

Galatians 3:23 *"before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed."*

BEFORE FAITH CAME

1. Kept Under The Law
(Heb. 10:28; 8:13 "shut up"; Gal. 3:23-24 "school master")
2. Law for Jews
(Deut. 5:23; Eph. 2:11-16)
3. Moses - Law Giver
(Heb. 10:28; 3:5)
4. Animal Sacrifices
(Heb. 9:18-20; 10:4)
5. No Actual Forgiveness
(Heb. 10:1-3)
6. Children of God
(Natural Birth - Heb. 8:11; Is. 54:13)
7. Sabbath - certain meats forbidden (Deut. 5:14-15; Lev. 7:23; 11:1-47)

BEFORE FAITH CAME

1. No longer under
(Gal. 3:23-25; Dead to - freed Rom. 7:4; Justified by faith (Gal. 3:11))
2. Revealed Faith
(Gal. 3:23; all of Mark 16)
3. Jesus - Law Giver
(Jn 1:17; Matt. 28:18-20)
• Sent Holy Spirit (Jn 14:26; 16:13)
• Guide Apostles (Jn 16:13; Acts 2)
• Law of Truth (2 Cor. 5:17-21)
4. Sacrifice of Christ
(Heb. 9:12-14; 1 Cor. 5:7)
5. Complete Forgiveness
(Heb. 8:12)
6. Children of God
(By Faith - Gal. 3:26-27)
7. Sinful to bind Sabbath
(Col. 2:14-16; 1 Tim. 4:1-4)

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Assembly Times


Sundays
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Retaining The Standard Of Sound Doctrine

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Know Your Bible: Answers

1. Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)
2. Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:25)
3. Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 17:7-9)
4. Paul (Acts 19)
5. The priests (Deut. 24:8)



Standing Firm

"Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm"
Ephesians 6:13

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Crucify Him, Crucify Him!

When Pilate spoke to the audience about releasing a prisoner (which was his yearly habit) he asked, *"Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"* Pilate felt for certain the people would take full advantage of this opportunity to release Jesus who had been wrongly arrested by the actions of the Jewish leadership. Instead the leadership had convinced the mob to ask for the release of Barabbas. Pilate then asks, *"what shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews? And they shouted back, "crucify Him!" But Pilate was saying to them, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify Him!"* (Mark 15:6-15).

As shocking as Pilate found this to be, he did deliver Jesus over to be crucified. He was obviously more concerned about being politically correct than being just and honest with prisoners. And the people knew Jesus had been wrongly accused and arrested, but they allowed themselves to be persuaded to seek His crucifixion. They did not give an answer to the question "what evil had He done." They just demanded death.

Those of us who are Christians believe that had we lived at the time of Christ and heard what He taught, and witnessed the miracles, we would not have been one seeking His death. I find it impossible to believe that people in this mob did not know of Jesus' teaching and miracles. It is much more reasonable to consider they did know of these things but believed He was not from God and that His power was of the devil (Matt. 12:24ff; Mark 3:22ff; Luke 11:15ff). In other words, they heard His teaching and saw the signs but were blind to the truth of what they witnessed. Why? How did they get to this point?

The truth was not what they were expecting. We know they were waiting for a physical kingdom to be set up on the earth. Even the apostles were confused about this prior to His ascension in Acts 1:6. The whole concept of the Kingdom was foreign to their expectations and I propose it was foreign to their desires. The Jews longed for a return to prominence like the days of David and Solomon. They wanted to see the yoke of the Roman Empire case off and defeated. But this was not God's intention. Their vision was clouded with their expectations so that the truth never penetrated!

They though they were right. They honestly believed in the their heart they knew the truth and when someone condemned them (like Jesus did throughout the sermon on the mount and

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Josh Emerson
Announcements: Harper Flores
Encouragement Talk: Brad Smith
Opening Prayer: Kyle Crain
Song Leader: Ryan Haarmann
Table Talk: Robert McCorkle
Contribution: John Franks
Helper: Theo Edge
Fruit of Vine: Jacob McAdams
Helper: Lester Mabry
Helper:
Scripture Reading: Corwin Richardson
Closing Prayer: John Van Baale

Sunday Afternoons

Jan 1 Nothing
Jan 8 Devotionals 4pm: Men, Women, Youth
Jan 15 3PM Personal Evangelism Meeting
Parent Planned Youth Devotional
Jan 22 3PM Bible Fundamentals Class

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Todd McAdams
Speaker: John Franks

many other places), they didn't like it. No one likes to be told they are in sin. The reaction of these people was to dismiss Jesus and eventually cry, "Crucify Him"!

