

***How many of you have ever done a verse-by-verse study of a book in the Bible?***

***Did you enjoy it? Why?***

-Here's a couple of items I'd like you to bring each week.

**1. Bible.**

-If you don't have one, let me know and I'll have one for you by next week.

**2. Notebook and Pen.**

-I love seeing people take notes.

-The shortest pencil is **LONGER** than the longest memory.

(Taking measurements to cut wood)

-Each week you will get a full copy of my notes just as I have them in front of me.

-We found out last year you can listen better...

-And take notes on these pages.

-Just **DON'T** read ahead...

-We are going to start this evening and next week doing a deep review of what we've already studied.

-I am going to call a **"Fly Over."**

***What is a fly over state?***

-Any state that you just happen to fly over to get from one destination to another.

-Kansas is considered a flyover state!

-For our first week or two, we are going to be looking down from an airplane

-To get the **CONTEXT** of what's going on in this letter.

-We want to see the landscape of **WHY** Paul wrote this letter.

***-Another question, what do I mean by the word "Context?"***

-Context is the **circumstances, ideas, and themes** that surround a verse or passage or book in the Bible.

-If you take the "text" out of "context", all you'll have left is a con.

-When we get to the verse by verse, it'll be more like walking around the ground using a metal detector.

-To find something precious in the passages.

**THE LETTER**

-The **tone** of Galatians is different than Paul's other letters

- It comes off hard and even **harsh**.
- He's not writing a love letter...
- He does a customary greeting...**grace and peace**.
- He usually begins his letters with a word of praise to **God**.
- Encouragement to the congregation.
- Even a prayer specific to them.
- This **does not happen** in the letter of Galatians.
- He **starts out defending** his apostleship.
- It doesn't come from people or **human authority**, just God.
- Who raised Jesus from the dead!

**Galatians 1:1 This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.**

- Paul begins immediately by addressing a problem in the **churches of Galatia**.
- Which is an interesting statement.
- This is Paul's only letter written to a **region** and not a **person** or **community**.
- Paul shares how these issues he's addressing is affecting their relationship with Paul, the **founder** and **planter** of their church.
- And **especially**, in their relationship with Jesus.

## **JUDAIZERS**

- There was a group of people who came to the **churches** and began to stir up trouble.
- They are **referred to as Judaizers**
- Have you ever heard that term before?***
- A Judaizer is a person who claims to be a follower of Christ,
- Is **legalistic**
- Comes from a **Jewish background**.
- And believes that to get right with God.
- You must believe in Jesus.
- But go through the **religion** of **Judaism**.
- You must essentially begin to follow the **Jewish faith**.
- Keep the feasts and **festivals**.

- All the different regulations and **rituals**.
- As well as receive Jesus Christ as the **Messiah**.
- Galatia was a roman occupied colony
- Most of them were **roman citizens**
- Mostly gentile unbelievers who had **come to faith in Jesus**
- We will be using the word "**GENTILE**" quite a bit in this study.
- Do you know what Gentile means?***
- It's a person who is **not Jewish**.
- We are all probably gentile here in this **room**
- These Judaizers were finding these new, non-Jewish Christians, Gentiles, and told them they had to **become Jewish**.
- Faith in just receiving Christ was **NOT ENOUGH**.
- This was **strange**, and it **angered Paul**.
- You'll **see it in this letter**
- He gets **furious** at these **Judaizers**
- He **unleashes wrath**
- Paul was passionate about the Gospel of Jesus.
- They are trying to mix the Gospel with **other things**.
- It's **not just faith in Jesus alone...**
- They were saying...it's faith in Jesus... **PLUS** something else.
- Which is where we get the title...

## **NOTHING BUT JESUS**

- Any time you **add a PLUS** to Jesus
- Saying that it requires something else.
- Or say **Jesus isn't enough**
- When you add something to the Gospel...
- It's not the gospel any longer.
- It's **no longer Good news**.
- It's bad news because we are saying Jesus isn't enough.
- The Judaizers were saying...you're off to a good start with Jesus.

- But you need more than Jesus.
- This is where the **good news** *no longer sounds very good*.

