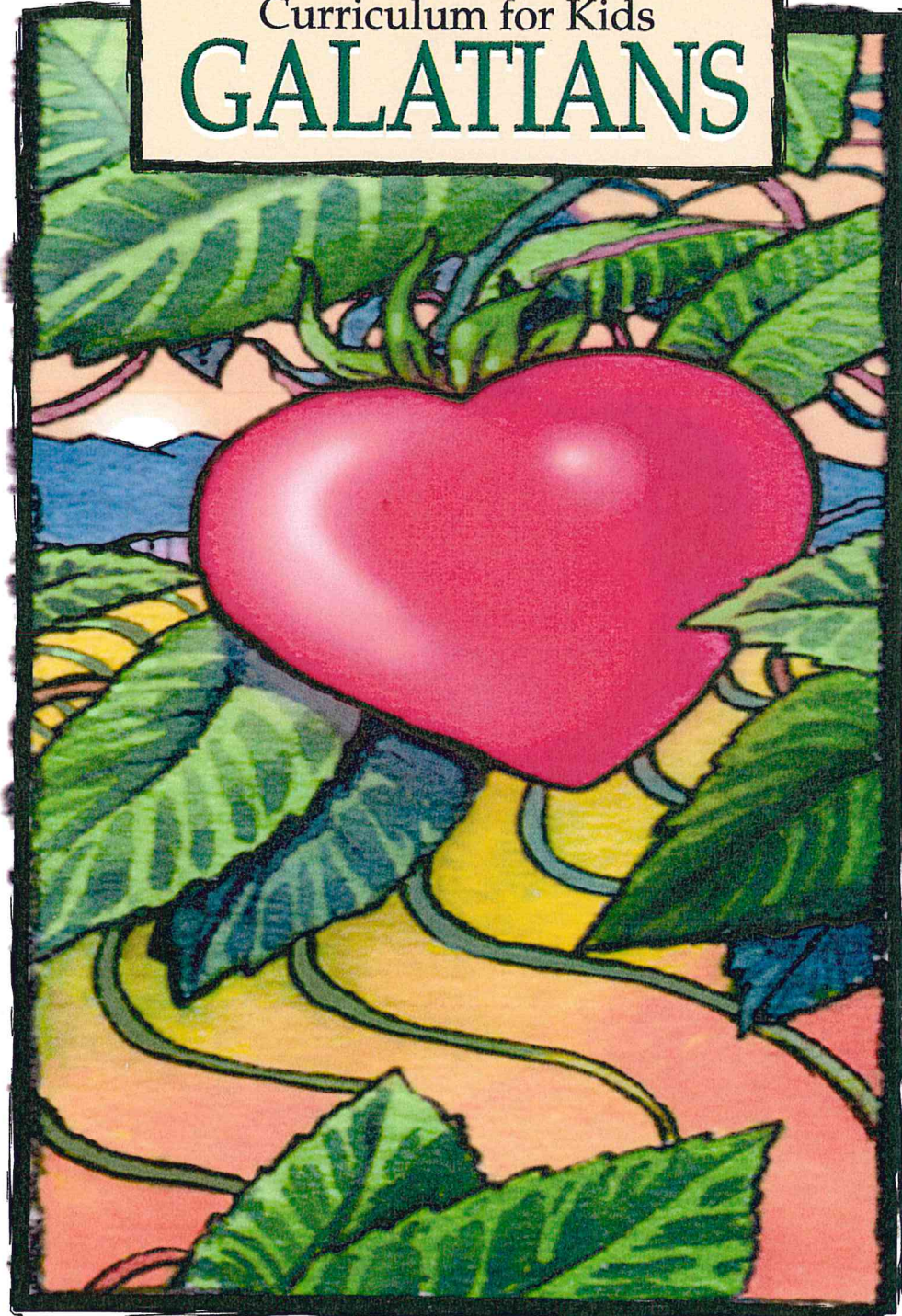


A P P L Y W I T H I N

Sunday School  
Curriculum for Kids

# GALATIANS





## Apply Within For Kids - Who was Paul? Galatians

Paul wrote this letter or epistle to the churches in the region of Galatia (modern-day Turkey). Paul was not called by man, but by God.

### WHO WAS PAUL?

Paul was a Pharisee, and the son of a Pharisee. He believed that he was serving God by persecuting the Christians. But then God blinded him on the road to Damascus so that he could see! Paul was named Saul before he was converted on the road to Damascus. This verse gives us a picture of Paul (Saul) before he was born again.

*"Now Saul was consenting to his death (Stephen's). At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison." - Acts 8:1-3*

But God had other plans for Saul (Paul). Who would believe that Saul (Paul) would become born again! Who would believe that he would become an apostle and write several books in the New Testament! God can do anything! Paul became an apostle (one who is sent). The other apostles who were with Jesus throughout Jesus' days on this earth, did not accept Paul immediately. We are like Paul. We did not walk with Jesus through the land of Israel like the disciples, or see His miracles, yet we believe and we are able to be used in His service and for His kingdom. First we must be born again.

### PAUL'S CONVERSION:

*"Then Saul (Paul), still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' And he said, 'Who are You, Lord?' Then the Lord said, 'I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.' And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank." - Acts 9:1-9*

Paul counted his former life as loss. He was a Pharisee, well-schooled in Jewish laws and traditions, but those things were worthless to him after he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. Here is what he wrote in his letter to the Philippians: *"If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead." - Philippians 3:4-11*

### ABOUT PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIAN CHURCHES

Paul reminds the churches in the region of Galatia that they are saved *and kept* by faith. The letter to the Ephesians tells us that grace is a gift, not of works, lest anyone boast. It is the righteousness of Christ that we claim by faith. It was and is His work, not our own, that pleases the Lord. Many wanted to mix the law with grace! Grace is grace. Many cults and false doctrines existed then and still do today. We either have works; rules, rituals, sacraments, traditions, or we have Jesus Christ. The two are like oil and water. They do not mix!

What about this fleshly, earthly and sinful nature? Romans 8:1-2 says, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." We must walk in the Spirit, being born again and yielded to Him so that we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." - Galatians 5:22-23*

If someone comes to us with another gospel, even if it's an angel, we are to not believe it! Paul said that anyone who perverts the Gospel (the Good News) should be accursed. Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon church, was one who received a different gospel from an angel, Moroni. It's too bad that Joseph Smith didn't know the Word of God! He gave his followers another gospel; a lie.





The Lord through Paul

## The Churches of Galatia

### Paul's Letter to The Churches of Galatia

"Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me,

*To the churches of Galatia:*

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. - Galatians 1:1-5

#### PAUL WAS CALLED BY GOD

Paul had been well-trained in the Law and the traditions of the Jews before God apprehended him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). He persecuted the Church before he was born again. After God called him, he considered his former life and education rubbish compared to the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Paul was a man called by God rather than by the will of man. He didn't seek approval or position from men, but God appointed him.

Many pastors in many churches have been ordained by the will of man. They went to school and earned a diploma, having been ordained. But many were never ordained or called by God, only by man!! God began using Paul *after* he was born again. Then God was able to use Paul's previous education in Judaism and the Law to remind the Galatian Believers about the grace of God when they were tempted to mix grace with the Law.

We are to be diligent to make our call and election sure, for if we do, we will never stumble. (See 2 Peter 1:10.)

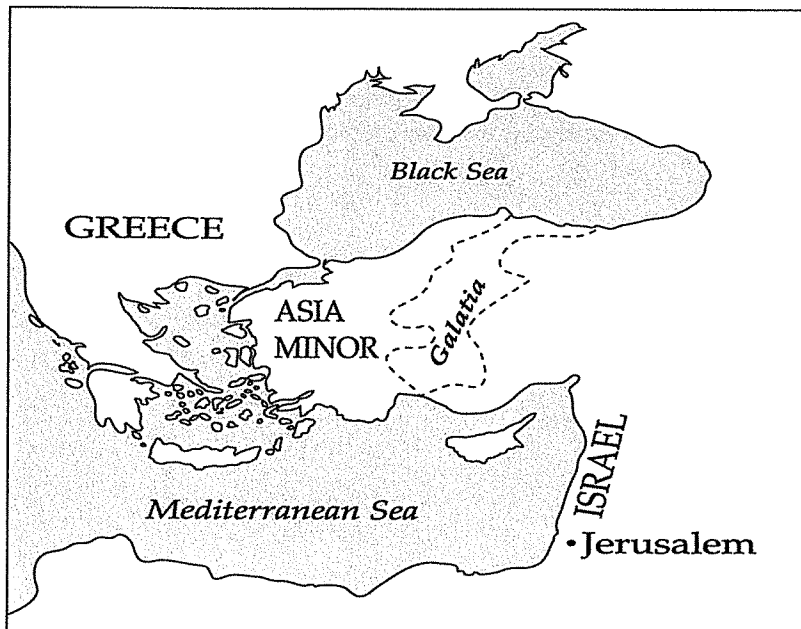
Have you come to Jesus Christ? Have you admitted that you're a sinner in need of God's forgiveness and grace? You must be born again! Ask Jesus to come into your heart and to be your Lord. Upon Jesus, the foundation, God will build you up in His Word, and He will use you to reach others!

Upon being born again, you receive God's grace (unearned favor), and peace with God. He bought peace for us, and set us free from sin and trying to keep the law (Eph. 2:14-18)! He fulfilled the Law and the prophets for us. He is our righteousness. He washed us from our sins in His own Blood because of His love for us. Revelation 1:5-6, says:

"... *To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*" It is God's will to deliver us from this present evil age. Read John 3:16-17.

Paul's letter to the churches of Galatia was to remind them that they are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and NOT by trying to keep the Law. The Law could never save anyone, it only showed them their sins, failures and need for a Savior. We need Jesus Christ. He is our righteousness, and our peace with the Father, by grace through faith!

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# Galatians

## Chapter 1:1-5

### Vocabulary in Context With Today's Lesson

apostle-one sent with a special message or commission

grace-the freely given, unmerited favor of God

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 1:1-2; who wrote this epistle?
2. To whom is this epistle written?
3. Was it written to more than one church?
4. Who called Paul to be an apostle?

