

Lecture 4 – Galatians 3

Justified by Faith: The Only Way to Be Saved

The issue in Galatians 3 is clear:

- Law or faith?
- Works or promise?
- Human effort or divine grace?
- Self-righteousness or imputed righteousness?

How is a person justified?

Galatians 3:1–5

“You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you...?”

Are we trying to live the Christian life on our own strength?

Justified — What Does It Mean?

Justified does not mean:

- Improved
- Decorated
- Patched up

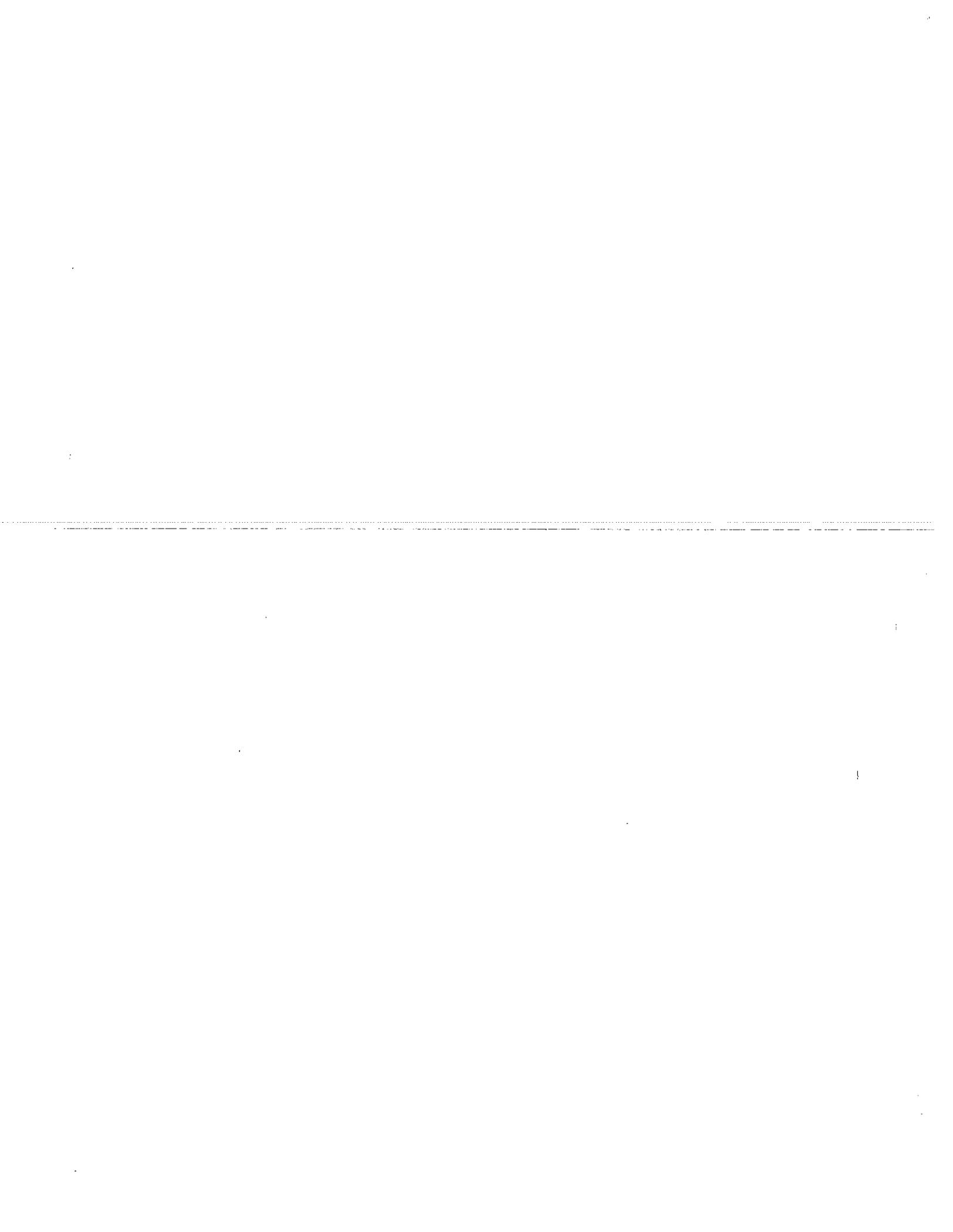
It means declared righteous. Set in right standing with God.

Galatians 3:6–9

Paul now brings in Abraham.

Genesis 15:6 - Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.

Before circumcision. Before the Law. 430 years before Moses.



Romans 4:9–13 - Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. And he is then also the father of the circumcised, who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

Genesis 12:3 - In you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

Galatians 3:10–14

Paul now turns to the Law.

James 2:10 - Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

The Law demands perfection.