## **JUDAIZERS Vs PAUL**

- Paul would go into an area that hadn't heard about the Gospel
  - Go into the synagogues.
  - And begin to preach.
  - He would share about Jesus to **people** who had never even heard about Him before.
  - Paul would give them the background of the Law and the Old Testament.
  - Then share how Jesus fulfilled it.
  - Paul would go into **NEW TERRITORY** and preach Jesus.
  - These Judaizers didn't do that.
  - They didn't care about unbelievers knowing Jesus.
  - They wanted to **take away** the people from Paul.
  - They tried to get the people in Galatia to turn on what **Paul had taught them**.
  - They would go to these churches in **Galatia and say**.
  - Now let me tell you **ALL** that **Paul got wrong**.
  - And how I can enlighten you.
  - They first showed up in **Acts 15:1**
  - Paul and Barnabus were in Antioch.
  - And some people began to teach this...
- Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved."**
- That bothered Paul, back then.
  - He argued with them
  - So much that he went back to Jerusalem and brought all the elders and the Apostles together to make a decision.
  - Acts 15:5 – Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses."**
  - This was resolved then with Peter and James
  - And now these Judaizers are back teaching the same idea to the believers in Galatia.
  - So, Paul writes this letter to **combat** this teaching.

## NO HOPE FOR GENTILES

-2000 years ago, some of these strict Rabbis believed there was **no hope** for the Gentiles.

-But Paul was called to the **Gentiles**.

-He states it in **Galatians 2:7**

**Instead, they saw that God had given me the responsibility of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as he had given Peter the responsibility of preaching to the Jews.**

-What is so interesting about Paul is this...he was a **Jewish rabbi himself**.

-But he knew so many of his fellow Rabbis **did not believe** the Gentiles were able to become part of God's kingdom.

-Many of them believed God created gentiles just to make hell hotter than it already is.

-Here's a statement from Rabbis back in **Jesus' time**.

*"There is joy in heaven when God obliterates one sinner off the earth."*

**-What did Jesus say?**

**-Luke 15:7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.**

## GALATIA

-Paul went to Galatia.

-It's what we know as modern day Turkey, but then it was called Asia Minor'

-He was there on his 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journeys

-He visited cities, including Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derby

-Later on, after he plants these churches, he wrote this letter about **49AD**

## MAIN THEME

-One of the main laws the Judaizers were pushing was the practice of circumcision.

-Which was the cutting away of the foreskin on the penis.

-Here's the covenant requirement given Abraham in Genesis 17.

**Genesis 17:10-14** <sup>10</sup> **This is the covenant that you and your descendants must keep: Each male among you must be circumcised.** <sup>11</sup> **You must cut off the flesh of your foreskin as a sign of the covenant between me and you.** <sup>12</sup> **From generation to generation, every male child must be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. This applies not only to members of your family but also to the servants born in your household and the foreign-born servants whom you have purchased.** <sup>13</sup> **All must be circumcised. Your bodies will bear the mark of my everlasting covenant.** <sup>14</sup> **Any male who fails to be circumcised will be cut off from the covenant family for breaking the covenant."**

-These false teachers said that **following these laws** was a **necessary requirement**

-In order to be **saved** and be **included** in the **church**!

-People will ask what they need to do to join the church...

**-What do you think our membership would like if this was a requirement?**

**-Can you imagine me giving them this as an answer?**

-The guys would be like, "you want me to do what?"

-**"I'm not joining that church!"**

-Paul wrote Galatians for these **two main purposes**:

**1. To deny firmly that legal requirements such as circumcision have anything to do with God's gift of grace that makes salvation possible through faith in Jesus Christ.**

**2. To reaffirm that we receive salvation, the Holy Spirit and a renewed spiritual life through faith in the lord Jesus Christ ONLY, and NOT by relying on the OT Law.**

-In this book, the word LAW appears 32 times.

-The word faith appears 21 times.

-Paul is using this letter to primarily talk about the difference between **trusting in the law** and **relying on Jesus by faith**.

## **SPECIAL FEATURES**

**1. Galatians is the most powerful NT defense of the of the Gospel.**

-A message that forgiveness, freedom, and spiritual salvation are **possible** only because of God's gift of grace through the **life, death, and resurrection** of His Son, **Jesus Christ**.

-It is a gift we can only receive by putting our faith in Christ and actively entrusting our lives to Him.

-As I said earlier, the tone of this letter is sharp, **intense**, and **urgent** as Paul **deals firmly** with the **Judaizers**.

**2. This is Paul's only letter addressed to several churches.**

-Galatia is a region, not a city.