*Note: Read the front of the lesson about Paul's conversion and calling.*

5. Read Galatians 1:3; in Paul's greeting, what comes before peace?
6. Read Ephesians 2:8-9; to know peace in our hearts we must accept the gift of grace first. Who gives us this gift?
7. How are we saved? Ephesians 2:8
8. Read Galatians 1:3-5; Who gave Himself for our sins?
9. What are we delivered from? Galatians 1:4
10. Read 2 Tim. 3:1-5; will the days get better as time passes?
11. Can you give some examples of how the world is growing more evil?
12. Read Galatians 1:4; what is God's will?
13. Read 2 Peter 3:9; what does it tell us that God's will is?

*Note: It was God's will that Jesus should become man and die for our sins and rise again. Jesus became sin for us because our Father loves us so much and wants us to spend eternity with Him. Believing in Jesus as our Lord is the only way to the Father, this is the hope we have as Christians.*

#### Memory Verse

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast..."

Hebrews 6:19 (NKJV)



**THE GOSPEL IN A NUT-SHELL**

*"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you —unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve." - 1 Corinthians 15:1-5*

**Another Gospel?**

"I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed." - Galatians 1:6-9

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Beware! If anyone adds any type of ritual or works to the completed work of Jesus Christ, he denies the Lord. Jesus fulfilled all the requirements of the Law and the prophets for us! We become partakers of salvation through believing the Gospel and knowing that we are unable to save ourselves by doing good works. If anyone tells you that you must observe a certain day, a certain feast, or abstain from eating certain foods, then they are adding requirements to the simple grace of God. That is not the Gospel or Good News.

The Mormons have another gospel which was delivered to Joseph Smith by an angel named Moroni. His message was that all the other churches are wrong. The Mormons are nice people who are deceived by "another gospel" which is no gospel at all. Their gospel is based on keeping the laws and the ordinances of their church (works). Their Jesus is the spirit brother of Lucifer. Our Jesus is God.

The Jehovah's Witnesses have a different Jesus. Their Jesus is Michael the archangel, not God. Our Jesus is God, Who created all things, even the angels and archangels (Colossians 1:16). The Jehovah's Witnesses have a different gospel that is based on works.

The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus Christ died for our sins. He paid for them in full. It is a gift! We cannot do anything to earn a gift, or it is not a gift! When we accept a gift, we need to thank the one who gave it! We do not work to repay the giver! Ephesians 2:8-10, says: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*



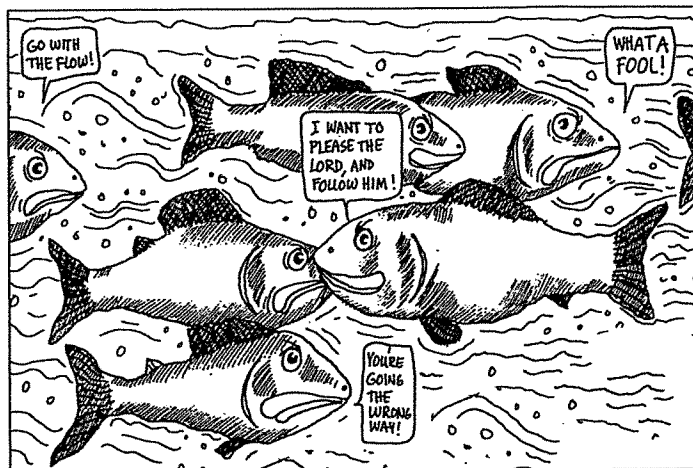
## Do You Want to Please People? Or Do You Want to Please God?

"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." - Galatians 1:10

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While Jesus walked on this earth, many people believed Him and followed Him. But many did not follow Jesus for fear of the powerful religious leaders. Those people respected and feared men more than God. *"Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."* - John 12:42-43

If you want to please men, you cannot be a servant of Jesus Christ. You will be like a fish that is swimming the opposite direction of all the other fish in the stream! The fish who are going downstream will tell you that you're going the wrong way! Or they'll try to entice you to join them! There is little effort required in pleasing men who are going with the current of the world! Everyone will love you if you "go with the flow"!



*"But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness--God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ."* - 1 Thessalonians 2:4-6

Many times you will find yourself caught in a snare by flattering lips and enticing words. Someone may praise you for your work or great abilities! Soon your work will become an effort to please the flatterers because flattery is addicting to your ears and fleshly nature! You'll find yourself drawn to flatterers so you can continue to hear wonderful things about yourself! It is a trap! We must keep our eyes on the Lord when we work in ministry. Our motives must stay on pleasing the Lord even if people around us don't agree with us or our work! God will test our hearts and show us if we are truly serving Him or if we are serving our fleshly desire for attention, fame, glory and the praises of men.



# Galatians

## Chapter 1:6-10

### Vocabulary in Context With Today's Lesson

Gospel- Good News

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 1:6; what did Paul marvel at?
2. Read 1 Cor.15:3-4; what is the true Gospel?
3. Read Galatians 1:7; what are people doing to the true Gospel?
4. Read Ephesians 2:8-9; how do we obtain salvation?
5. Can you name a perverted form of the Gospel? See the front of the lesson.

*Note: The Good News, or Gospel, is the free gift of salvation from God. His grace through our faith in Jesus. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins by dying on the cross and rising on the third day. Jesus Himself said from the cross, "It is finished." There is nothing else we can do to add to our salvation.*

6. Read 1 Cor. 14:33; is the Gospel hard to understand or confusing? We must be as children to come into the Kingdom. That means to trust God at His word. (Matt. 18:3-4)
7. Read Galatians 1:8-9; what happens to those who pervert the Gospel?
8. Read Luke 21:8; what did Jesus Himself warn us about?

*Note: The fact that the Gospel should not be perverted is so important that Paul warns us twice!*

9. Read 1 John 4:1-2; how do we know if the prophets or angels are from God?
10. Read Galatians 1:10; Who did Paul aim to please?
11. Read 1 Thess. 2:4; Who should we aim to please?
12. Read Hebrews 11:6; how can we please God?

#### Memory Verse

" For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,..."

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

## The Revelation Of The Gospel Comes Through God, Not Man

"But I make known to you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ."

- Galatians 1:11-12

Here is a definition of the Gospel given by Paul:

*"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.*

*After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.*

*For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worth to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."*

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-9

The Gospel is not according to man. It was God's idea! The Gospel is revealed to people by God. Until God opens blind eyes and unstops deaf ears, people cannot receive the Word of God. The Bible tells us; *"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* - 1 Corinthians 2:14

Apart from God's revelation, you cannot understand the Word of God. It isn't a Book that can be understood by the wisdom and knowledge of man. It is revealed to those who ask, seek, knock, and to whom God chooses for His own purposes, (even Paul, who persecuted the church!) An example is in Matthew 16:15-17; *"But Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven.'"*

Another example of God's revelation is found in Luke 24:13-35. Jesus walked with a couple of men along the road to Emmaus, and as they discussed Jesus' death, He gave them a Bible study. Their eyes were closed to understanding His identity. He stayed with them for a time, at their request. When they sat down at the table to break bread, He gave them their bread and then they recognized Him. Then He vanished. This is what they said, *"Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"* - Luke 24:32



Intelligence is not the key to understanding the things of God. If we know anything at all, it is because He has opened our eyes, our ears, and our understanding. No one gets to boast! If you want to know the things of God, ask Him, seek Him and you will find Him.



## Paul, Called by God, Not Men

"But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus."

- Galatians 1:11-17

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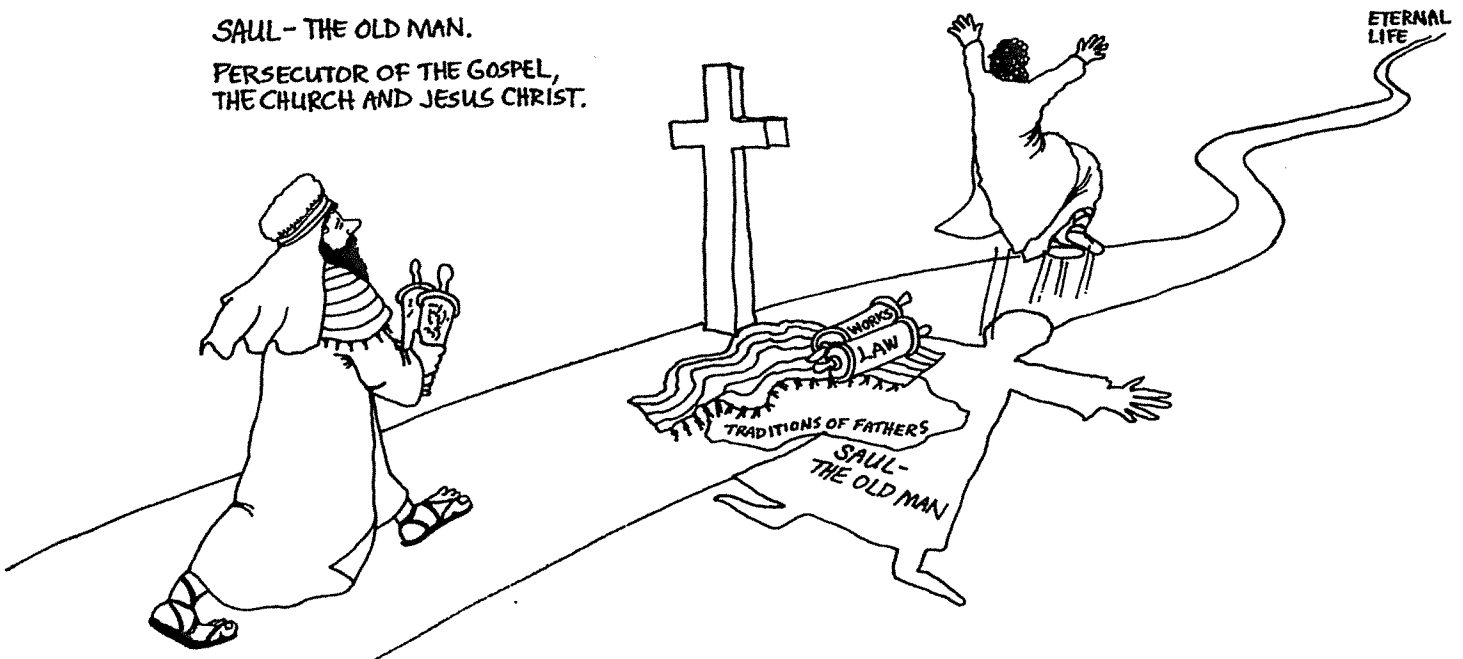
Paul, who penned many of the books within the New Testament, told us that he did not receive the Gospel from man, but from God. The Gospel came to Paul through the revelation of Jesus Christ. It was a supernatural event. Before His conversion, Paul persecuted the Church and thought that he was doing God a service! Then God apprehended Paul on the road to Damascus. After God blinded him, He healed and opened Paul's eyes - physically and spiritually. After Paul was born again, he considered all the knowledge he had attained as a Pharisee to be rubbish compared to the excellency of knowing Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:8). But even though Paul considered his former education rubbish, God used Paul's understanding of Judaism to teach and reach both Jews and Gentiles for Jesus Christ.

