

Obeying the Truth

Gal. 3:1; 5:7

Introduction:

A. Galatians once obeyed the truth. (5:7).

1. Had a good beginning "by the Spirit". (Gal 3.3)
2. Had turned to "the flesh."
 - a. To a fleshly relationship, Abraham's descendants.
 - b. To a fleshly sign, circumcision.
 - c. To a fleshly covenant, law of Moses.

B. Galatians reminded of who they had become in obeying the truth by using five equivalent expressions:

Discussion:

I. "You Are All Sons (Children) of God by Faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3.26).

- A. Joint heirs with Christ. (Rom. 8:12-17).
- B. Right to cry "Father". (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6).
- C. Right to expect glory to be revealed. (Rom. 8:18,19).

II. "You .. Were Baptized into Christ". (v. 27).

- A. Baptism given as reason for being children - "For as many.."
- B. Baptism puts one into:
 1. Christ. (v. 27).
 - a. In whom we have salvation. (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).
 - b. In whom we have remission of sins. (Col. 1:14; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16).
 2. The church made up of the saved. (1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47).

III. "You Are All One in Christ Jesus." (v. 28)

- A. All those in Christ in one body. (1 Cor. 12:20; Eph. 4:4; 1:22,23).
- B. All those reconciled to God in one body. (Eph. 2:13-16).

IV. "You Are Christ's." (Gal 3.29).

- A. He purchased us. (1 Tim 2:6; Mt. 20:28; Acts 20:28).
- B. He conditionally redeemed us. (1 Pet. 1:18-25).
 1. Redeemed have obeyed truth. (v. 22).
 2. Redeemed with responsibility. (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

V. "You Are Abraham's Seed." (Gal 3.29).

- A. Heirs of promise rather than of flesh. (Gal 3.7-18)
 1. Promise to all nations (3:8).
 2. Inheritance based on faith, not genealogy.
- B. Heirs of Abraham because of "seed" (Christ) not "seeds" (National Israel) (3:16).
 1. Fleshly Israel no longer God's special people.
 2. Spiritual Israel is God's special people. (cf. 1 Pet. 2:9,10).

Conclusion:

- A. So, all five expressions for the same people.
- B. Have you become one of these people by obeying the truth?
- C. Have you become so foolish as to quit obeying the truth?