

The Story of Jesus: There Is One Way To Get Into Him
(Lesson 85)

Introduction:

1. To grow in the knowledge of Christ as we are instructed in 2 Peter 3:18, we must search the Scriptures (John 5:39).
2. In this lesson we are concentrating on the information revealed in Galatians 3:26-29.
3. These verses show that "there is one way to get into Christ."
4. Let us begin our study by pointing out some . . .

Discussion:

- I. GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BOOK OF GALATIANS
 - A. According to 1:1-2, this letter was written by Paul the apostle, and it was addressed to the "*churches*" [congregations] in the area known as Galatia.
 - B. These congregations were facing a serious problem.
 - C. Some teachers were influencing the Christians in Galatia to keep the Law of Moses.
 - D. We learn from 3:23-24 that the law had served its purpose.
 1. Under the law, the Israelites were God's chosen people -- they were Abraham's physical descendants.
 2. The Law of Moses was designed to keep the Israelites separate from other people, particularly the Gentiles, until Christ came.
 - E. Paul showed in 3:25 that Christians are not under the Law of Moses.
 - F. According to 5:1, Christians are to "*stand fast*" in the liberty that Christ provides.
 - G. We learn from 5:4 that following the Law of Moses now is a serious offense.
 - H. With this information before us, let us turn our attention to . . .
- II. THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN GALATIANS 3:26-29
 - A. (vs.26) Today we become God's children "*by faith in Christ Jesus.*"
 1. This applies to everyone -- "*all.*"
 2. Let us make an observation from 6:15.
 - a. In Christ, whether a person is circumcised does not matter.
 - b. What really matters is becoming "*a new creature.*"
 3. How do we get into Christ so we can become new creatures?
 - B. (vs.27) We get into Christ by being baptized into Him.
 1. When we are baptized into Christ we put on Christ.
 2. We also become God's children, and we become new creatures.
 - C. (vs.29) When we get into Christ we enjoy two other blessings.
 1. We become "*Abraham's seed*" [his spiritual descendants].
 2. We become "*heirs according to the promise.*"
 - a. (Genesis 12:3) God promised that "*all families of the earth*" would be blessed in Abraham.
 - b. Paul discussed this promise in Galatians 3:7-9.
 - D. We learn from Galatians 3:28 that these principles relate to everyone, regardless of racial background, social background, or gender.
- III. THESE PRINCIPLES ARE ILLUSTRATED IN ACTS
 - A. Jews in Jerusalem were baptized into Christ (Acts 2:5, 37-38, 41).
 - B. People in Samaria were baptized into Christ (Acts 8:5, 12).
 - C. The eunuch of Ethiopia was baptized into Christ (Acts 8:35-38).
 - D. Saul was baptized into Christ (Acts 22:16; 9:18).
 - E. Cornelius, a Gentile, was baptized into Christ (Acts 10:48).
 - F. Lydia, a businesswoman, was baptized into Christ (Acts 16:14-15).
 - G. The jailer in Philippi was baptized into Christ (Acts 16:30-33).
 - H. Many people in Corinth were baptized into Christ (Acts 18:8).
 - I. People in Ephesus were baptized into Christ after learning that they had not been properly baptized (Acts 19:3-5).