Paul did not seek the approval of the other apostles, because God chose him. He wasn't selected by men, but God separated Paul for His use, right from birth! He had plans for Paul! Jeremiah, the Old Testament prophet was chosen before his birth to be a prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:5). If you're born again, God has separated you for His use, to do something in this world for Him. We, like Paul, must be called, or ordained by God if we want to be used by Him.

Do you know someone who would be the least likely candidate for God to use? God chose and used a man who persecuted the Church! God can use anyone and do anything! Pray for the one you think that God could never use!

**PAUL - A NEW CREATION!  
PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL  
OF GRACE THROUGH FAITH  
IN JESUS CHRIST.**

**SAUL - THE OLD MAN.  
PERSECUTOR OF THE GOSPEL,  
THE CHURCH AND JESUS CHRIST.**



## Galatians Chapter 1:11-17

### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 1:11-12; Who did Paul receive the Gospel from?
2. Read Galatians 1:13-14; what was Paul like before his conversion?
3. Read Phil. 3:4-6; was Paul a very religious man before his conversion? Did he do everything right according to the Law?
4. Read Galatians 1:15-16; when was Paul called by God?

*Note: God's timing is perfect, He knew the right time to open Paul's eyes to the truth. Sometimes God takes us through situations so our experience will refine us and grow us so we can minister to others. Romans 8:28 tells us that everything happens for our good and God's glory. Don't try to figure out "why" for everything that happens, just walk with God and learn of Him.*

5. How are we saved? Ephesians 2:8-9
6. Did Paul go directly to the apostles after he was born again? Galatians 1:16-17

*Note: Paul studied the Bible, God's Word, immediately after he was saved. His foundation was built on Jesus Christ and not man's opinion. Be sure you're reading your Bible and growing in the solid Word!*

7. After Paul's conversion how did he see his past "religious" life? Phil. 3:7-8

### Memory Verse

"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ"

Philippians 3:8 (NKJV)

## A Persecutor-- Made Preacher! Who Would Believe it?

"Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.) Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and

Cilicia. And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. But they were hearing only, 'He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.' And they glorified God in me." - Galatians 1:18-24

After Paul was stricken blind on the road to Damascus, he prayed, and God prepared a man named Ananias to put his hands on Paul so that he would receive his sight. When God called Ananias for the job, Ananias said, "... 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.'" - Acts 9:13-15

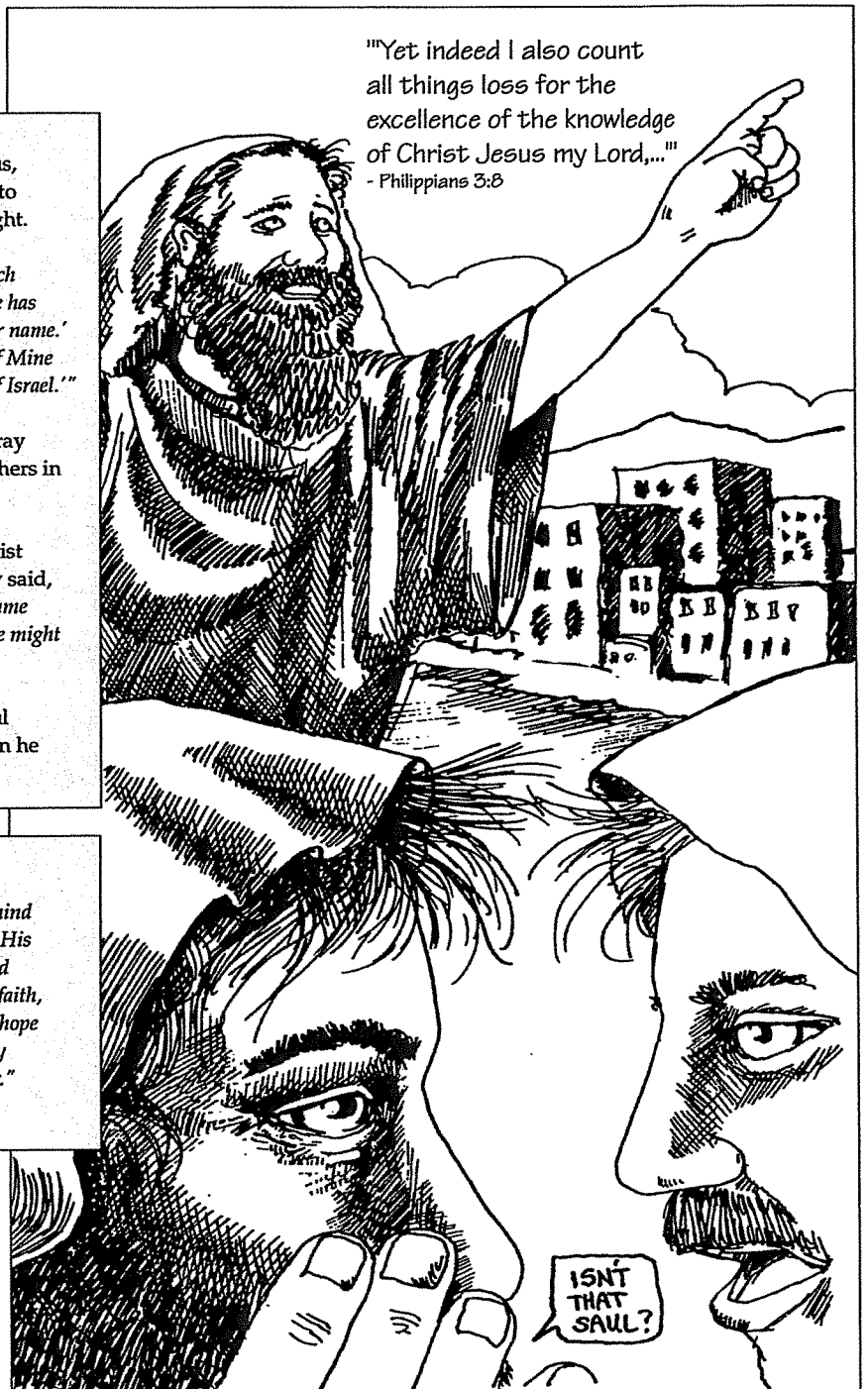
How would you feel if the Lord told you to go and pray for someone who tried to kill those who you call brothers in the faith? Think of enemies you have in your life.

Paul immediately preached the Gospel and Jesus Christ in the synagogues. All who heard were amazed, they said, "... 'Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?'" - Acts 9:21

Even the disciples were afraid of him for awhile. Paul spoke boldly and the Jews conspired to kill him. Then he went to Caesarea and to Tarsus.

Think of Paul and yourself as you read these verses: "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister." - Colossians 1:21-23

"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord,..." - Philippians 3:8



## **Galatians**

### **Chapter 1:18-24**

#### **Discussion Questions**

Read Galatians 1:18-24; after Paul's conversion he spent three years in the desert studying the Bible before he went to see the apostles. We are given an account of Paul's first three years after he was born again. Many people were still very much afraid of Paul because of his persecution of the Church before he became a Christian. They watched Paul's life and had to see for themselves the change that had taken place in him.

1. Read Proverbs 29:25; Who are we supposed to please and serve?
2. Read Matt. 10:34-39; what does Jesus tell us will happen if we choose to follow Him?
3. Can we expect persecution? 2 Tim. 3:12
4. Jesus is our defense and we're not to be afraid of men and what they can do to us. What does Romans 8:36-37 tell us about our position in Jesus?
5. After Paul's conversion he lived a life surrendered to Jesus. How did people react after they had watched his life style?  
Galatians 1:24

***Note:** When we are born again our life style should be our testimony as to whom we belong to. Our actions should speak louder than words.*

#### **Memory Verse**

"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ"

Philippians 3:8 (NKJV)

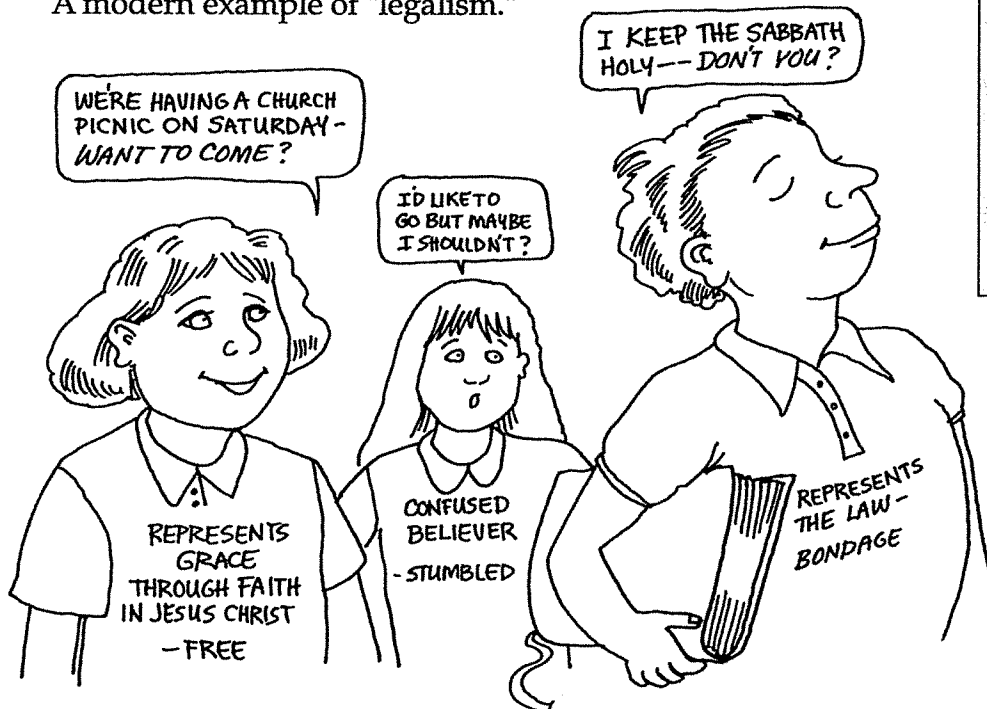
## Saved By Faith, or By Keeping the Law?

"Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain. Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

But from those who seemed to be something--whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man--for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me. But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do." - Galatians 2:1-10

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A modern example of "legalism."



Certain men (false brethren) came down from Judea and taught the brethren, saying: "... 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.'" - Acts 15:1 Some of the Pharisees who believed, insisted that Believers be circumcised and that they should keep the Law of Moses.

Peter rose up and said: "So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them (the Gentiles) by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they." - Acts 15:8-11

The Holy Spirit worked in both Peter, who went to the Jews (circumcised), as well as Paul, who was called to preach to the Gentiles (the uncircumcised).

Beware of false brethren who will try to rob you of your liberty in Jesus and bring you into bondage with rules and laws that you cannot keep. They will compel you to celebrate certain days, and forbid you to eat certain things on certain days. Jesus fulfilled the Law for us. By faith, we obtained His righteousness if we are born again.

# Galatians

## Chapter 2:1-10

### Discussion Questions

Paul spent his first three years studying the Bible before seeing Peter (Galatians 1:18). He spent the next seventeen years preaching the Gospel, but he still was not accepted by the apostles! He spent seventeen years serving the Lord without the encouragement and acceptance of the leadership of the Church, and never gave up. Would you have given up?

1. Read Galatians 2:1-2; did Paul go to Jerusalem when he thought it was time? How did he know when to go to Jerusalem?
2. What did Paul preach to the Gentiles?
3. Read Galatians 2:3; did Titus obey the Law? What did he refuse to do?

*Note: Circumcision was an outward sign of God's covenant with Israel. He gave the covenant of circumcision to Abraham and all of his descendants. It was by the Law that all Jews were to be circumcised. Under the new covenant (Luke 22:20) that Jesus gave us, we're to be spiritually circumcised in our hearts as His own.*

4. Read Galatians 2:4-5; why did Paul insist that Titus not be circumcised?
5. What were the false brethren trying to do to the Jews?

*Note: When Jesus died on the cross He fulfilled the Law and made us free. We are saved by grace not by works, or the Law. There is nothing we can do to add to our salvation. Jesus did it all on the cross, that's why He cried, "It is finished."*

6. Paul did not yield to false doctrine that combined faith and works. What did he continue in? Galatians 2:5

Read Galatians 2:6; Paul and the apostles were of the same mind in their teaching of the Gospel. They were in agreement that our salvation is by the grace of God alone through Jesus Christ, not by the Law.

7. Read Galatians 2:7; who did Paul take the Gospel to and who was Peter called to take the Gospel to?
8. Read Galatians 2:8; Who was it that worked in Peter and Paul and made them preachers of the Gospel?
9. Who lives in us and gives us the power to live a life for Jesus? 1 Cor. 6:19-20
10. Read Galatians 2:9; after the apostles saw that Paul really was born again what did they do?
11. Read Galatians 2:10; what was the apostles' desire for Paul?

*Note: The persecution of the Church was so hard in Jerusalem that a great many fell into poverty. Paul prayed for the Church in Jerusalem even though they didn't acknowledge his life for seventeen years. He never held any bitterness towards them and now he is ministering to the great need there. Jesus taught us to bless those who curse us and pray for those who spitefully use us.*

### Memory Verse

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

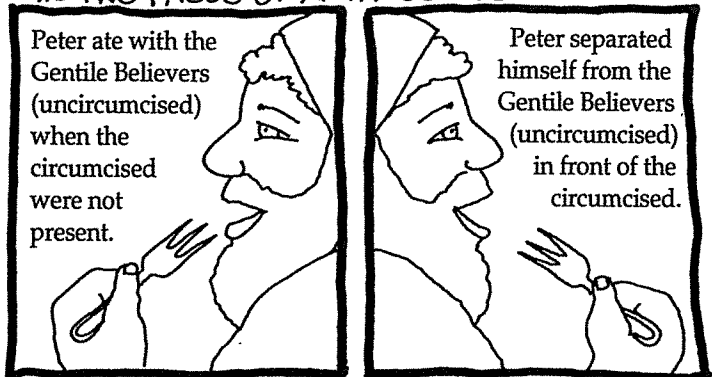
Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

## By the Works of the Law No Flesh Shall be Justified

"Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, 'If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.'" - Galatians 2:11-16

### THE TWO FACES OF A HYPOCRITE!



The circumcised (of the Law) contended with Peter because he ate with the uncircumcised (Gentile Believers) (Acts 11:2-3). In the eyes of the devout Jew, eating with Gentiles (uncircumcised) was probably right next door to idolatry, since unbelieving Gentiles practiced idolatry and had no dietary laws.

While Jesus was walking among the disciples, before His death and resurrection, He rebuked the Pharisees because they were hypocrites. The Pharisees thought that they were already holy and justified because they were from the seed of Abraham. They had so deceived themselves that they thought that they kept the Law of Moses because of the various outward works they performed, but their hearts were far from God. They were hypocrites - like actors on a stage.

Peter knew the difference between being saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and by trying to be saved by keeping the Law. He knew that there was no way to be saved, or justified by keeping the Law. But he was weak and he slipped backward because of fear. He feared the Jews and chose to please them instead of God. Paul told us that we cannot be bondservants of Jesus Christ if we want to please men. We must be willing to forsake our feelings and do what pleases God if we want to serve Him. That can be a struggle because our fleshly nature makes us want to be popular with others. By wanting to please the Jews, Peter did not please God. He and the others risked stumbling the Gentile Believers about simple salvation through Jesus Christ, and Him alone.

Have you ever acted differently at church than at school? Have you ever changed who you are when you are with your Christian friends? Are you the same person with your unsaved friends? Isn't it because you, like Peter, are afraid of what your unsaved friends will say about you? Proverbs 29:25, says:

*"The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe."*

If you're a different person, depending on who you are with, then you are a hypocrite! We all, like Peter, fear the opinions of people and forget about pleasing God. It happens. Repent and ask God for His strength and boldness to shine in the dark for Him. The Holy Spirit will give you boldness so you can be a witness for Jesus Christ in this dark world. We need His strength!

The Law was given to show mankind that they needed a Savior. No one can be saved by trying to keep the Law or the Ten Commandments. We all fail. If you break the Law once, you get the same wages as someone who breaks the Law every day, many times! *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* - Romans 6:23

## **Galatians**

### **Chapter 2:11-16**

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Read Galatians 2:11; what did Paul do?
2. Read Galatians 2:12-13; what did Peter and Barnabas do that Paul rebuked them?
3. Read Galatians 2:14; Paul rebuked Peter in public. Why is it necessary for a public rebuke? 1 Tim. 5:19-20

***Note:** God chastens those who belong to Him. He corrects us as a father corrects his son. He does this to restore us to Himself and to get us back on the right track. The purpose of chastening is always restoration (Hebrews 12:6-7).*

4. Read Galatians 2:15-16; how are both the Jews and the Gentiles justified?
5. Can anyone be justified by works? Galatians 2:16

#### **Memory Verse**

"being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,"

Romans 3:24 (NKJV)

## If Righteousness Comes Through the Law, Then Christ Died in Vain

*"But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!*

*For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.*

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."* - Galatians 2:17-21

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Jesus died for sinners—us! And through faith in Jesus Christ alone, sinners have been justified (saved) because of His love for us. Like Paul, we are sinners - saved by grace, who go and preach the Gospel (the Good News). Because God uses sinners to preach His Gospel, does that make Jesus a Minister of sin? No! Certainly not!

Though our sins are forgiven, we still carry around with us the old sinful nature - the flesh. Believers have two natures at war within them. We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit, Who dwells in us (Ephesians 1:13). And we have the sinful flesh! Paul said, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the Law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin." - Romans 7:18-25

If we try to return to the Law, which we know cannot save us, we will make ourselves transgressors (because we know that by the works of the Law, no flesh shall be justified). If we could be saved by keeping the Law, then Jesus would have died for no reason!

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."* - Ephesians 2:8-10

### False Doctrine

False religion and false doctrine (even labeled "Christian") always add works plus faith, as a means of salvation. But we know that no flesh will be justified by the Law! By adding works to salvation, they deny that Jesus' Blood sacrifice was enough to pay for our sins! The ultimate act of sinful pride is to believe that we, in our sinful flesh, can add anything to Jesus!

**+** Faith & Works (Or the Law) = Salvation

### True Doctrine

Born-again Christians are saved by simple faith alone in Jesus Christ, Who is our Righteousness. He fulfilled the Law for us. Works are a result of salvation, not a means of salvation. We can add nothing to what Jesus already did on the Cross. The work is finished. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

**+** Faith = Salvation

*Works result from salvation, not salvation from works!*

*That fact separates born-again Believers from all cults and false religions!*

## Galatians

### Chapter 2: 17-21

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 2:17-18; we are sinners who are saved by God's grace. Does that mean because sinners preach the Gospel God is the minister of sin?
2. Who does God use in this world to spread the Gospel? 1 Cor. 1:27-29
3. Read Galatians 2:19; how can we live God?
4. Read Galatians 2:20; when we accept Jesus in our hearts and are born again, whose life do we now live? What happens to our old sinful life?
5. How are we to walk every day in our new life? 2 Cor. 5:7
6. Read Gal 2:21; is our righteousness in the Law? Rom. 10:4

*Note: We are saved by faith in Jesus alone. He is our righteousness and fulfilled the Law for us by dying on the cross in our place. We cannot add anything to our salvation. We are now saved to do good works and bring glory to God because we love Him.*

#### Memory Verse

"being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,"

Romans 3:24 (NKJV)

## By Faith, Are You a Son or Daughter of Abraham?

"Oh foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?"

