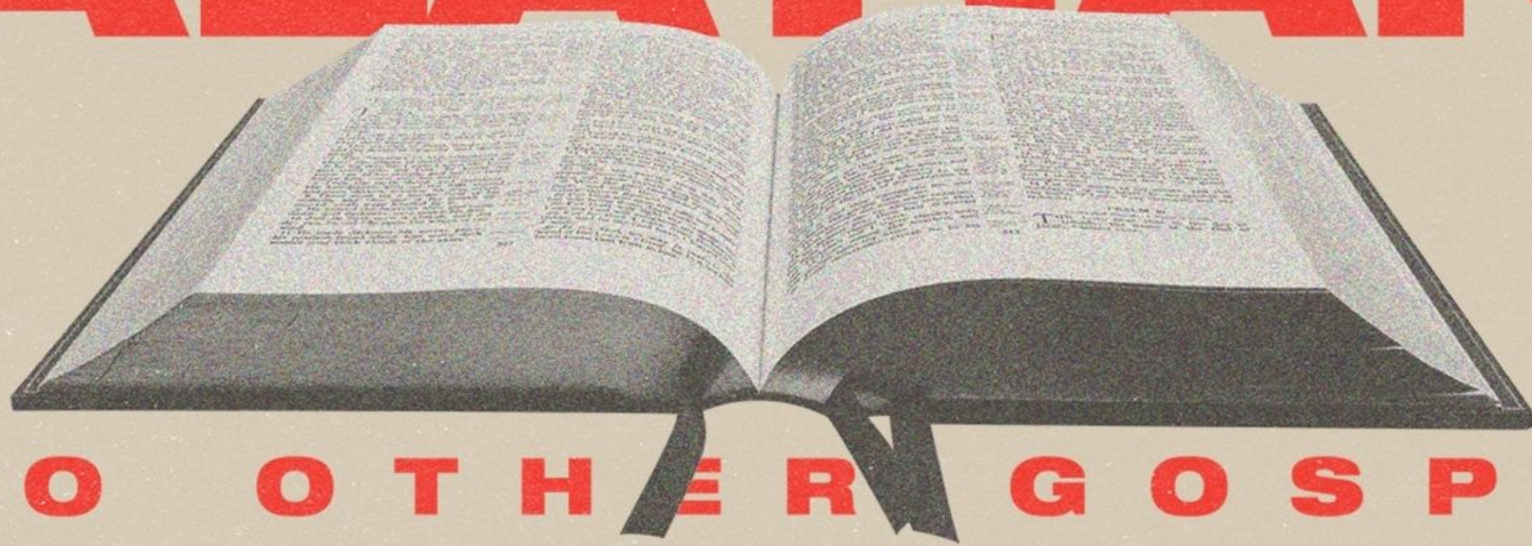


# GALATIANS



NO OTHER GOSPEL



# FROM DEATH ROW TO FRONT ROW

Galatians 3:23–29

## Galatians 3:23-29 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

# Life Under The Law

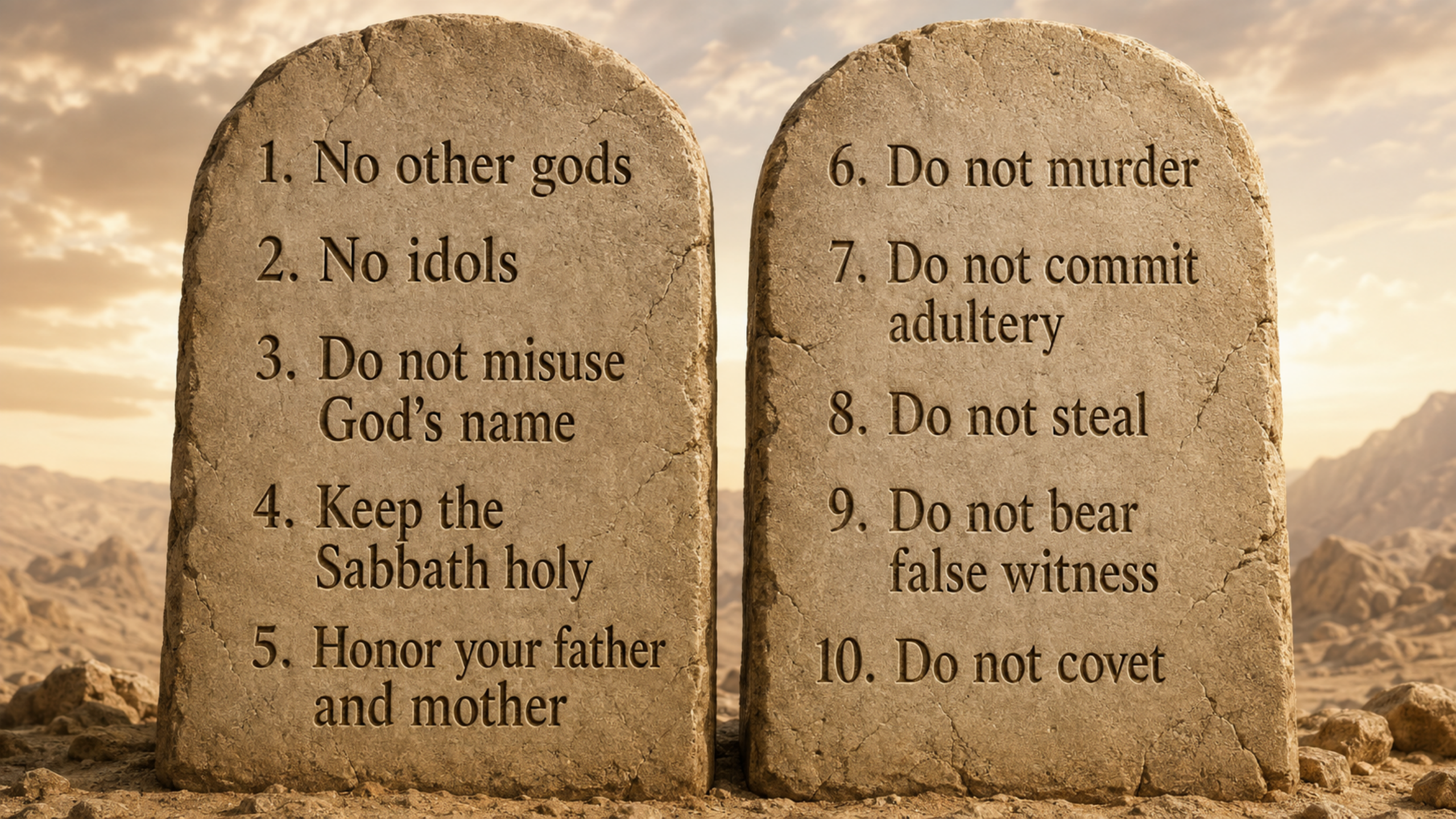
- ◆ **23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.**
- ◆ ‘before faith came’ – before Christ came and the saving reality of faith in Him was fully revealed
- ◆ ‘held captive’ – kept under guard or custody
- ◆ ‘imprisoned’ - the picture Paul is providing, is one of confinement and shut in without the ability to escape.

