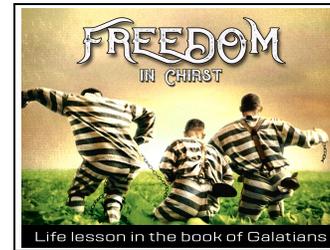


The author of Hebrews sums up the difference between
“Imputed Righteousness” and “Imparted Righteousness”
in one verse:

For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made
holy. Hebrews 10:14



What Makes You a Christian? Galatians 3:1-10

¹ You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ² I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? ⁴ Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing? ⁵ Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

⁶ Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁷ Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. ⁸ The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” ⁹ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰ All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”

Word of the Lord

Community Group Questions:

1. How does God accept us, based upon the imputed righteousness of His Son or based upon us living righteously?
2. What then is the value of living righteously after God has already made us perfect through Christ?
3. Beginning with belief in Christ is always the best step to begin righteous living, but after being made right what can you add today to live more righteously?

1. How do we enter the Christian faith?

In verses 1–2, Paul's telling how they became Christians.

... "Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified."

... "Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?"

Galatians 3:1,2

Paul gives a case study down in verse 6, which is a perfect example of what it means to become a Christian.

"Consider Abraham: 'He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.'" Galatians 3:6

Then the word of the LORD came to him: 'This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.' ... Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:4,6

What did Abraham believe about God?

The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."

Galatians 3:8

Note: We're **not** told in verse 6 that Abraham *became* righteous.

"He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

The minute he believed the gospel message he didn't become righteous; he was *counted* as righteous.
(*Imputed righteousness.*)

Imputed means it's credited to your account as if you are righteous, you immediately become acceptable to God.

Imputed righteousness isn't the same as *Imparted righteousness*.

Imparted righteousness is when you begin to learn how to act righteous, and that never happens immediately or all at once.

2. How did imputed righteous happened to the Galatians?

Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified."

Galatians 3:1

Paul in his teaching demonstrated to them the significance of what Christ had done, and it became real to them.

Paul then asks a rhetorical question, because he already knows the answer is that they received the Spirit because they believed. That is what makes them Christians.

Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?

Galatians 3:2

3. How do we then impart righteousness?

How do I actually start becoming like Jesus Christ?

Paul says, "*The way you became a Christian wasn't by earning favor. You relied on Christ.* That's how you began, but now?

"Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?" Galatians 3:3

Verse 5 looks like verse 2, but **it's in the present tense**.

Does God **give you** his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or **because you believe what you heard?** Galatians 3:5

The key to becoming a Christian is the same to starting out as a Christian!

- **Hold fast to what you first believed**

Paul warns these believers:

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, Galatians 3:10

*The key is we don't **rely** on observing the law.*

We rely on Christ alone.

It's one thing to say, "*I'm living a good life.*" We should live a good life. It's another thing to *rely* on that, to make it your hope.