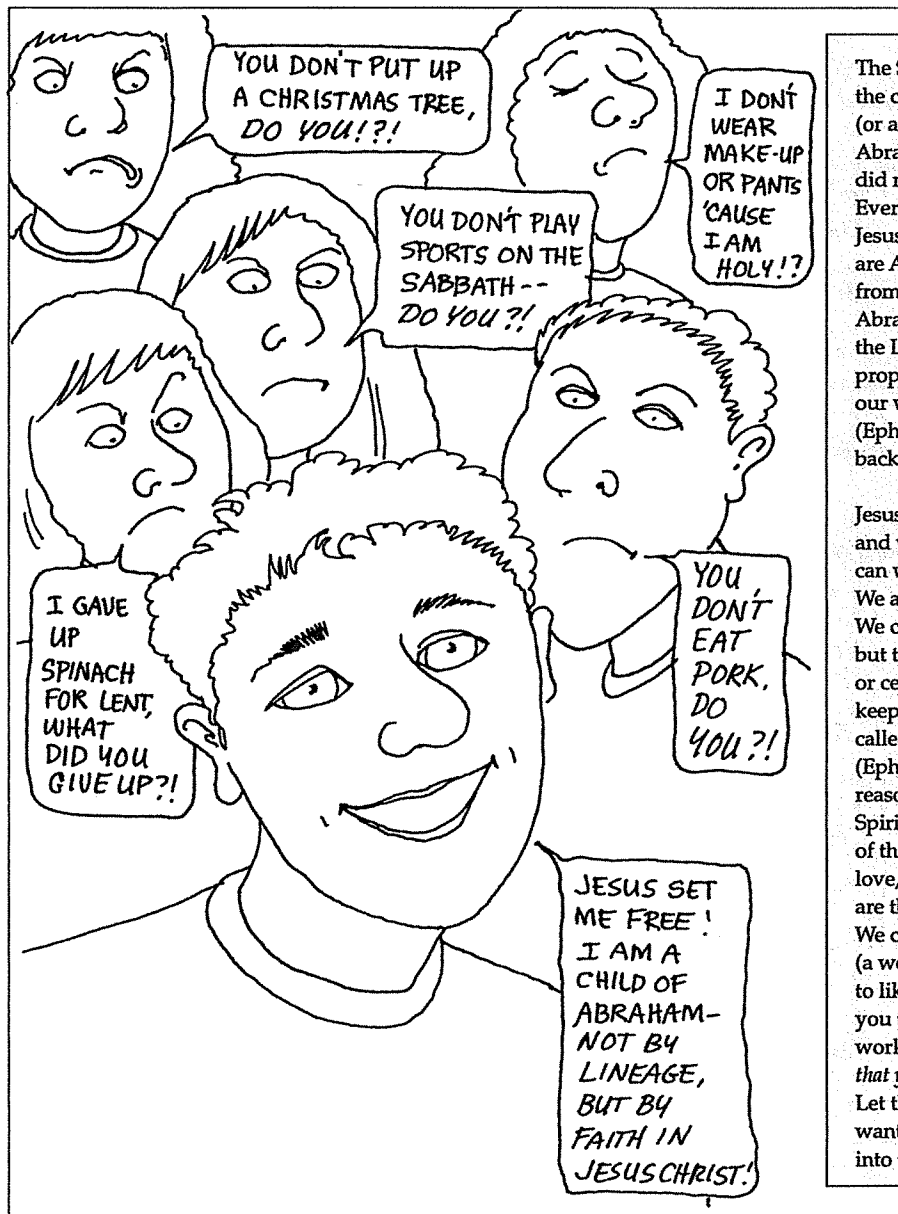
Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Have you suffered so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain? Therefore He who supplies

the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?--just as Abraham *'believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.'*

Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, *'In you all the nations shall be blessed.'* So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham." - Galatians 3:1-9

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The Scribes and Pharisees were proud to be called the children of Abraham according to the flesh (or according to their lineage). But they were not Abraham's children according to faith, because they did not believe Jesus or His words (John 8:47). Everyone who trusts and believes by faith that Jesus died to pay for their sins, and then rose again, are Abraham's children (according to faith). People from all nations--both Jews and Gentiles, can be Abraham's children by faith! We are set free from the Law because Jesus fulfilled "the Law and the prophets" for us. Upon being born again, we began our walk in the Holy Spirit, Who sealed us that day (Ephesians 1:13-14). So why would we want to step backward from faith, to try to keep the Law again?

Jesus washed us from our sins in His own Blood, and we were made clean! What fleshly works can we add? Our best works are filthy! We are either of the Law, or of faith--not both! We cannot say that we trust Jesus alone for salvation but then busy ourselves in trying to keep the Law, or certain works so God approves of us! People can keep very busy in "good" works. Some people are called and led by the Holy Spirit to do those works (Eph. 2:10). But others do good works for fleshly reasons. We can test the fruit. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is listed in Galatians 5:22-23, and the works of the flesh, are listed in Galatians 5:19-21. Is there love, joy, peace, etc., as they do their work? Or are there contentions, jealousies, dissensions, etc.? We can do our "good" works out of selfish ambition (a work of the flesh) because we secretly want others to like us, praise us, or notice us! Ask God to show you the motives of your own heart! He will! What work does God require? "...*This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.*" - John 6:29 Let the Holy Spirit show you day by day what He wants you to do. Then don't go backward from faith into the bondage of trying to keep laws and rituals!

# Galatians

## Chapter 3:1-9

### Vocabulary in Context With Today's Lesson

justified-a divine act whereby God declares a believing sinner to be righteous and acceptable before Him because Christ bore our sins on the cross

rhetorical question-a question asked solely for effect where the answer is obvious

### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 3:1; what is the truth that the Galatians were bewitched from? 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9
2. Read Galatians 3:2; Paul is asking a rhetorical question, what is the obvious answer?
3. Read Galatians 3:3; our salvation is by believing that Jesus is God and He died and rose again for our sins. Is there anything we can add on to our faith or rules that have to be kept in order to be saved? 1 Peter 1:5-7

***Note:** When we are born again it is only by God's grace and our faith in knowing that there is no other way to obtain salvation. We then are to walk with Jesus because we love Him and we want to bring glory to Him. He loved us so much that He died for us, in our place. We are saved by His grace through our faith to do good works for Him.*

4. Read Galatians 3:4; what do you think were some things the early church suffered?
5. Read Galatians 3:5; Paul asks another rhetorical question, what is the obvious answer? Can our salvation, or any miracles be given by keeping the Law, or obeying rules?
6. Read Galatians 3:6; what was all Abraham had to do? Did he have to keep rules or perform certain rituals?
7. Read Galatians 3:7; God told Abraham he would be a father of many nations (Gen. 17:4), not only of the Jewish race. How are we sons of Abraham? Do we have to keep the Law to become sons of Abraham?
8. Read Galatians 3:8; we know from the New Testament that we are justified or saved by grace through faith. How did God preach this Gospel to Abraham way back in Old Testament times?
9. Why were the nations blessed? Galatians 3:6
10. Read Galatians 3:9; just like Abraham, how are we blessed?

### Memory Verse

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us,..."

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV)

## Jesus Christ, the Promised Seed of Abraham, Has Redeemed Us From the Curse of the Law

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, '*Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.*' (Deut. 27:26) But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for '*the just shall live by faith.*' Yet the law is not of faith, but '*the man who does them shall live by them.*' (Leviticus 18:5) Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, '*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*'), (Deut. 21:23) that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, '*And to seeds,*' as of many, but as of one, '*And to your Seed,*' who is Christ. And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise."

- Galatians 3:10-18

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If you're born again, you're one of the stars of heaven or one of the grains of sand on the seashore! You're one of Abraham's descendants by faith through Jesus Christ!



### What did God promise to Abraham?

"Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: 'By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son (*Isaac*), your only son (*not recognizing Ishmael*)—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your **seed** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.'" - Genesis 22:15-18

This was a promise that all nations (even Gentiles) would be blessed by the Seed (Jesus) of Abraham. Jesus came through the lineage of Abraham, Isaac (not Ishmael), and Jacob. The Lord's promise to bless all nations by Abraham's Seed was given 430 years before Moses received the Law. The Law does not nullify God's earlier promise!

We were in bad shape because the Law could not save anyone. It only showed us how far we fall short of God's glory. Jesus fulfilled the Law for us and hung upon a tree. He took our sins and the curse of the Law upon Himself and died for us. By faith in Jesus we can be set free from the Law and its curse. We can be reborn as new creatures by grace through faith. Jesus rose from the dead, and we, like Him, will rise. All nations are blessed because of Jesus Christ, Abraham's Seed. That's why we share the Gospel with all nations. Not everyone knows the Good News!

## Galatians

### Chapter 3:10-18

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 3:10-11; Can we keep all of the Law or rules and do good enough works?
2. Why was the Law given? Romans 3:20

**Note:** *The Law was given to show us our sinfulness. We can't be saved by the Law. Nobody can keep the Law or the rules to be saved, it can never happen. Rules show us how much we need a saviour to save us from the curse of the Law which is eternal death.*

3. Read Galatians 3:11-12; if we are not justified or saved by the Law, how are we saved?

**Note:** *If people think they can be saved by their works, then they have to keep ALL of the rules, and we know that it is impossible. So, if they break just one rule, they have broken all of the rules. It is only by faith in Jesus that we can be saved.*

4. Read Galatians 3:13-14; how are we freed from the Law?

**Note:** *Jesus told us that He came to fulfill the Law, to complete it and bring an end to it (Matt. 5:17). This was done on the cross when Jesus became our sin and curse.*

Read Galatians 3:15; Paul is saying that the agreement is confirmed, nobody can cancel it or add to it. The agreement is that the Law brings a curse if you try to keep it. But Jesus fulfilled the Law and salvation is by faith.

5. Read Galatians 3:16; Who is the Seed of Abraham?
6. Read Galatians 3:17-18; God gave Moses the Law four hundred and thirty years after Abraham. But God gave Abraham the promise. What is the promise? Galatians 3:8

#### Memory Verse

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us,..."

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV)

## The Undivided Body of Christ--Saved By Faith Alone

"What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 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.

