



Sunday, June 3, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to Galatians 3:10-14**

There's an old Jewish proverb that says, "we don't see things the way they are, we see things the way we are." This is why many of us have difficulty reading the Bible. We like to think of God a certain way. We like to think of ourselves a certain way. Then, when we come to the Bible, we may not read it or hear it accurately because we hold more tightly to our framework than we do our willingness to allow the text to transform our framework.

One instance of this has to do with the idea of the curse. The curse is not a popular teaching in the Bible. As C.S. Lewis said, we prefer to think of God as a benevolent, but senile, grandfather, who only wants the kids to have a good time as long as no one gets hurt. Except the Bible teaches that God is the sovereign over the universe who brings a curse upon His creation because of our disobedience. That is one way our framework is broken: God deals with our sin more severely than we would like to think. But the other way our framework gets broken is: God's Son subjected Himself to the curse for us, so that we could be redeemed and receive the promise of the Spirit.

## **Context**

In the book of Galatians, Paul is confronting a church or group of churches who have abandoned the gospel of grace in favor of law-keeping. They had been deceived by some people who had come and preached what they called a gospel, but which Paul says "is really no gospel at all" (Gal. 1:7). At this point in the letter, Paul is demonstrating God's work of salvation by examining His relationship with Abraham (Gal. 3:6-9). According to his exposition of those Old Testament passages, Paul demonstrates that salvation has always been about grace being received through faith. Then in this passage, Paul gives the negative proposition: righteous must come by faith because it cannot come by law.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“The Curse is Broken”

Read Galatians 3:10-14

## Discuss

- 1) When you think of curses, what comes to mind?
  
- 2) What do you think life would be like if our salvation was dependent on us keeping the law?
  
- 3) What do we learn about God in this passage? How is it different from common conceptions of God in our culture?
  
- 4) Do you treat the people in your life the way God has treated us? Or do you treat them as though they need to keep your law in order to maintain good standing in your eyes?
  
- 5) The purpose of Christ becoming a curse for us (v. 13) was so that we, the Gentiles, could receive the Holy Spirit by faith (v. 14). In what ways has the Spirit transformed you most recently?