Beyond any question, Moses was among the greatest of all who are recorded in the bible. Many of the things he wrote in his “Law of Moses,” however, only served to blind the people to the extent they rejected their long awaited messiah when He came into the world. That same Law of Moses also blinded the people to the truth of the gospel which Paul preached, and continued to hold them in bondage. We can easily see the error the Jews made in rejecting the gospel of Jesus Christ because of the blindness of their heart, but may fail to understand our modern traditions can also blind our hearts to the same gospel in our day.

At the close of the first century A.D., the church suffered a great “failing away” II Thessalonians 2:3, and by the sixteenth century A.D., the “church” had been under the bondage of the papal system for over a thousand years. The Apostle Paul, wrote “he that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses” Hebrews 10:28. It took centuries later those openly disagreed with the pope and the cardinal system also “died without mercy.” The people of many nations were forced to purchase forgiveness for sins with money which was used to build Saint Peter’s Basilica. It was this selling indulgences for sin that so moved Martin Luther to publish his 95 theses against this abuse. It was his revelation “justification by faith” that actually freed millions of people. Jews made in rejecting the gospel of Jesus Christ because of their time, They use the character flaws of Abraham and David among many others in the Old Testament as proof that those who are “justified by faith” continue as sinners without any change in their character whatsoever. We will show by the words of the Apostle Paul that this tradition is not true.

“Abraham was justified by faith” Romans 4:3. Many of those who are blinded by tradition use this as their “proof-text.” This is not, however, a blanket statement. Paul follows this with 8 verses from the Psalms of David and the prophets for confirmation, and concludes in verse 19, “…what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law.” Paul’s conclusion is that among those who trusted in the Law of Moses, there were “none righteous, no, not one.”

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight…” Romans 3:20. After 1500 years under the Law of Moses, the fact that a single soul out of the millions of those trusted in the Law was truly “righteous” is actual proof that no one can be justified by the works of the Law.

We are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus Romans 3:24. There are three powerful statements in this short verse which we must consider:

1. We are “justified freely,” which means we are justified without our works, our money, or any other form of payment.
2. We are justified “by His grace,” which means our justification is a gift from God. Paul calls it “a gift of righteousness” Romans 5:17.
3. We are justified “…through the redemption that is in Christ; the apostle tells us under the words we begin to understand that our “justification” is not the same as that of Abraham. Abraham was “justified by faith” almost 2000 years before Christ died for us. Our justification requires “the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” We are “the redeemed,” but Abraham was not!

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law Romans 3:28. To this point in explaining justification by faith, Paul has not mentioned Abraham. It is important to note that he did not need Abraham’s experience to understand that justification is “by faith without the deed of the law.” In fact, the message Paul gave from Abraham’s experience is “what Abraham found” Romans 4:1. After it was said of Abraham, “…he believed in the Lord, and he counted it to him for righteousness” Genesis 15:6, he struggled for 14 years, trying to receive the promise through his own abilities and works. It wasn’t until Abraham was 99 years of age that he finally believed God to receive the promise, and within a year Isaac was born to Sarah. Therefore before we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 5:1. It is as though Paul leaped completely over the 4th chapter on “what Abraham found” to give us this nugget of truth concerning the tradition that Abraham did not receive; “…we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Abraham also had “peace with God,” but his “peace” was not “through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Abraham “believed in God” Acts 17:2, and when he “obeyed God” Hebrews 11:18. If Abraham had not obeyed God, we would have never heard of him beyond a single mention in the lineage records. The source of our “peace with God” is revealed in Paul’s message to the Colossians: “…having made peace through the blood of his cross” Colossians 1:20, and to the Ephesians; “For he is our peace… Ephesians 2:14. This is the “peace” that Paul tells us that we are to receive.

“…much more, then, being more now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” Romans 5:9.

“…we have peace with God but, in this verse, that “justified by His blood” is “much more” than the justification received by Abraham.

“And such were some of you” I Corinthians 6:11. What can be more conclusive than the language the apostle uses in these verses? Paul is not merely saying, but is clear; these “shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

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JUSTIFICATION

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth thesame veil untill the very same which is taken away in the reading ofthe old testament; which veil is vailled in Christ. But even unto thisday, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. II Corinthians 3:14-16

Beyond any question, Moses was among the greatest of all who are recorded in the bible. Many of the things he wrote in his “Law of Moses,” however, only served to blind the people to the extent they rejected their long-awaited messiah when He came into the world. That same Law of Moses also blinded the people to the truth of the gospel which Paul preached, and continued to hold them in bondage. We can easily see the error the Jews made in rejecting the gospel of Jesus Christ because of the blindness of their heart, but may fail to understand our modern traditions can also blind our hearts to the same gospel in our day.

At the close of the first century A.D., the church suffered a great “falling away” II Thessalonians 2:3, and by the sixteenth century A.D., the “church” had been under the bondage of the papal system for over a thousand years. The Apostle Paul wrote, “He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses.” Hebrews 10:28. Many of those who are blinded by tradition use their time. Is it asking too much of the people to hold what the church has become blinded to the truth of the Old Testament as proof that those who are “justified by faith” are free and that the fall; that the Old Testament, is “under the New Covenant of grace. It is not under our works, our money, or any other form of payment. We are justified by His grace,” which means our justification is a gift from God. Paul called it a “gift of righteousness” Romans 4:17.

We do not question the greatness of Martin Luther or the many other reformers of his day. Certainly God raised Luther up for this momentous work that others had suffered martyrdom seeking to accomplish. It is a sad thing, however, to note that five hundred years after Luther’s reformation, much of the church has become blinded to the truth of the gospel by the traditions of Luther, Calvin, and many others of their time. Is it any wonder of the people to hold what the Bible records about “justification” above that of any other man or woman of God since the first century? I think not, so I will give you for your consideration the words of the Apostle Paul.

The tradition of justification by faith says we are justified, and nothing changes except the way God sees us. According to that tradition, God sees the “guilty” as “innocent,” the “unrighteous” as “righteous,” and the “unclean” as “clean.” In other words, the tradition says the only thing changed by our “faith” is “the way God sees us.” They use the character flaws and sins of Abraham and David among many others in the Old Testament as proof that those who are “justified by faith” continue as sinners without any change in their character whatsoever. We will show by the words of the Apostle Paul that this tradition is not true.

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one” Romans 3:10. Many of those who are blinded by tradition use this as their “proof text.” This is not, however, a blanket statement. Paul follows this with 8 verses from the Psalms of David and the prophets for confirmation, and concludes in verse 19, “...what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law.” Paul’s conclusion is that among those who trusted in the Law of Moses, there were “none righteous, no, not one.”

“For therefore he is justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 5:1. It is as though Paul leaped completely over the 4th chapter on “what Abraham found” to give us this nugget of truth concerning the transformation that is accomplished in those who receive Christ. We often do not receive: “...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Abraham also had “peace with God,” but his “peace” was “not through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Abraham “believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness” Genesis 15:6. He struggled for 14 years, trying to receive the promise through his own abilities and works. It wasn’t until Abraham was 99 years of age that he finally believed God to receive the promise, and within a year Isaac was born to Sarah.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 5:1. It is as though Paul leaped completely over the 4th chapter on “what Abraham found” to give us this nugget of truth concerning the transformation that is accomplished in those who receive Christ. We often do not receive: “...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Abraham also had “peace with God,” but his “peace” was “not through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Abraham “believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness” Genesis 15:6. He struggled for 14 years, trying to receive the promise through his own abilities and works. It wasn’t until Abraham was 99 years of age that he finally believed God to receive the promise, and within a year Isaac was born to Sarah.

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