of its inherent power.

<p>Pisteuo Christ = Eternal Salvation</p> <p>Pisteuo Doctrine = Spiritual Maturity</p>
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10.1 James makes the point -- for salvation the object of the faith must be Jesus the Christ; for temporal salvation the object of faith must be God's Word.

Expanded Translation

Jam 2:19 "Come now my friends, many of you are Deist believing in one God; you think you do well, don't you know that even the demons know there is one God and they tremble and shake in absolute terror."

11. Abraham in the Gen 17:1-11 account believed God and Circumcision was a commemorative of that point in time when the promise of God became more real than reality.

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