

- I) V23-29 INTRO: Paul had just written the scripture has *confined* all under sin (V22)
Paul has been magnifying grace because people prefer living under laws and rules
This is because rules and laws **provide structure** and make life more **comfortable**
- II) Most of us are comfortable with laws because they make it possible to have order
When you don't have order, you end up like Newport Beach did on the 4th
Over 400 were arrested, fights broke out and a grocery store was looted
- III) We all should agree that laws are necessary to keep peace and order
In general, they help us to know the difference between the good and the bad
- IV) **Religiously**, laws help people to know if they are doing well or if they are failing
Those who **keep the rules** better than **those who don't** are often most respected
DURING JESUS' DAY
- V) There were religious leaders called who were called **Pharisees**
Pharisees were respected because they seemed to keep rules better than others
- VI) Many people looked up to them as the best models of religious people
They were known for charitable giving, prayer, and fasting
- VII) Their outward appearance of righteousness was intimidating
They were so well known for this that Jesus used them as an example
Mt 5:20 I say to you, that unless your righteousness **exceeds** the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven
QUESTION
- VIII) How could their righteousness exceed the righteousness of the pharisees?
By being based, not on outside behavior but on a deep personal faith
- IX) The pharisees gave, prayed, and fasted in order to **seen by men** (Mt 6:1-18)
The people thought they were righteous only because **they appeared to be**
- X) Jesus confronted them for their **hypocrisy**
Mt 23:5 All their works they do to be **seen by men**
Mt 23:23-24 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law; justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

- I) When we are only following religious rules, our way of thinking is untouched
We become masters of following rules, but have **unchanged** hearts and **lives**
Jesus made that clear when confronting the Pharisees
Mt 15:7-9 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: These people draw near to Me with their **mouth**, and honor Me with their **lips**, but **their heart** is far from me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines **the commandments of men**
- II) Religious rules awaken us to our sinful failures, but do not give us a new nature
NOTICE
- III) V22 NOTICE: Scripture has confined all under sin
Confined: To enclose; to shut up on all sides; in a dungeon
Under the law: All are found to be sinners with no escape
PAUL TOLD US WHY
- IV) It is because the Law requires **perfect obedience** and no one can keep it perfectly
This is what Paul had told the Galatians
V10 Cursed is the man who does not **continue in all things**
V12 The man who does them **shall live by them**
- V) Because no one can keep God's requirements perfectly, it encloses all **under sin**
Spiritually we were prisoners in a dungeon that is impossible to break out of
- VI) If the Galatians want to live under the law of Moses, they will find themselves guilty
Ro 3:19 We know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.
- VII) The Judaizers are teaching the Galatians to abide by the law of Moses
Paul is making it clear that they can't obey it, and ultimately is judged by it
- VIII) This isn't something that they should desire, because they will be found guilty
Ps 143:2 Don't put your servant on trial, for no one is innocent before You!
- IX) V11 tells us that **no one is justified** by the law in the sight of God
If they are not, they why did God give the law in the first place?
- X) The ultimate reason for shutting up men **under sin** is actually **mercy**
Our failures bring us to the point of crying out **our need for grace** through Jesus
Ro 7:24 **O wretched man** that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of death

- I) **The answer:** Jesus is the One who delivered us
Ro 8:2 The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set you free from sin and death
1 Co 15:57 thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ
- II) V22 that **the promise by faith** in Jesus Christ might be **given** to those **who believe**
Faith in Jesus is the free gift that sets the captives free from sin and judgment
Is 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the **opening of the prison** to those who are bound
- III) It isn't the law, but the grace of God that we experience by faith that sets us free
PAUL NOW CONTINUES
- IV) V23 But before **faith came** we were **kept under guard** by the law, kept (shut up)
Before the gospel came, we were held in prison by the law of Moses
It was like a dungeon, and we were not able to escape from its power
- V) We were kept in custody and imprisoned by the Law
We were **kept under guard**, hemmed in and unable to escape from its power
- VI) It acted as a prison, intending to reveal sin, and to convict men of sin
Ro 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for **by the law is the knowledge of sin**
- VII) When the law awakens us to our sin, we start to long for an escape from its prison
Some in this room deeply understand what this longing for freedom is
You were incarcerated and longed to be set free
- VIII) The misery of imprisonment is intended to cause us to long for freedom
The unredeemed person is waiting on death row (Ro 6:23, Heb 9:27)
- IX) As Christians we can look back and see the results of being under law
Our bondage to sin caused us to cry out to Jesus for freedom
Ro 8:2 The law of the **spirit of life** in Christ Jesus has **made me free** from the law of sin and death
2 Co 3:17 The Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is **there is freedom**
- X) V23 We were kept under the law **kept for the faith** that would afterward be revealed