-Ephesians – Ephesus; Colossians – Colosse; Romans – Rome; 1 & 2 Timothy - Timothy

**3. Galatians contains a list of the fruit of the Spirit working in a Christians life and the most extensive list of the acts of sinful human nature.**

## **THE LETTER**

-Now you can divide this letter up into three easy sections of **two chapters each**.

1. Chapters 1 & 2 are all **PERSONAL**.

-Paul is defending his apostleship.

-Paul is talking about his relationship to OT Law.

-Paul talks about his experience in Christ.

2. Chapters 3 & 4 are **DOCTRINAL**

-Paul talks about justification by faith.

***-Real quick, do you know what Justification means?***

-As a kid, I learned it this way... "just as if I've never sinned".

-Paul cites several examples and gives several references of why we are NOT saved by any of our own works, but all by **Christ!**

**-NOTHING BUT JESUS.**

3. The Last section, chapters 5 & 6, are the **PRACTICAL** chapters.

-Personal, Doctrinal, and Practical

-It leads you to the applications of the doctrinal principles.

-He really wants to show the legalists, the **Judaizers**, that the **doctrine of Grace LEADS TO GOOD WORKS.**

-Not the opposite, **GOOD WORKS LEADS TO SALVATION.**

-Paul wants us all to know, this **doctrine** of salvation by grace through faith is what **brings us to spiritual maturity.**

-My salvation through Christ in grace **DOESN'T AND SHOULDN'T PROPEL** me into more sinful acts.

"Oooh, I'm saved, now I can go back to my sinful habits!" **no.**

-my salvation by faith in Christ alone **COMPELS** me to do good works!

-Doing what is right.

**GRACE vs MERCY**

-Here's another quick thought in the form of a question...

***-What is the difference between Grace and Mercy?***

-Grace is being given something we do not deserve.

-Mercy is withholding something we do deserve.

-Story of Dad's spanking...

-His choice not to punish me was an act of mercy.

-He withheld my discipline when I **deserved** it.

-But my Father being willing to take on my punishment was an **act of grace**

-He **gave me freedom** from my discipline.

-And the willingness to take the spankings gave me the clearest understanding of what **Jesus did on the cross.**

### **THREE SECTIONS OF GALATIANS**

-With the time we have left tonight, let's dive into the three sections of Galatians and see where we get to tonight.

-Remember, this is just the flyover section!

-Not verse by verse.

-We are still flying...

***-Before I do, is there any questions?***

### **PERSONAL**

-Let's start with the first section, **PERSONAL.**

-Paul is defending his authority and the doctrine of justification.

**Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead**

-Then in verse six, he comes at them with his **purpose.**

-Not holding back at all.

**<sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup> which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.**

***-How in the world can you go from sitting under the teaching and preaching of Paul?***

***-To begin believing a perversion of the Gospel?***

***-How do we start going backwards?***

-It doesn't take long...

***-And if we start accepting a false doctrine, how long does it for the next generation to begin to embrace that false belief?***

-We are seeing it in so many different church movements.

-Going backwards in their theology. Sliding **sideways.**

-Even giving up on core values.

-Compromising the Word of God.

-Paul was **astonished!**

***-How could you have done this so quickly?***

-You've turned away...



-the "evidently some people" in verse 7, are the Judaizers...

-And they are wanting to pervert the Gospel of Christ.

-The Greek word for "pervert" is "meta stray foe"

-It can mean to reverse or turn around.

-Our verb in the English language is this...

to alter (something) from its original course, **meaning**, or state to a distortion or corruption of what was **first intended**.

-Paul is telling these churches that you are going backwards!

-You've just put this car into reverse when you should be moving into a higher gear!

-You are going back to the OT.

-You are going back to the Law

-The law was set up so that when grace came, we would understand WHO Jesus is!

-And what He has done for us!

-With our freedom in a relationship with Jesus.

***-Why would we want to go back into religion, rituals, and into ceremonies?***

-Just like the Judaizers in Acts 15.

**Acts 15:5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses."**

***-Can you imagine what's going on in the mind of these new converts?***

-These gentiles who gave their life to Christ on faith...

-Now being told they must follow rights, **rituals**, and **religion**.

***-Are you circumcised?***

***-Are you keeping the commands of the covenant?***

***-Are you keeping the laws of Moses?***

-If you're not, sorry, you're not saved!