# Silenced & Exposed

- ◆ <sup>19</sup> Now 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. <sup>20</sup> Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. – Romans 3:19-20 (NIV)
- ◆ ...so that every mouth may be **silenced** and the whole world **held accountable** to God.
- ◆ ...through the law we become **conscious** of our sin.

# Guilty as Charged

- ◆ <sup>10</sup> As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; - Romans 3:10 (NIV)
- ◆ <sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. – Romans 3:23 (NLT)
- ◆ ...sin is lawlessness. – 1 John 3:4 (ESV)
- ◆ lawlessness = rebellion and utter disregard for God’s law
- ◆ Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. – James 4:17 (NLT)

- 
1. No other gods
  2. No idols
  3. Do not misuse  
God's name
  4. Keep the  
Sabbath holy
  5. Honor your father  
and mother

6. Do not murder
7. Do not commit  
adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not bear  
false witness
10. Do not covet

# Strict Chaperone

- ◆ **24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.**
- ◆ In Greco-Roman antiquity, the guardian (paidagōgos) was a household slave charged with strict supervision, moral discipline, protection from physical dangers, and behavioral correction of a young boy through the years of childhood until maturity.
- ◆ The law could guard, expose and regulate, but it could not give life or justify.

# No Escape

## ◆ **BEFORE CHRIST:**

- ◆ under sin
- ◆ under the law
- ◆ under the curse
- ◆ under strict supervision
- ◆ under judgment
- ◆ have no defense
- ◆ have no way of escape on our own

# Faith Has Come

- ◆ **25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian,**
- ◆ **6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:6-8 (NIV)**



# Sons Through Faith

- ◆ **26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.**
- ◆ in Christ Jesus...(no one and nothing else)
- ◆ you are all...(not just the Jews, but Gentiles as well)
- ◆ sons of God...(no longer minors under a guardian)
- ◆ through faith...(faith in Christ, not through the works of the law)
- ◆ **11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, - John 1:11-12 (ESV)**

# Clothed With Christ

- ◆ **27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**
- ◆ Roman coming-of-age imagery: When a boy reached maturity, he laid aside the *toga praetexta*, the garment of childhood, and put on the *toga virilis*, the garment marking adult status. This transition normally signaled the end of childhood supervision and relative freedom from the *paidagogos*, or guardian. — Death and Dynasty in Early Imperial Rome, J. Bert Lott
- ◆ To ‘put on’ Christ means to be clothed with and united with Christ — to take Him as our defining identity.

# A Whole New Identity

- ◆ **28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**
- ◆ Paul is **not** saying ethnic, social, and male/female distinctions cease to exist.
- ◆ Paul **is** saying that none of those distinctions determines whether you belong to God's family, your standing in Christ, or your share in Abraham's inheritance.
- ◆ In Christ, nobody is a second-class child of God.

# A Whole New Identity

- ◆ **29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.**
- ◆ ‘Abraham’s offspring’ = literally ‘seed’
- ◆ The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed...who is Christ. – Galatians 3:16 (NIV)
- ◆ Christ is Abraham’s promised Seed.
- ◆ If we belong to Christ, we belong to Abraham’s family.
- ◆ And if we belong to the family, we are an heir of the promise.

# From Death Row to Front Row

- ◆ We were imprisoned under sin
- ◆ We were held under custody
- ◆ We were minors under a guardian
- ◆ We were on death row
  - ◆ We were forgiven
  - ◆ We have been clothed with Christ
  - ◆ We have been adopted as sons of God through faith
  - ◆ We are Abraham's family and heirs according to the promise



# FROM DEATH ROW TO FRONT ROW

Galatians 3:23–29