



GALATIANS 3:23-29

Heaven Statements

- Charles L. Allen in Home Fires, “A little girl was taking an evening walk with her father. Wonderingly, she looked up at the stars and exclaimed; "Oh, Daddy, if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what must the right side be!"

Heaven Statements

- C.S. Lewis in, *Mere Christianity*, “If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.”

Heaven Statements

- Both of those statements I believe are true
 - How often do you think about heaven?
 - Does most of your thought and energy, Bible study and praise go toward this present life?
 - Some in today's culture think of heaven as more of a bribe
 - Some don't think about heaven because they will give an account of their lives and that petrifies them

Heaven Statements

- Heaven or eternal life is the foundation of all God has done in the lives of mankind
- Why redeem mankind if there is nothing after death?
- **Genesis 5:24 NIV**, “24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.”

Heaven Statements

- **Job 19:25-27 NIV**, “25 I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. 26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; 27 I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!”

Heaven Statements

- We will see this morning that our eternal life is tied to a promise given a righteous man named Abraham
- Passing through the nation of Israel, through the Law and eternally secured by our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ

Scriptures

- **Galatians 3:23-29 RSV**, 23 Now before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. 24 So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Scriptures

- **Galatians 3:23-29 RSV**, 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians

- Upon arriving back in Antioch from his first missionary journey after eighteen months on the road, Paul received a report that the churches he had started in Galatia had fallen into hard times—specifically, they had fallen into error
- A group of Judaizers—those who sought to make living under the Mosaic Law a requirement of the Christian faith—had gained an influence in the Galatian churches

Galatians

- These Galatians sought to be justified by the Mosaic Law
- These false teachers taught that to live by grace and in freedom meant to live a lawless and therefore degenerate life
- Paul presented his argument that justification comes to people by faith in Jesus Christ, not by their works under the Law

Galatians

- Does this kind of thinking still put pressure on us today?
- As a Christian today we hear-
 - You must dress a certain way
 - Worship a certain way
 - Attend a certain number of services weekly
 - Have specific gifts of the Spirit
 - Perform specific works of service
 - Read only a specific Bible

Galatians

- We as Bible believing, Born-Again Children of God must walk a fine line in this world—
 - On one hand, we do not want to fall into the legalism that the Galatians struggled with
 - But on the other, we cannot just live as if anything goes

Galatians

- The Christian's commitment to Christ is based on the free gift of grace through faith, but as Paul articulated at the end of Galatians, it also results in a life of walking by the Spirit
- In chapter 3 of Galatians, Paul begins to justify salvation by grace alone leading to an eternity within the promise given to Abraham

Paul anchors our eternal home securely in the promise God gave to Abraham

- **Vs. 29 NIV**, And if you are Christ's (*or in Christ*), then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.
 - **AMP**, "And if you belong to Christ [if you are in Him], then you are Abraham's descendants, and [spiritual] heirs according to [God's] promise."
 - There are two phrases in this verse that helps define what Paul is talking about

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- In Christ –
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:17 NIV**, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:21 NIV**, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

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- In Christ –
 - **Romans 8:1 NIV**, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
 - To be "in Christ" means we have accepted and applied His sacrifice as payment for our own sin

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- In Christ –
 - Our rap sheets contain every sinful thought, attitude or action we have ever committed, No amount of self-cleansing can make us pure enough to warrant forgiveness and a relationship with a holy God
(Romans 3:10-12)
 - The Bible says that in our natural sinful state we are enemies of God (Romans 5:10)

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- In Christ –
 - When we accept His sacrifice on our behalf, He switches accounts with us, He exchanges our list of sins for His perfect account that is totally pleasing to God (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - A Divine Exchange takes place at the foot of the cross: our old sin nature for His perfect one (2 Corinthians 5:17) and that is symbolized by water baptism

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- In Christ –
 - Physical baptism doesn't cause any of those things, it simply declares that they have happened
 - To say you believe one must be baptized in order to be saved is like saying you have to be buried in order to be dead
 - No, you are buried because death has already occurred

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- In Christ –
 - The Black Stallion Returns-A boy named Alec Ramsey stows away on a plane and flies to North Africa, trying to get back his horse