-This is literally perverting the Gospel!

-Going in reverse.

-Now I love studying the OT.

-And understanding the feasts and festivals.

-Even the laws and commands.

-But if you are being told we must keep all these today...

-Then Galatians needs to be thrown **out** of the Bible.

-In fact, throw out **Romans too!**

-this is **simply going into reverse!**

-The OT has a purpose...it **points** us to **Christ!**

-He became the sacrifice, so we don't have to sacrifice anymore!

-He became the high priest so we can go straight to him in our need for forgiveness

-We no longer have to follow the practice of the OT

-Let me jump over to another letter from Paul and read from Ephesians 2:

**<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

-Not by works!

***-Why would anyone want to go backwards?***

***-Where do we get this mindset or where does it come from?***

***-Honestly, it's our pride.***

-If I do something...or if I add my effort or my ritual and my ceremony to the works of Christ...

-Somehow, I am going to be better off, and God is going to love me more!

-It goes against our human nature to **receive** a gift!

-We **feel like we need to earn** it.

-Unless it is our birthday or Christmas...

-But all we need do is believe...

***-Then we come to this place and ask, "what do I need to do?"***

-Nothing! It's been done, all you need to do is believe.

-Let me use another verse from one of Paul's letters.

**Romans 10:9-13 <sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**

-Go **towards** the one who gave His life for you!

-Stop **going backwards!**

-Let's look at **Galatians 1:8.**

**But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!**

-Now remember, this is just in chapter 1.

-Usually in Paul's letters, he says great things about the church.

**-Giving some "atta-boys."**

-Not here in Galatians.

**-He is saying, let anyone who is preaching another Gospel be cursed.**

-The Greek word here is **Anathema.**

-It means "devoted to destruction or hades"

**-Do you understand how angry Paul is here?**

-He is getting to the point quickly!

-If anyone or any angel comes to you and gives you another Gospel than what you have already received...

**-To hell with them!**

-There is no other place in Scripture where Paul gets stronger in **his words** than **right** here.

**-Why is Paul being so strong in his words?**

**-If you had an aggressive form of cancer in your body, how would you want your Dr to deal with it?**

-Get it! Go after it! Don't hold back!

-Paul isn't about to put up with these Judaizers.

-He is going after them!

-You cut the cancer out.

-These Judaizers had become cancer to the Churches.

**-Now what if an angel showed up right now, right in this room...**

-Big sword...**huge wings**...eyes of fire...

-And this angel started speaking...

-It would be **incredible**, right.

-What this angel speaks would be important for us to hear.

-Unless it's different than what we've read in the Gospels...

**-It's not from the Lord!**

-There was an angel named Moroni, who appeared to Joseph Smith in the 1827 (Sept. 22)

-He gave Joseph golden plates, which contained another further Gospel, and is now known as **Mormonism**.

-That angel is an **anathema**.

**REST OF CHAPTER 1**

-Paul takes the rest of chapter 1 and talks about his background in legalism and in Judaism.

-Then in chapter 2, Paul talks about what happened in Acts 15

**Galatians 2:4 This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.**

-And it's happening again.

**Galatians 2:5 We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.**

-We didn't even give in for a **moment!**

**-Not happening!**

-We want the Gospel to be **preserved** in you!

-Paul also calls out Peter **in Galatians 2:11-13**

-Peter was acting like a hypocrite.

**-Eating with the gentiles** until some Jewish people arrived.

-Then he purposely separated himself from the gentiles because he was afraid of those belonging to the circumcision group!

**DOCTRINAL – CH. 3-4**

-Paul begins this section by giving several arguments about salvation by grace.

**Galatians 3:1 You foolish Galatians!**

-When you get a letter from someone, and they call you foolish...

-They aren't necessarily being nice.

**-Unintelligent;** Unwise; **Fools;**

**Who has bewitched you?**

**-Who cast a spell on you?**

**-Who charmed you into believing this false doctrine?**

**-How easy is it for us to fall into doctrinal foolishness?**

**Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.**

-The Message Bible says this... **You crazy Galatians!**

-The Phillips Translation says... **O you dear idiots of Galatia, who saw Jesus Christ the crucified so plainly, who has been casting a spell over you?**

-Paul wasn't happy about what was going on in these churches!

-These false teachers...These Judaizers...

-Had mesmerized the Galatians...