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." - Galatians 3:19-29

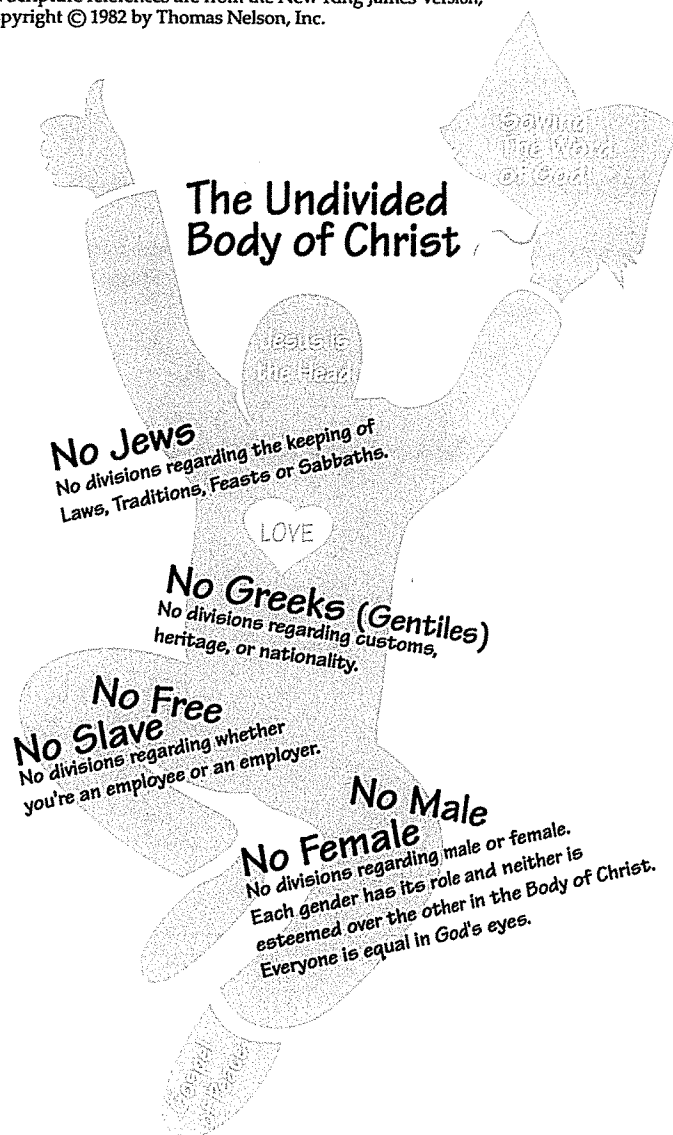
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### The Law Shows Us That We're Sinners

Romans 4:15, says that where there is no law, there is no transgression. In other words, we cannot break the law if there is no law to break! Once a law is given and it is broken, there is a transgression. Once there is a transgression, there must be a judgment made by a court and a judge. The judge determines the penalty for the broken law. God is our Judge, and we know that the penalty for sin (breaking the Law) is death (Rom. 6:23). We were doomed! But God loved us, so He sent His Son to pay the penalty for our lawlessness by dying for our sins. The Law showed us our sin and need for Jesus. Read John 3:16-17.

Jesus Christ (Seed of Abraham, also called the Seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15)), came to be our Mediator. He is our Advocate with the Father (sort of like our lawyer!). He took our sins upon Himself so that we stand as a Bride adorned in white clothing--spotless on our day in court (the Day of Judgment). The Blood of Jesus has washed away our sins by faith (not by works of keeping the Law). If we could be righteous by keeping the Law, then Jesus died in vain.

The Body of Christ consists only of the "saved by faith." There are no more Jews, Greeks (Gentiles), slaves, free people, males, or females! We are the redeemed--those saved by the shed Blood of the Lamb. We ought to work as one body with many parts and functions to share the Gospel. Jesus is the Head of the Body. He does our thinking and leading! We follow and obey like good body parts should! We are to have our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.



## **Galatians**

### **Chapter 3:19-29**

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Read Galatians 3:19-20; why was the Law given?
2. Who is the Seed who was to come and fulfill the Law? Galatians 3:16
3. Read Galatians 3:21; could there be a law given where we can be saved?
4. Read Galatians 3:22; how is the promise given?
5. Read Galatians 3:23-25; the Law was given to show us our sinfulness. We had to have the Law to know we've broken the Law. If we are now justified by faith are we under the Law?
6. Read Galatians 3:26-29; how are we sons of God?

*Everyone who is born again by faith in Jesus is in the same body, the body of Christ. Jesus is the head of the body. This was the promise that was given to Abraham way back in the Old Testament times, and Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. The just shall live by faith.*

#### **Memory Verse**

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us,..."

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV)

## We Are Joint Heirs Through Jesus Christ

"Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." - Galatians 4:1-7

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### Faith in Jesus The Promise

Faith delivers us from our sins because of God's love--shown to us through God's Son, Jesus, dying for our sins.

*"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8*

By faith in Jesus Christ we are no longer separated from the Father, but have become the sons of God--even heirs! We inherit everlasting life and an inheritance that will never fade away! Our treasure is in heaven! No moth or rust can destroy it! No thief can steal it (Matthew 6:19-21)!

Jesus Christ (Seed of Abraham, also called the Seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15)), is the Heir of the coming kingdom. And we, by faith in Jesus Christ, are also heirs with Him! We are not slaves to bondage and sin anymore because Jesus Christ set us free. Now we are led by the Holy Spirit and born again through Jesus Christ. And we inherit everlasting life and an eternal inheritance in heaven through Jesus Christ. The parable of the Wicked Vinedressers is interesting to read when discussing the Heir. (Review Matthew 21:33-44.) An heir is one who inherits something.

#### Who are the sons of God?

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." - Romans 8:14-17*

#### The Gentiles will be fellow heirs!

*"that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I (Paul) became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power." - Eph. 3:6-7*

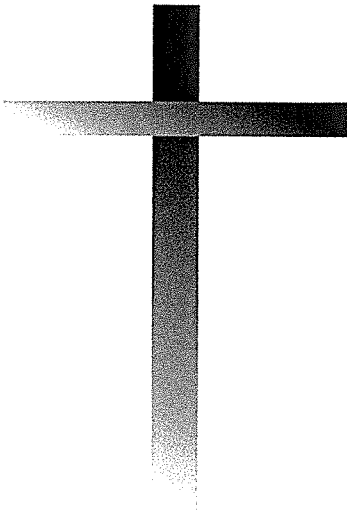
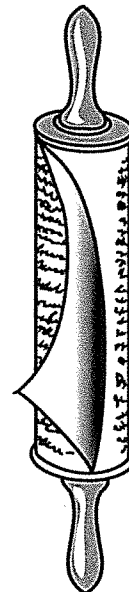
#### An incorruptible inheritance reserved in Heaven!

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." - 1 Peter 1:3-5*

### The Law The Tutor

The Law shows us our sins but can not save us.

Through our best efforts we remain dead and in bondage to our sins and alienated from the Father.



## Galatians

### Chapter 4:1-7

#### Discussion Questions

***Note:** An heir to an inheritance (we are join heirs with Jesus to a heavenly inheritance) has to grow and be equipped in how to handle his inheritance when he is a child. A four year old cannot be put in charge of his father's business, he doesn't know what to do, he's too young. That's how we are, we have to be tutored as a child, trained up before we can receive our inheritance. Once we're born again and have had God's Word to teach us the way in which we should go, we have our full inheritance with God through Jesus.*

1. Read Galatians 4:1-3; what are the elements of the world? What was our tutor to show us that we are sinners? What did Jesus set us free from?
2. As children under the Law, before we were born again, were we heirs with Jesus? Galatians 3:29
3. Read Galatians 4:6-7; how do we receive the adoption as sons?
4. Read Galatians 4:6-7; what has God given His sons?
5. If we are no longer slaves under the Law, who do we belong to? Galatians 4:7

#### Memory Verse

"Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Galatians 4:7 (NKJV)

## Don't Return To Bondage!

"But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I became like you. You have not injured me at all. You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God,

even as Christ Jesus. What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me. Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth? They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you."

- Galatians 4:8-20

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We have been set free from the Law, as well as from the worship of idols. We do not have to observe days, seasons, feasts, or years. Jesus fulfilled the Law, so no rituals are required to be righteous in God's eyes! But you must be born again. Many were saved and set free so they could serve the Living God in Spirit and in truth. But there were also those among them who wanted to add rules and regulations of the Law on others and bring them into bondage again. Just like now, in all churches, there are people who want to add things to your simple "faith as a child" walk with the Lord. They will want to "help" you by telling you that you need to observe sabbaths, days, eat certain foods, or abstain from certain foods on certain days, etc... Beware and resist them. Stay free in Jesus Christ. Many of those super "spiritual" people want you to be zealous for them and their "ministry" or cause, not for the simple Gospel. Paul was very concerned that some of the flock would be tricked into going backward from the Gospel.

Remember that Paul was struck down on the road to Damascus and had been blinded until Ananias prayed for him to receive his sight (Acts 9). His sight was restored, but for whatever reason, his eyes bothered him years later. The Galatians were so pleased to hear the Gospel that they would have plucked out their own eyes and given them to Paul. Yet when he discussed problems among them, he feared that they would become his enemy! But that didn't stop him from obeying God and telling them the truth! He was anxious to see Jesus Christ formed in them, just as a potter forms a piece of clay into a useful pot! We are being formed in the image of Christ through some reshaping, molding and firing!

## Galatians

### Chapter 4:8-20

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 4:8-11; before we were saved, what did we serve?
2. What kind of bondage were the Galatians falling back into?
3. What was Paul's response to this? Galatians 4:11
4. Read Galatians 4:12; what did Paul urge the Galatians to be? If we're not slaves to the Law, we are f \_\_\_ in Jesus.
5. Read Galatians 4:13-14; even with Paul's physical problem, did the Galatians turn him away when he first came to them?
6. Paul shared the Good News with them and that Good News set the Galatians free from the Law. What was their reaction to Paul when they realized they were set free? Galatians 4:15

*Note: It is thought that Paul had an eye disease that was very painful and was extremely ugly to look at.*

7. Read Galatians 4:16; what is Paul's concern for them now that he is trying to keep them on the right track?
8. What were the Judaizers doing to the Galatians? Galatians 4:17
9. Read Galatians 4:17-18; "they" are the Judaizers who want to put the Galatians back under rules and laws. What kind of zealous did Paul want the Galatians to be?
10. Read Galatians 4:19-20; why did Paul have doubts about the Galatians? What kind of tone did he have with them now?