- I) Historically the Jews were locked up **under the law** until Messiah came to free them
He did this by fulfilling the covenant of promise and faith given to Abraham
To be set free the Jews needed to receive Jesus as their Messiah
- II) Even under the covenant of the Law, the Jews were still saved **through faith**
Salvation is **always** by faith, which produces acts of obedience 3:6-7, 9, 11
THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW?
- III) V24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ
Tutor: A guardian and guide of boys. Among the Greeks and the Romans, the name was applied to trustworthy slaves who were charged with the duty of supervising the life and morals of boys belonging to the nobler class. They were not allowed to even step out of the house without them before arriving at the age of manhood. He would take them to and from school, disciplined them, and made sure they studied their lessons.
KEY
- IV) His role temporary, safeguarding until adulthood (14-17 years of age). At that point, their relationship changed, and the adult did not respond to his authority any longer.
PAUL'S POINT
- V) The sole purpose of the law was to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ
Why? That they might be **justified** (Gal 2:16)
LET ME DEVELOP THIS
- VI) **First: To be justified** speaks of the cancellation of a debt
When we are justified God cancels the penalty of sin, which was death
SECOND
- VII) It also speaks of God restoring His favor upon us, which was lost because of sin
We are now once again in relation to God
Jas 2:23 The scripture was fulfilled which says, Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And he was called **the friend of God**
THIRD
- VIII) It speaks of being legally declared not guilty, and receiving Jesus' righteousness
The point Paul is making is we are declared righteous at the moment we are saved
This is because our sin was fully punished because Jesus took our penalty
2 Co 5:21 God made Him who **had no sin** to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God
- IX) He was our substitute, and God's righteous wrath was fully satisfied by Jesus
This came through faith in Jesus, not in our obedience to the law
Ro 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law

- I) The weakness of the law is now exposed
Jesus makes you right with God, **one** time for **all time**
This is something that the law of Moses could not do
- II) We become children of God through faith in Jesus
The law brought condemnation, but grace through Jesus sets us free
Ro 8:1-4 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.
HIS POINT
- III) V25 But after faith has come we are no longer under a tutor
Jesus has come and fulfilled all requirements on our behalf
We no longer need the tutor to bring us to Him: We have already arrived!
- IV) This purpose of the Law is therefore fulfilled by Jesus
- V) V26 For you are *all* sons of God **through faith** in Christ Jesus
It is by faith in Jesus that you become God's children
Jn 1:11-13 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God
- VI) This is how you become children of God: through faith in Jesus
QUOTE
- VII) There is no other way to become sons of God in the full sense that Paul means; we are not mere **physical descendants** of Abraham, but sons of Abraham by faith in Jesus
- VIII) When I was young, we considered ourselves the family of God
In this, we were wrong
QUOTE
- IX) God is the Father of all men as Creator, but the spiritual Father only of those who, by **faith in Christ Jesus**, receive adoption into His family. It is only those who are born of the Spirit and led by the Spirit who are sons of God

- I) V27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ
IMPORTANT
- II) Paul **is not** speaking of water Baptism because water baptism does not save you
Nowhere are we taught that we are saved by water Baptism
1 Pe 3:21 This water **symbolizes** baptism that now saves you also-- not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a **good conscience** towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- III) **Water** does not save us, nor does it cleanse our consciences
it is the blood of Jesus that does this
Heb 9:14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will **purify our consciences** from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.
- IV) This would be especially true with Galatians, where the **central teaching** is faith
Paul is not replacing one religious ritual with another
He **is not** saying that to be saved, you need to be water baptized
- V) He would be saying that by faith in Jesus, we have become joined with Him
1 Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized **into one body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
- VI) There are those who are teaching that you must be baptized to be saved
This is called baptismal regeneration
- VII) Baptism does not save us but is symbolic of salvation
We first believe, and then we are baptized (Jn 3:16)
Jn 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever rejects the Son will not see life. Instead, the wrath of God remains on him.”
1 Jn 5:1 Everyone **who believes** that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves those born of Him.
- VIII) We believe in Jesus and then receive water baptism
Ro 6:3-4 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- I) V27 We have **put on Christ**: Literally, we are clothed in Christ
He has enshrouded, or clothed us, with His life, presence, and nature
- II) We are now, by God's grace, being conformed into His image
This is not through outward washing, but by the cleansing of the Spirit
Titus 3:4-6 When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior
- III) The grace of God results in an assumption of the character of Christ
Eph 4:24 and to put on the new man, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
Col 3:10 And have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him
- IV) This did not come through observing the law but through God's grace
- V) V28 There is neither Jew or Greek there is neither slave nor free
The Judaizers are trying to make you into circumcised Jews
You do not need to first become Jewish in order to be saved
- VI) These distinctions are now obliterated in Jesus: We are one in the Lord
All who come to faith in Jesus are in the deepest sense children of God
We are all saved in the same way: through the work of Jesus on the cross
WITH THIS SAID
- VII) Paul is writing about **the grace** of God in salvation
He is not writing concerning offices in the church
He is speaking of how we all are saved: it is through grace and faith
- VIII) V29 And if you are Christ's then you are Abraham's seed and heirs
Gal 3:6 Abraham **believed God** and it was accounted to him for righteousness
- IX) You have rested completely in the grace of God, and are also made righteous
It was not works on your part, but grace on His
Don't fall in to the trap of works righteousness