One last reason for why they got to the point of crucifying Jesus was because of **false teaching**. The Leaders of the Jews wanted this and were teaching against Jesus, "*stirring up the multitude*" (Mark 15:11), seeking any way to silence Him. The people believed their leaders rather than the word from God through His Son Jesus. **They were blinded by their confidence in men.**

In a very real way we can also be blind to the truth. If our expectations do not align with God we may not obey God. If we think we are right we might ignore God. If we believe what others are saying, we may forsake God. Here's the danger: for "*For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame*" (Hebrews 6:4-6). If we blind ourselves to the truth and are unwilling to admit sin in our life, we crucify Jesus again. We stand in the mob and shout "Crucify Him!" Because this is our attitude toward sin when we have already come to know the truth and have accepted that Jesus is the means of our salvation, the Hebrew writer says "*it is impossible to renew them again to repentance*" (6:6). It is not impossible with God to forgive, it is impossible for them to repent with this attitude. It is the same attitude of those in the mob who yelled at Pilate. These later became pricked in their heart (Acts 2:37) when their attitude changed and they SAW the truth Jesus taught and they SAW the truth of their sinful behavior. But until such a time, it is impossible to renew them to repentance because it is not their desire. They do not see they have sinned or do not care that they have sinned. Either way they have turned their back on God. They have put Jesus to an open shame by rejecting His death on the cross on their behalf.

So we must be very careful that we do not adopt the attitude of the Jews who stood before Pilate on that terrible day. We must listen to the truth, examine our heart and carefully, "*work out your salvation with fear and trembling*" (Phil. 2:12). We must not be so quick to condemn the Jews who cried "Crucify Him" when we can just as quickly crucify Him to ourselves by a similar blind behavior and attitude about the truth.

by Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Teacher

1. What famous Rabbi was Paul's teacher?
2. Who commissioned Ezra to teach the Law to Israel?
3. What king of Judah sent his princes throughout the land to teach the Law to the people?
4. What apostle taught in the lecture hall of a man named Tyrannus?
5. Who was supposed to teach the Israelites how to deal with lepers?

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



Do Not Deceive Yourself

by Charles Willis

Many in our society are guilty of deceiving themselves. They think they are right when God says they are not. "*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God*" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Our society is pushing for the acceptance of perversions away from God's truth. The homosexual and gender issues so prevalent in our societies discussions is a great example of how we can deceive ourselves.

Truly, we can deceive ourselves about any sin. "*If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless*" (James 1:26). Religion is worthless when we allow sin in our life. This example is of a person who habitually sins with the tongue - they do not bridle their speech. They are not trying to refrain from sinful speech. Christians are to "*stop sinning*" (1 Cor. 15:54) and "*abstain from wickedness*" (2 Tim. 2:19). Any sin that we allow, and continue to think we are right with God - we have deceived ourself. "*But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves*" (James 1:22).

Our society also upholds and promotes those who are of a worldly mind-set. The most ungodly of people are film and media award winners, musicians, fashion designers, artists, etc. Their lifestyle of sin is promoted as what everyone should want. Our society promotes taking care of yourself, providing for your retirement, making good investments in the things you buy, feeling good about yourself, and jumping in and out of relationships. That is the wisdom of the world. "*Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God*" (1 Corinthians 3:18). God says all that man sees as wisdom, is in fact foolishness. A person must become "foolish" (according to the world) to become "wise" (according to God). This is explained earlier in 1 Corinthians: "*For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God*" (1 Cor. 1:18). We can deceive ourselves into thinking we are right with God, but we are only right with Him when we have obeyed "the word of the cross." Every person needs what God offers: "*If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us*" (1 John 1:8).

"*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life*" (Galatians 6:7-8).