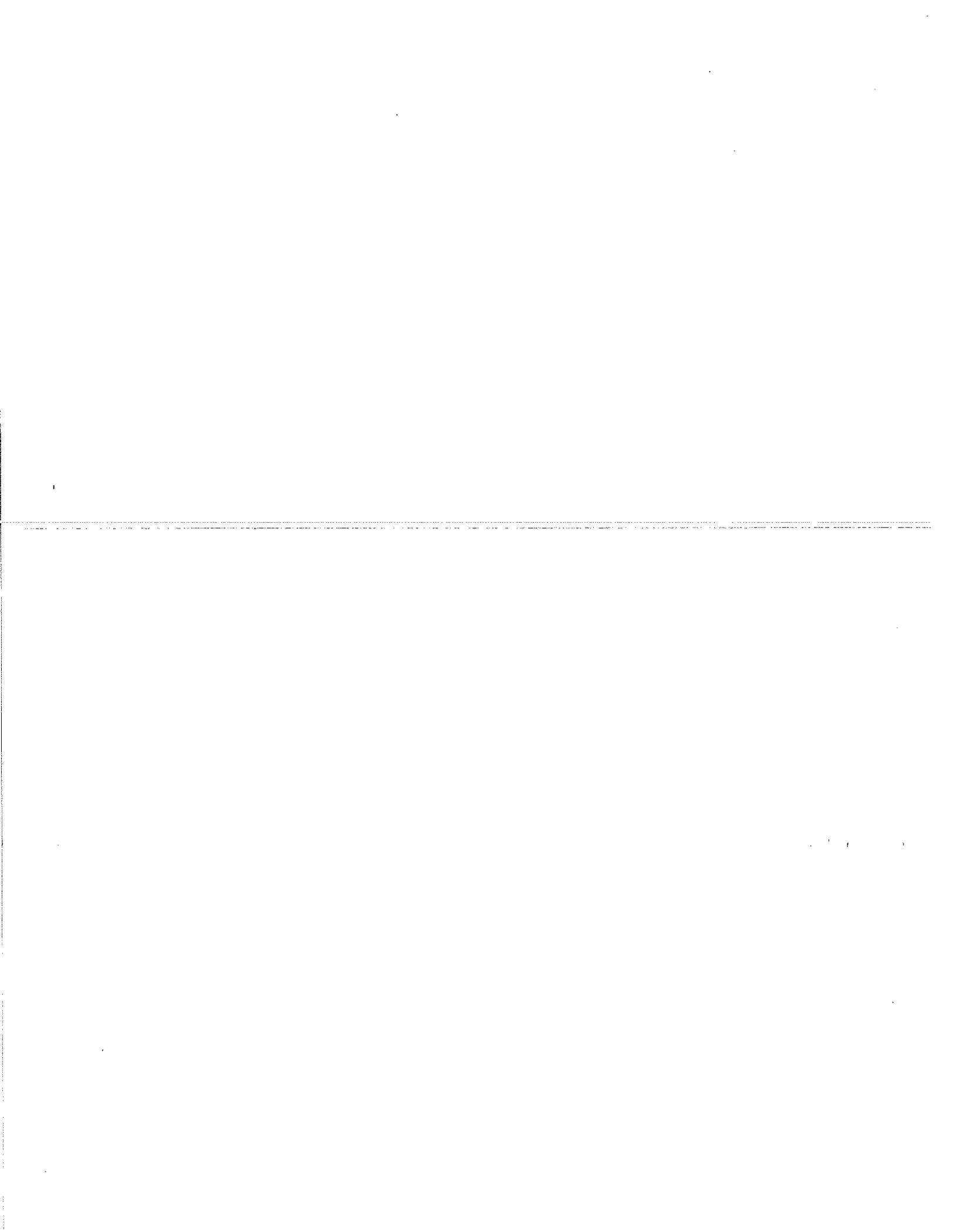
Galatians 3:11 quotes Habakkuk 2:4 - The righteous shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:16–18

The Promise vs The Law

If inheritance is based on Law, it is no longer based on promise.

And God gave it by promise.



Galatians 3:19–22

So why the Law?

Because of transgressions.

Romans 3:20 - Through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

Romans 7:7 - I would not have known sin except through the Law.

The Law:

- Defines sin.
- Reveals sin.
- Magnifies sin.

It cannot give life.

It cannot justify.

It exposes our need.

The Law was temporary — until the Seed came.

Its purpose was never salvation.

Its purpose was revelation.

Galatians 3:23–29

Paul describes the Law as a tutor.

It shows:

You cannot keep this.

You cannot save yourself.

You need a Savior.

But once faith has come: We are no longer under a tutor.

Living by Faith



Romans 5:1 - Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God.

Ephesians 2:8–9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this *is* not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Grace and peace go together.

What Does It Mean to Live by Faith?

Where does faith begin? In thinking.

Proverbs 23:7 - As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

Living by faith means:

- Trusting God's Word above feelings.
- Trusting Christ's finished work above your performance.
- Standing in grace daily.
- Returning to the gospel continually.

Final Application

Do you realize you are in right standing with God?

Or are you trying to earn what has already been given?

From Genesis to Galatians to today — The righteous shall live by faith