#### Memory Verse

"Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Galatians 4:7 (NKJV)

## Abraham's Two Sons Represent Two Covenants

"Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons: The one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

For it is written:

*'Rejoice, O barren, you who do not bear! Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children than she who has a husband.'*

Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. But, he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? *'Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.'* So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free."

- Galatians 4:21-31

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Ishmael represents the Law—given to Moses on Mt. Sinai in Arabia.

He was born according to the flesh (the plan of Abraham and Sarah), by the bondwoman (slave) of Sarah, named Hagar.

This corresponds to Jerusalem which is the mother of us all. Earthly Jerusalem is in bondage yet. And so are all who are not born again.

In Genesis 21:10, Hagar is sent away. But God still kept His promise to Abraham by also making a nation out of the descendants of Ishmael too, since the promise was given to Abraham before Ishmael was born (Genesis 21:13). God keeps promises!



Isaac represents grace through faith in Jesus Christ (the promised Seed of Abraham).

Born according to the promise, and son of the freewoman, Sarah.

He represents the New Jerusalem (the heavenly home of all who are born again through faith in Jesus Christ. (See Hebrews 11:8-12!) (See Hebrews 11:18-24!)

Jesus said, "...'whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.'" - John 8:34-36

Are you born again?

Those who are not born again, and those who try to live under the Law will persecute those who are born again and who live by faith.

## Galatians

### Chapter 4:21-31

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 4:21-26; what do Abraham's two sons, Isaac and Ishmael, symbolize?
2. The son born of the flesh was from whom?
3. The son born of the free woman was from whom?

*Note: Abraham and Sarah were given a promise from God that they would have a son. They didn't wait for God to fulfill His promise, they did what they thought should be done, in the flesh. So Abraham had a son from his wife's servant, Hagar. That son, Ishmael, was the work of the flesh. In God's perfect time He gave Abraham and Sarah the son whom He promised them, Isaac. This is the lineage through whom Jesus would be born, the promise of the Seed. The work of the Holy Spirit.*

4. Read Galatians 4:27-31; who are we the children of?
5. What does Hagar or the bondwoman represent?
6. What are we to do with the flesh or the bondwoman?

*Note: When we are born again we become children of the promise. We are born of the Spirit and are free from the bondage of sin. We can now cast out the bondwoman and be free to walk a life worthy of being heirs with Jesus.*

#### Memory Verse

"Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Galatians 4:7 (NKJV)

## If You Go Back To Trying To Fulfill The Law, Christ Will Profit You Nothing!

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is. And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? The the offense of the cross has ceased. I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off! For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!" - Galatians 5:1-15

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Once you're born again, you need to rest there in Jesus Christ. Don't let anyone stumble you into going backward into keeping the Law in order to gain God's approval. We can be estranged from Jesus Christ and become entangled in "works" if we forget that He is the Righteous One, and we are dirt that is saved through His love, mercy and the Cross! Works will never make us righteous, but when we are righteous because of Him, we will want to serve Him and others.

The Cross of Christ is an offense to the unsaved because it makes them have to admit that they are helpless sinners who can never be good enough to be saved by their own works. The only work that God requires from us is to believe in Jesus Christ (John 6:29). Jesus fulfilled the Law for us, and we are saved by grace through faith in Him. *Do you know Him?*



# Galatians

## Chapter 5:1-15

### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 5:1; what command does Paul give?
2. Who is the only one that can free us from sin?
3. What is the yoke of bondage? Galatians 3:13-14
4. Read Galatians 5:2-4; circumcision was given as an outward sign under the Mosaic Law. If you were under the Law you had to keep the whole Law, which nobody could do. The Law was our tutor to show us that we are sinners who need a Saviour. Jesus died and rose again to free us from the bondage of sin, and to free us from the Law. All who believe in Jesus as their Saviour are freed from the bondage of the Law. What is the "inward" sign from God that declares our freedom? Romans 2:25-29
5. Why is Christ of no profit to the person who chooses to be circumcised?
6. Read Galatians 5:5-6; how do we wait for the hope of righteousness?  
*Note: The hope of righteousness is when Jesus comes back for us and we will be with Him for eternity. We will be declared righteous before the Lord on that day. We wait for that hope in faith.*
7. Read Galatians 5:7-10; what was happening to the Galatians?
8. What does leaven symbolize?
9. Will God bring His justice upon those who bring in false doctrine? Galatians 5:10
10. Read Galatians 5:11-12; Paul wouldn't be suffering persecution if he was teaching a false doctrine, mixing salvation by faith AND works. What is the offense of the cross? Ephesians 2:8-9
11. Read Galatians 5:13; what are we supposed to do with our freedom in Christ?
12. Read Galatians 5:14-15; what is the one word in which the whole Law is fulfilled?
13. What is God? 1 John 4:8
14. What happens when we don't walk in God's love? Galatians 5:15

### Memory Verse

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free,..."

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

## Walk In The Holy Spirit

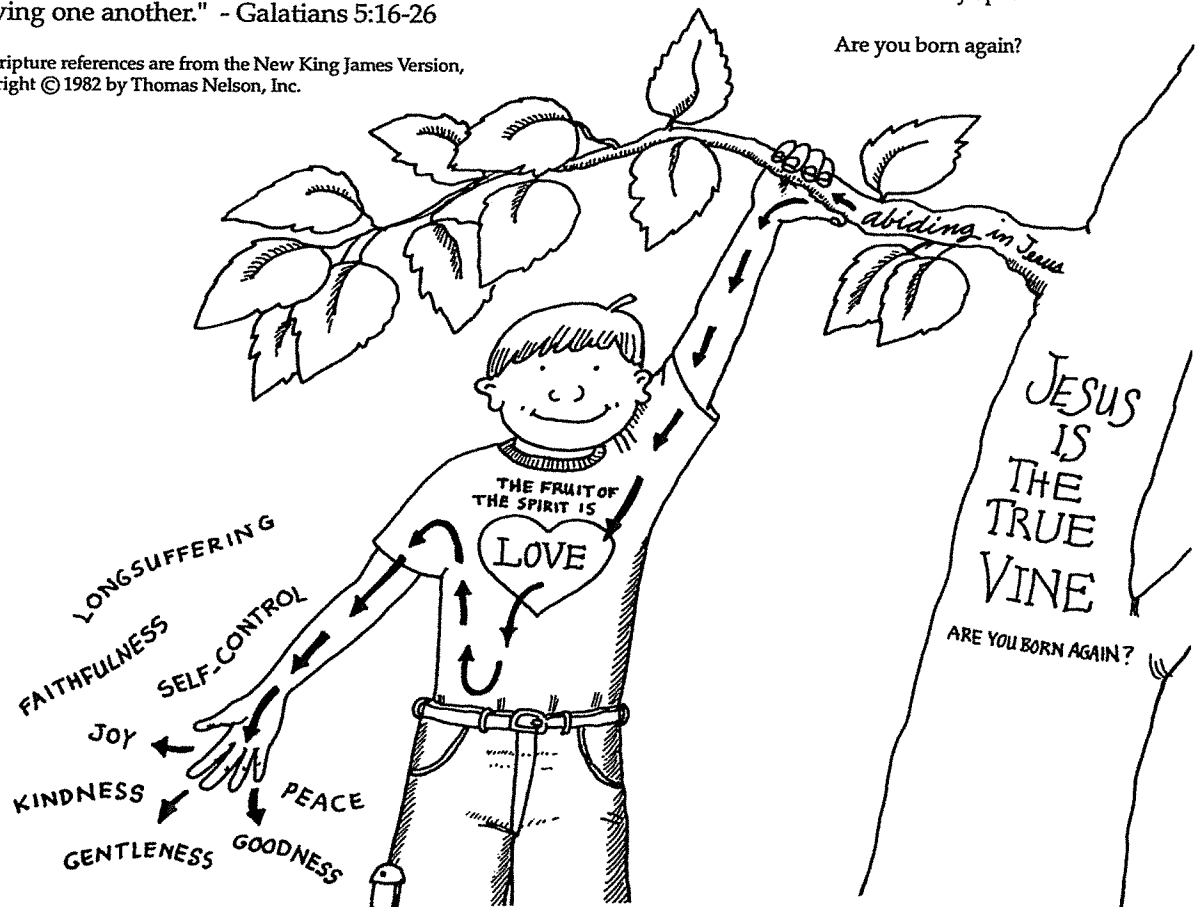
"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another." - Galatians 5:16-26

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To walk in the Holy Spirit you must first be born again. Upon believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit. "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory." -Eph. 1:13-14 Once you're sealed with the Holy Spirit, God lives in you! The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of your inheritance! And because God (the Holy Spirit) lives in you, He will produce fruit in your life. It is His work. What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Love. God is love (1 John 4:8). And out of love, flow all of God's other attributes, such as joy, peace, kindness, gentleness, etc.... God is forming us into the image of His Son. We're like a lump of clay in the hands of a potter.

Unfortunately, we have two natures! We have the old fleshly nature that wants to practice the works of the flesh (listed in this lesson). And we have the new born-again nature. There is a constant battle that we cannot win apart from the power of the Holy Spirit. When the old fleshly nature rules, we see all sorts of evil works that are contrary to the Spirit. Paul said: "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal (fleshly-minded), sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do." - Romans 7:14-15 We want to follow the Lord and obey Him, yet we sometimes fail because we have this carnal fleshly nature within us yet. The unsaved "natural man" only has the fleshly carnal nature. He doesn't have the Holy Spirit.



## Galatians

### Chapter 5:16-26

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 5:16; how are we to walk so we don't fall to the flesh?

*Note: When we are born again the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts and we are then empowered by Him to live a Spirit-filled life.*

2. Read Galatians 5:17-18; we live in bodies that are still corrupted by sin, even though we are free from sin, (that is from choosing to sin,) our bodies are still tempted to sin. What is constantly happening between our flesh and the Spirit?