-Their preaching had to be impactful.

-They were having a **"Wow"** moment.

-they began to turn away from the Gospel **Paul** gave them

***-Are we all that different?***

***-How many times have we been fooled into believing something that's not in Bible?***

### **Syncretism (Blending of Religions)**

- **What It Teaches:** Syncretism involves blending elements of Christianity with other religious beliefs or cultural ideologies. **THIS IS WHAT THE JUDAIZERS WERE DOING IN THE CHURCHES OF GALATIA.** In many parts of the world, people mix traditional beliefs, superstitions, or practices (like ancestor worship, folk religion, or Eastern spirituality) with Christianity.
- **Why It's Misleading:** The Bible is clear that faith in God must be exclusive (Exodus 20:3, Deuteronomy 6:4). Mixing Christianity with other religions undermines the uniqueness of Christ and the gospel message. This is similar to what Paul encountered when addressing idol worship in the early church (Acts 17:22-23, 1 Corinthians 10:20-21).

-What we must do is make sure what we are being taught is truly **Scriptural**.

-We **need discernment**.

-We need the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth.

**John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.**

-Look at **Galatians 3:2-3**

**<sup>2</sup> 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? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?**

-**Again**, we can see Paul laying out doctrine to the Galatians.

***-Did this come from what you've done or by what Christ did?***

***-How can you be so stupid to believe that following circumcision will make you perfect?***

## ABRAHAM/ABRAM

-These Judaizers were proud of their history, and especially the Father of their Faith, Abraham.

-Pause Moment.

***-Did you know that both the Jews and the Muslims trace their lineage back to Abraham?***

***-Who were the sons of Abraham?***

-Isaac – **Jews**

-**Ishmael** – Muslim

-Back to Galatians.

-These Judaizers believed that because of their genetic lineage back to Abraham, they were guaranteed future salvation.

-In Galatians 3, Paul takes them back to **Genesis 15**

-This is an **important understanding** of **Jewish history**.

-Let me read some of it to you...

**Genesis 15:1-5** After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

**<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”**

-At this point, Abraham is in his mid-80's, **no kids**, and his wife is in her **mid-70's**.

-Abraham is frustrated because of the promise God gave to him in Genesis 12:1-3.

-This is where God told him He was going to make him into a **Nation**...

-And that **ALL** the people of the earth would be blessed by him

-Abraham is rightfully **asking God a question**...

***-How is this going to happen?***

-I don't **have** kids!

**<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”**

-Look up Abraham...

-Can you count all the stars...

-This is how many offspring you will have!

-Back to Paul...

-Paul writes in **Galatians 3:6-7**

**<sup>6</sup> In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." <sup>7</sup> The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God.**

***-According to Paul, how was Abraham counted righteous?***

-It was because he BELIEVED!

-It was an act of FAITH!

-**Not** of WORKS!!!

-The covenant of circumcision didn't take place until Genesis 17!

***-Now was Paul quoting scripture here in Galatians 3?***

-We just got done talking about how people can be fooled or deceived into **believing** something that **IS NOT** in the Bible!

-Let me read it in context...

**Genesis 15:5-6 <sup>5</sup> Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!" <sup>6</sup> And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith.**

-Abraham's righteousness and relationship with God came from His **belief**, by **faith**!

-The Hebrew word for **believe** is "**Aman**".

***-Does that sound familiar to you?***

-We generally say it at the end of our prayers...

-Amen means "I believe...let it be."

-Not a work of the flesh!

-But **because** I believe.

-It is no different for you and me today!

-In the moment of Abraham's belief, God counted him righteous.

-The Hebrew word for **righteous** is "tsaid – aw – kaw" and it can also mean Justified.

***-What is the doctrine of Justification for Christian believers?***

-Just as if I had never sinned!

-And it came through belief, **NOT** an act of the flesh!

BACK TO PAUL/GALATIANS

**-Galatians 3:7 Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.**

-Anytime we see the word “therefore” in Scripture, go back and read why the word therefore is there for.

**Galatians 3:6 In the same way, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.”**

-Here’s the **fun fact...**

-Abraham was a Gentile.

-There was no Jewish nation until it began with **Abraham**.

-He was from **Ur of the Chaldees**.

-Most likely from Iraq.

-Lived between the **Tigris and Euphrates River**.

-He was an uncircumcised Gentile.