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- In Christ –
 - That's how it is to be in Christ
 - If you entrust yourself to Christ, and say you want to be his eternal guest, and wear his garments, and accept his customs, his honor is at stake; he cannot refuse you

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- In Christ –
 - That's how it is to be in Christ
 - You have so honored his value and trustworthiness, that he would be denying himself to turn you away, and so all he has is yours

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- If you are “*in Christ*” then you are Abraham’s descendants, and [spiritual] heirs according to [God’s] promise.
 - **Genesis 22:18 NIV**, “and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

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- If you are “*in Christ*” then you are Abraham’s descendants, and [spiritual] heirs according to [God’s] promise.
 - Heir - a person legally entitled to the property or rank or position or place of another

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- Heirs according to [God's] promise
 - **Romans 8:17 NIV**, “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory

Paul anchors our eternal home securely in the promise God gave to Abraham

- Heirs according to [God's] promise
 - **Hebrews 11:10 NIV**, 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.
 - **AMP**, 10 For he was [waiting expectantly and confidently] looking forward to the city which has foundations, [an eternal, heavenly city] whose architect and builder is God.

Faith or trust in God's mercy and grace has always been at the heart of His redemptive plan

- On the day of mankind's sinfulness, God promised a redeemer, **Genesis 3:15b NIV**, "he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."
- You see God's grace and mercy from the very beginning

Faith or trust in God's mercy and grace has always been at the heart of His redemptive plan

- **Genesis 15:4-6 NIV**, 4 Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” 5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.
- You see God's grace and mercy in Abraham's life

Faith or trust in God's mercy and grace has always been at the heart of His redemptive plan

- God graced the nation of Israel with The Law
 - How to see God and themselves
 - How to see life and living through God's eyes
 - How to model their earthly life through God's ways
 - Mankind did not have the mind of God, nor did they have a heart or a desire of obedience toward God
 - This was still God's grace and mercy through faith

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- **Galatians 3:23 AMP**, “Now before faith (*the faithfulness of Jesus*) came, we were kept in custody under the Law (*carefully surrounded and protected by the Mosaic law*), [perpetually] imprisoned (*protective custody*) [in preparation] for the faith (*the faithfulness of Jesus*) that was destined to be revealed,

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- **Galatians 3:24 AMP**, “with the result that the Law has become our tutor and our disciplinarian to guide us to Christ (*The law was like those Greek tutors, with which you are familiar, who escort children to school and protect them from danger or distraction, making sure the children will really get to the place they set out for.*), so that we may be justified [that is, declared free of the guilt of sin and its penalty, and placed in right standing with God] by faith.”

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- **Galatians 3:25 AMP**, “But now that faith (*the faithfulness of Jesus*) has come, we are no longer under [the control and authority of] a tutor and disciplinarian. 26 For you [who are born-again have been reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified and] are all children of God (*in Christ*) [set apart for His purpose with full rights and privileges] through faith in (*what*) Christ Jesus (*has provided*).

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- **Ezekiel 36:26-27 NIV**, “26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws (*and follow my ways*).”
- All this from grace and mercy through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross

The result

- **Galatians 3:27 AMP**, “27 For all of you who were baptized (*Baptism by water is a “reenactment” of the baptism by the Spirit, an outward testimony of the inward change*), (*as water washes all over the individual so they have been washed all over by the sacrifice of Christ*) into Christ [into a spiritual union with the Christ, the Anointed] have clothed yourselves with Christ [that is, you have taken on His characteristics and values].”

The result

- **Galatians 3:28 AMP**, “28 There is [now no distinction in regard to salvation] neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you [who believe] are all one in Christ Jesus [no one can claim a spiritual superiority] *(we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ).*”

The result

- **Matthew 5:17-18 NIV**, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

The result

- **John 8:36 NIV**, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”
- When Christ admits us into his protection and care by faith alone (*"May I be your guest?"*), every possible ground for boasting is removed, whether racial, social, or sexual
- We are all utterly dependent on the honor of Christ, not the value of our distinctives, and nothing is more secure than the honor of Christ.



GALATIANS 3:23-29