3. Read Romans 7:15-20; what causes our flesh to war against the Spirit? Did Paul struggle with this problem like we do?

4. Read Galatians 5:18; if we walk in the Spirit, what are we free from?

*Note: As long as we live in these bodies of flesh we will always struggle against the Spirit and God knows that. We will be free from this war when we put on our new bodies in heaven. There will be no more battle between the flesh and the Spirit.*

5. Read Galatians 5:19-21; what are the works of the flesh, can you compare them to things in your life?

6. Who are the ones who will not inherit the Kingdom of God?

*Note: Notice verse 21 says that those who "practice" such things will not inherit the Kingdom. That means to continually choose to do them and not want to change and walk in the Spirit.*

7. Read Galatians 5:22-23; when we walk in the Spirit what is the fruit? Read the front of the lesson.

8. Read Galatians 5:24; what do we do with our flesh once we're born again?

9. Read Galatians 2:20; what kind of life can a Believer in Jesus live when he is empowered by the Holy Spirit?

10. Read Galatians 5:25-26; what kind of lifestyle should we have?

#### Memory Verse

"Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)

## Love Bears Others' Burdens!

"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load.

Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."  
- Galatians 6:1-10

In an earlier lesson, we discussed the fruit of the Spirit, which is love. So if we see another Christian who is overtaken in a sin, it is our duty to restore them, but not to judge them. Before we open our mouths, we must first consider ourselves and remember that we too are able to stumble at any time, in any sin. As soon as you say, "I would never \_\_\_\_\_!" You have deceived yourself, and pride rather than humility is ruling in your heart! We must go to our brothers and sisters in love and gentleness (Galatians 5:23). This is love's description: "Love suffers long (longsuffering) and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, it is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, it is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...." -1 Corinthians 13:4-8


Religion puts heavy burdens on people, but Jesus sets them free. When discussing the traits of the Scribes and Pharisees (teachers of the Law), Jesus said, "For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do to be seen by men...." - Matthew 23:4-5

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." - Matthew 11:28-30

We will all have burdens and troubles in this life, and others can help us by edifying and encouraging us in the Word of God.

What you sow, you shall reap. If you want to reap from the flesh, sow to the flesh! Review the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. If you want to reap of the Spirit, sow to the Spirit. Review Galatians 5:22-23. It is sort of like sowing seeds in the ground. Something is going to come up and bloom! Will it be pretty and smell nice? Or will it be ugly and stink? It depends on what you decided to sow!!! Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh! Are you born again?

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You seem like you're not very happy - maybe sort of bitter. Can I pray with you? I've lost my joy in the Lord before. It's no fun. Whatever is bothering you - Jesus cares! Cast your cares on Him! He cares for you!

**Warning!** The response you get back can be "thank you" or it can be "butt out, who do you think you are to judge me?!" Don't be surprised! But at least you love that person enough to care by approaching them.

## Galatians Chapter 6:1-10

### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 6:1; what are we supposed to do when we see a brother overtaken in a sin?
2. In what manner are we supposed to restore him?
3. Why are we to be careful in doing this?

***Note:** We all have feet of clay and can fall into sin at anytime. That's why we're to go with a humble and meek spirit to our brothers and sisters when they are in sin. First Cor. 10:12 tells us to be careful when we think we have it all together, we can fall at anytime. The object of going to them is to RESTORE them to where they should be, not condemn them or put them down.*

4. Read Galatians 6:2; how is the law of Christ fulfilled?

***Note:** A burden is something beyond the normal capacity for anyone to carry. As opposed to a load (verse five) which is what we are expected to carry. God does not give us a load too heavy to carry.*

5. Read Galatians 6:3-4; are we to compare ourselves to others?
6. Who's work should we be concerned about?
7. Read Galatians 6:5; we are to bear one another's "burdens," but how are we to carry the "load" that God has given us?
8. Read Galatians 6:6; how do we support those who teach the Word? How can we do this?
9. Read Galatians 6:7-8; is anyone going to get away with anything in this life?

***Note:** Look back at Galatians 5:19-23, remember what the fruit of the flesh and of the Spirit is. God sees all things and is long-suffering towards us. His justice will be perfect, we want to make sure we sow to the Spirit.*

10. Read Galatians 6:9-10; what aren't we to get tired of doing?
11. Will we eventually reap what we've sown?

### Memory Verse

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2 (NKJV)

## Are You a New Creation?

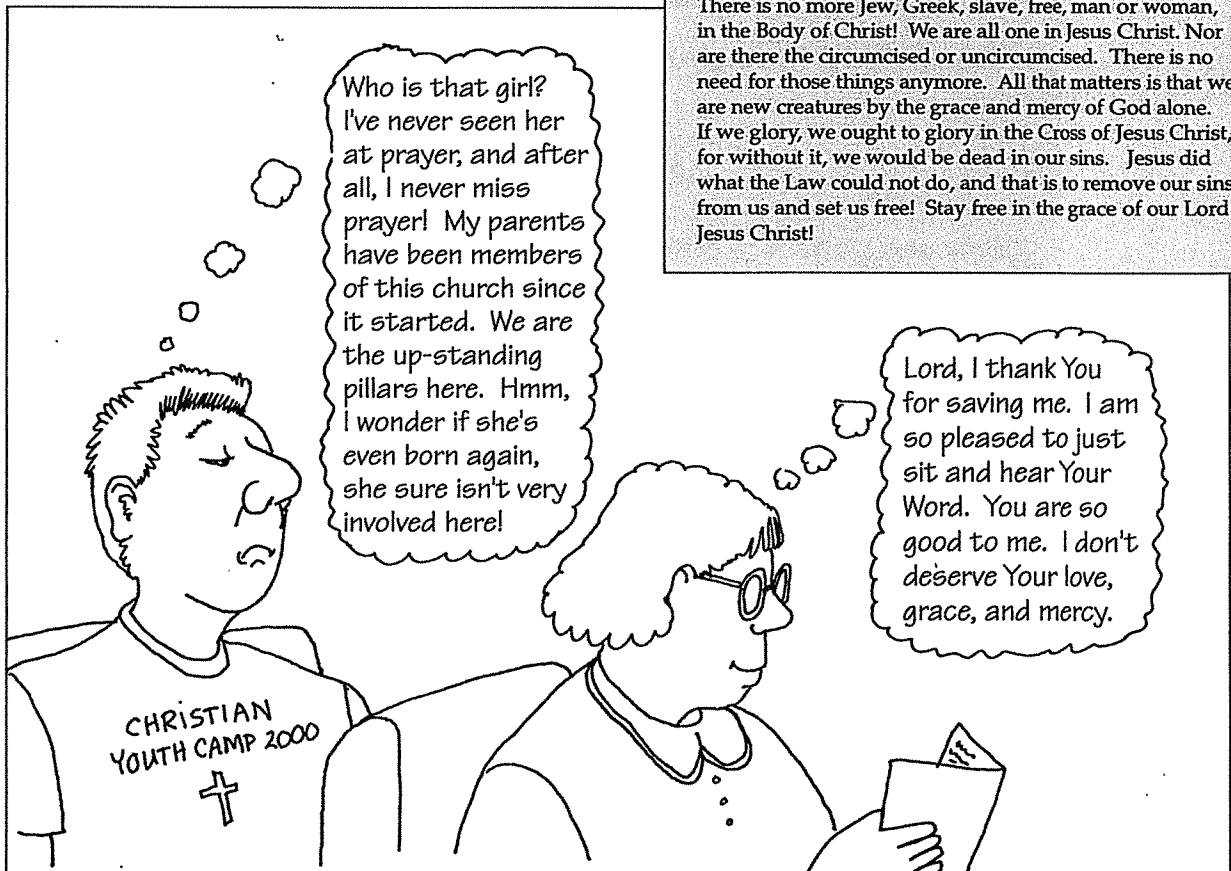
"See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen." - Galatians 6:11-18

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Paul bore in his body the marks of the Lord Jesus. At his conversion on the road to Damascus, Paul was stricken by the Lord, and he lost his sight for a short time. God restored his sight, but he had an eye affliction of some sort, later in his ministry. During his ministry, Paul was beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, put in prison and left for dead on various occasions. He bore many physical scars (and probably emotional scars and wounds too) because he chose to serve the Lord. Following Jesus is costly! It costs money, friends, relatives, job opportunities, and many worldly things. Jesus told us that we need to count the cost before we follow Him (Luke 14:25-33). We might get some skinned knees and bloody noses for following Jesus. Some even die because they follow Jesus! But we are promised eternal life and a rich inheritance!

Those who want to be righteous by rules, regulations, the keeping of laws, traditions, holy days, festivals, feasts, or circumcision, want to make a good showing in the flesh. They want everyone to see that they are celebrating the Passover feast, or that they are observing the Sabbath. Not only do they want to show you how spiritual they are, but they want you to come and join them in their "spirituality." If you don't, then they consider you to be a little less holy than they are! They are usually well-liked and highly esteemed because they are so holy and righteous in their appearance. Just like clean tombstones in a cemetery! Bright and white on the outside, but full of rotten stuff on the inside! Those who think that they can be righteous by keeping laws and traditions are either Christians who have stumbled in their walk (having been enslaved by false brethren), or they are religious people who are not born again.

There is no more Jew, Greek, slave, free, man or woman, in the Body of Christ! We are all one in Jesus Christ. Nor are there the circumcised or uncircumcised. There is no need for those things anymore. All that matters is that we are new creatures by the grace and mercy of God alone. If we glory, we ought to glory in the Cross of Jesus Christ, for without it, we would be dead in our sins. Jesus did what the Law could not do, and that is to remove our sins from us and set us free! Stay free in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!



## Galatians

### Chapter 6:11-18

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Galatians 6:11; what is Paul telling the Galatians? Who wrote this epistle?

*Note: Because of Paul's physical affliction (many believe it was an eye disease), he usually dictated his epistles for someone else to write.*

2. Read Galatians 6:12; what did the Judaizers want the Galatians to do?

3. Why did they want the Galatians to do this?

4. Read Galatians 6:13; can anyone keep the Law? Romans 3:23

5. Read Galatians 6:14-15; what is the only thing that Paul boasts about?

6. Read Galatians 6:16; what is the rule Paul is referring to? See Galatians 6:14-15.

7. Read Galatians 6:17; what does Paul mean by this? See the front of the lesson.

*Note: Because of all of the physical beatings Paul received for following Jesus he has many scars. Paul's scars branded him as a slave for Christ. These marks far outweighed the "mark" of circumcision that the false teachers were preaching to the Galatians.*

8. Read Galatians 6:18; Paul ends this letter the same way he started it (Galatians 1:3), what is the one word that sums up this whole epistle?

#### Memory Verse

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2 (NKJV)