-And as an **UNCIRCUMCISED GENTILE, Abraham believed God**

-And God declared him justified.

-He eventually was circumcised, but it didn’t happen until Abraham was **99 y/o**

-The act of circumcision **DID NOT** justify him.

-This is why Paul used **ABRAHAM** as an example.

-Now go down to **verse 10**.

-Paul is going to quote the law to PROVE his point.

Galatians 3:10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”

-He’s quoting Deuteronomy 27:26

-Unless you keep **EVERY SINGLE LAW...**

-Everything written in the Book of Law.

-You are **CURSED!**

-None of us are perfect.

-**No one** can keep all the written law.

-No one **but...Jesus!**

-Say our Subtitle again...

**-NOTING BUT JESUS**

-Then in verse 11, Paul quotes again from the Old Testament in **Habakkuk 2:4**



**-Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.”**

-There’s a brilliance in Paul’s case he is **pleading...**

-He’s simply **using the Old Covenant/OT**

-To speak to these **Judaizers** and the new Gentile believers.

**-Nothing has changed!**

-We are still justified or made right through our **belief and faith** in **Jesus Christ!**

-Paul **completes his OT/Abraham** connection in verse 14.

-This was like his **closing argument!**

**Galatians 3:14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.**

-Paul does this so well...

-He’s a lawyer presenting his **case** in a courtroom!

-And I know I could go into so much **more in these passages...**

-But I just want to keep doing this **fly over!**

## **WHY LAW**

**-So why did God give the Law?**

-Continuing with our Doctrine...

**Galatians 3:19 <sup>19</sup> 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.**

**-What transgression?**

-Original sin. **ADAM AND EVE’S** disobedience.

**-What seed? (refer to “big S” in seed)**

**Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”**

-What’s going to come from Eve, her Seed, will **one day crush you!**

-This is the **first Messianic Prophecy** in Scripture!

-Jesus is the **Seed...**

## **CHRISTIANITY**

**-Do you realize the only religious institution God created was Judaism?**

-It was religious because the **law required** you to follow all the **613 Commandments** in the OT.

**-By the way...how many commands are in the NT? (1050)**

-God gave the **law** there for a **purpose**.

-It's so we could know what God said was **right vs wrong**.

-It was added because of our **transgression**!

**Galatians 3:24-25** <sup>24</sup> **Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.** <sup>25</sup> **But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.**

**-Can Paul make this any clearer?**

-The word Tutor or Guardian is the Greek word...is *paidagōgos* – **Pie di go gahs**.

-The law was a babysitter...

-In Greek culture, the **pie di go gahs** was a slave who taught and served as a guardian for the children in the home.

-When that child grew up, the tutor was **no longer needed**.

-Paul is saying, now that we are grown up in our **faith**, we **no longer need the law**!

-Paul applied this in **chapter 4**

**Galatians 4:3-5** <sup>3</sup> **Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.** <sup>4</sup> **But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,** <sup>5</sup> **to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**

-As sons and daughters, we are adopted, by God, into his family!

-And verse 6 says we get to call God, Daddy. **Abba Father**.

-It's what Jesus called God, **Abba**...

-It's a sign of the relational God we serve!

## **MORE DOCTRINE**

**-The Son of God became a man so that men could become Sons of God.**

**-God treated Jesus like we deserved to be treated so that God could treat us like Jesus deserved to be treated.**

**-Jesus perfectly followed the law and became a curse so we who could not follow the law were no longer cursed but made righteous.**

**-He became sin who knew no sin so we can become His righteousness! (2 Corinthians 5:21)**

## **PRACTICAL**

-Now we get to chapters 5 and 6

- Paul's bottom line message in these chapters is
- Salvation** through **GRACE ALONE** promotes Spiritual Maturity.
- Which is the opposite of what the Judaizers were teaching.
- As parents, we had to put guard rails up for our kids.
- They **needed to know the laws**.
- We had to teach them.
- We were their **guardians and tutors**.
- But now I have adult children.
- A soon to be **24-year-old daughter**.
- And a **21-year-old son**.
- They are out of the house.
- We are no longer offering them law...
- We are giving them freedom through grace.
- It's up to them to tell us where they are going
- And how long they are going to be gone.
- I'm not hammering down law on the older 2.
- And guess what we are experiencing...
- Our kids are **becoming mature**.
- Paul's explaining the same phenomenon here...
- I'm growing in spiritual maturity, **NOT** because **ABBA FATHER** is holding these laws over me...
- But because He's entrusting me to **walk in faith**.
- It's no longer **"I have to obey"**
- It's **"I want to obey..."**
- Grace DOESN'T turn us into a rebel wanting to sin...**
- It turns us into a disciple willing to follow!**
- Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.**
- Stand firm...
- And don't be burdened by the yoke of slavery.
- Christ wants you to be free to become **spiritually mature**.

