Clips from Psalms

*Psalms 95:1-2
Praise to Jehovah and Warning against Unbelief

"Oh come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."
It was Johanan’s desire to "secretly" murder Ishmael before Ishmael had a chance to murder Gedeliah. Johanan was a vigilante and depraved at that. Secondly, Johanan determined to bring the people to Egypt for safety because he feared the Chaldeans (Jeremiah 41:17-18). Johanan did the right thing by asking Jeremiah for God's word in the matter, yet when he received God's word he rejected it, calling Jeremiah a false teacher. Thirdly, Johanan took the Jews into Egypt even after a direct command by God and the horrendous consequences were pronounced by Jeremiah for such disobedience. The Jews remained in Egypt for several years and began worshiping the "queen of the heaven" (Jeremiah 44:17). Johanan took matters into his own hands and the result was the practice of idolatry on the part of the Jews now living in Egypt.

Was Jeremiah a false teacher or did his words not settle well with Johanan and the people? Generally, it seems, most religious people want to think that they truly love God and would follow Him where ever that may be. Yet when they find that God’s instructions are not according to their personal desires or preconceived ideas of religion they reject God's laws. Isaiah writes, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). Jeremiah hit the nail on the head, so to say, when identifying man’s problem of rebellion. He said, "they are not humbled even unto this day, neither have they feared, nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes..." (Jeremiah 44:10). The same words were said of Pharaoh of Egypt (see Exodus 10:3) and Zedekiah king of Judah (Jeremiah 36:27-32). A false teacher is one who speaks swelling words of love and devotion to God, however, when it comes to doing what God commands they change the will of God to fit their own personal likes and dislikes. Such a man, or woman, displays a frightful lack of reverence and fear for the name of Jehovah God (see Jude 8ff). The book of Jeremiah has precisely illustrated God's will for man to subject to his divine directive (see Jeremiah 10:23).

A humble mind repents of wrong doing rather than coming up with alternative doctrines to justify error (Psalms 51; Isaiah 57:15; 66:1-2; Matthew 5:3-5). Obedience to God's laws is a sign of fear and respect (Proverbs 1:7). When man allows his thoughts to overrule the laws of God he rejects God’s mercy, grace, peace, and promises of salvation. Jonah said, "They that regard lying vanities forsake their own mercy" (Jonah 2:8). Jeremiah was not a false teacher seeking to lead Judah astray. The prophet was only speaking the words of the Lord (see Jeremiah 26:12-14). Let us put all men's doctrines to the test of truth (1 John 4:1-4). Those who preach truth are to be fellowshipped and those who preach error are to be rejected (Ephesians 5:11).

Galatians 3
Salvation by Faith Galatians 2:16

Introduction
Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would direct man by the divine pattern of righteousness and justice (John 16:7-13). The Apostles and prophets had the task of taking this divine pattern to the world (Galatians 1:11; Ephesians 3:1-5). During the days of the early church there were others bent on teaching different doctrines even though there is but one truth (2 Peter 2:1ff; Ephesians 4:4; 2 John 9-11). The churches of Galatia felt the full brunt of false doctrine (Galatians 1:6). False teachers from Jerusalem had effectively troubled the churches of Galatia (see Galatians 4:17; 5:7-10). Paul brings the Galatians back to square one of their faith and proves to them that justification is by faith in Jesus Christ. No matter what twist man puts on salvation the one truth continues to say the same thing year in and year out. This lesson shall examine Galatians 3 to silence erring doctrines of men regarding salvation.

I. The Foolish and Bewitched Galatians
A. They had been taught the truth by Paul and Barnabas
B. The erring doctrine (Acts 15:5; Galatians 2:3-4; 5:1-3).

II. Paul Identifies the First Confirmed Covenant of Justification
A. Jesus Christ was openly set forth crucified
B. The Galatians received the Spirit by the hearing of faith
C. They were perfected
D. They were made righteous
E. Through faith in gospel through Christ
F. Blessed with blessings of Abraham in Christ
G. Justified by faith
H. The Promise of God
I. Man's Inheritance

III. The Mosaic Law was Confirmed 430 years AFTER First Covenant of Justification and had a Different Function
A. Identification of Sin
B. Tutor that brings us to Christ

IV. The Act of Obedient Faith Finally Stated
A. Baptism equates to one's justification and righteousness
B. The baptized are those who share the one faith of Abraham
C. Sons of Abraham are sons of sons of God