-He uses an agricultural picture of a **yoke** and the **burden it creates**.

-Yoked to the law...or **freedom** through **grace**.

-**Remember** back in Acts 15, when Paul is dealing with the same **issue of circumcision in Antioch**.

-They formed a council and made the decision that **circumcision was not necessary** for salvation.

-Listen to **Peter's words** to the Judaizers then...

**Acts 15:10-11** <sup>10</sup> Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

-We couldn't keep the law.

-Our forefathers couldn't keep the law...

**-Why are you putting this yoke onto the Gentile believers?**

-Then Paul goes on to say what I believe is the most brash statement in the **entire Bible**.

-Talking about the **Judaizers**...look at verse 12

**Galatians 5:12** As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

-Let me put this in plain English.

**-If circumcision is going to get you saved, then why don't these Judaizers just cut the whole thing off!**

**-I love Paul!**

**Galatians 5:13-14** <sup>13</sup> You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh;

-Don't abuse grace.

-Don't abuse this freedom Jesus has given us through his death.

-But here do this...

**rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."**

-Grace doesn't lead us to rebel, but rather to serve.

-Grace will lead you to **love** people, not **require legalism**.

-I love it when people say to me, **"I need to change or clean up who I am before I come to church..."**

-And **I'm like no!**

-Let's let you be changed by Jesus and allow him to clean your life in relationship.

-So many people feel like they must DO something to **BE a part of something**

***-Well, how do I do that? How can I be changed?***

**Galatians 5:16-18** <sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

-You have 2 natures at war within you!

-One is flesh, the other is Spirit.

-One was birthed when you were **born**.

-The other was born at your **second birth; SALVATION**.

-Its so love watching people wrestle with that old nature...

-Its because the Holy Spirit is speaking to them...

***-"Don't give in. You know it's wrong!"***

-I didn't used to be this way...I just did what I wanted to do.

-And didn't worry about it affecting my conscience.

-And now it's a **battle!**

## **SINS AND FRUIT**

-Paul gives 17 **works of the flesh** and contrasts them with **9 fruits of the Spirit**.

**Galatians 5:19-21** <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> 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.

-Ouch...you practice these... **NO** kingdom...

-But let me tell you what **Grace produces...**

<sup>22</sup> **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law**

***-How is fruit produced?***

-It's generally produced on a tree!

***-Have you ever seen an apple tree exerting effort to produce some fruit?***

-**No**. All the branches must do is be connected to the **tree!**

***-What did Jesus say...?***

-if you want to bear fruit, be the branch and be connected to me, the Tree!

-**Abide in me**

-**That's it folks.**

-Bearing fruit is that **EASY**...

-Be a branch **CONNECTED** to Jesus.

-Fruit will happen.

***-So what do we do with the people who are following after the flesh?***

***-Kick them out of church right?***

**Galatians 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.**

-If I bring correction...we aren't judging...we are going after restoration.

-But be careful.

**-Watch yourself...**

-You are just as capable of being **tempted**!

***-How's that for practical?***

***What's the difference between legalism and grace?***

-Legalism **points** the finger and **condemns**.

-Grace **opens arms** and seeks to **restore**.

## **CLOSING**

**Galatians 6:17-18 <sup>17</sup> From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. <sup>18</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.**

-I love how Paul ends this **letter**.

***-What are the marks on Paul's body?***

-They are the marks of persecution...for the sake of Jesus.

-The beatings and stoning he endured for sharing the Gospel

-These Judaizers are boasting about the **mark on their body...CIRCUMCISION**.

-I've got marks on my body too...

-But it's suffering for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus!

## **NUTSHELL**

***-Have you ever had someone pay your tab at a restaurant?***

***-Did you tell your waiter/waitress you'd be willing to go wash dishes to payback the person who paid your tab?***

-Anytime we add something to the Gospel...is a perversion...-Its **NOTHING BUT JESUS**