

The Book of Galatians

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Chapter 1

Galatians 1:1-5

Flip the Pages – Lots of Letters

I would like you to flip page by page, word by word, through this epistle, through all six chapters. Page by page, you see lots of words, lots and lots of words. It is about 3300 words (give or take a hundred depending on the English translation you use). Then, take a look at verse 11 of chapter 6.

Galatians 6:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

6:11 / This Letter is Urgent

Verse 11 is kind of an odd verse here, but I think it kind of sets the tone for where we're going to be. Galatians, Chapter 6, verse 11. The apostle Paul is writing here. He says, "See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!" A couple things here. Usually, Paul will communicate his message to a scribe who will write down his message for him. He says this at the end of Romans and such. "So-and-so is writing this down for me." Here, this matter is so urgent and imperative to Paul that he's writing it with his own hand. It's a very pressing matter for him. And he says that, if you can see, that his letters are becoming very large by the end of the letter. And to our modern ears this sounds weird because we type and—I don't know about you, I haven't sat down to write out anything the length of Galatians in quite some time. But if you think about it, if something is urgent and pressing and very, very important to you, and you sit down to write it, or, say for example it's the letter to the Galatians, you start off quickly in the letter with good penmanship and small letters. But if you write for an hour or two at a brisk pace, what does your penmanship look like by the time you're done? Right? It's really sloppy and your letters are enormous because your hand's locked into place and you're just trying to get it done. That's exactly what's happening in Galatians. This matter is so pressing, so urgent, the crisis is so catastrophic in this church, that Paul is sitting down, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, writing this letter with great urgency with his own hand, not taking time to even rest his hands, he writes all of this out. That is because of a crisis that is in this church. He's worried for these people. He's concerned about the health of their church. Peter says in 2 Peter 3:15 and 16 that Paul's letters are scripture, that they're inspired of God, that they are perfect, and he's speaking on God's behalf. This is one of those letters.

2 Peter 3:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

Something is Wrong – False Teachers / 3 R's / Jesus Christ "and"

The gospel, its message, had changed Paul's life and, through him, the lives of countless others. But now this message (we will read in verses 6-9) was being attacked, and now Paul was out to defend the truth of the Gospel. Some false teachers had invaded the churches of Galatia, churches Paul had founded—and were teaching a different message from that which Paul had taught. What we will read in this epistle is that men were coming into the church and saying it is more than grace that saves, but keeping the Law. The 3 R's of religion, rules, regulations, and rituals. These men were coming into the church saying Jesus Christ Him crucified is not enough for salvation, you have to keep all these rule, regulations, and rituals to be saved. They were laying a works trip on the people, they were saying "grace" is not enough to save, the "blood" of Jesus Christ is not enough. You always know a cult or legalist, because they always have an "and" statement that goes along with Jesus. It is Jesus Christ "and" keeping the Law, it is Jesus Christ "and" the Book of Mormon, it is Jesus Christ "and" these 7 sacraments. Jesus Christ Him crucified is no longer enough, it is "man" lending a hand, doing his part, because the blood of Jesus is not enough.

Galatians 1:6–9 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

Urgent – Critical

Paul is writing this epistle because he considers the crisis urgent, critical, must counter-attack right now before people are lead astray. This book is often called “Little Romans” because how closely the books relate in their content (doctrinally and theologically). Romans is 16 chapters, and Galatians is 6. Paul is condensing and crunching, because he got to get this word out right now, time is of the essence.

Written

The book was probably written somewhere around AD 50-55, which puts it as probably the first epistle written by Paul. He has planted dozens of churches up to this point, and you would think his first letter would be how a church should be organized and a beacon in their city, how to evangelize, how pastors should be selected, and how pastors should pastor. But Paul’s first letter that he writes is watch out for someone robbing you of your grace, laying a works trips on you.

Theme / Justification / Spotless & Pure

The theme of this book is justification by faith, which I will sum up to say it is all grace, God’s grace. The just shall live by faith. What is justification, Just-if-I-had-never-sinned. That is how the Lord looks upon those who have been justified, just as if they had never sinned, just as if they were spotless, pure, unblemished by the stain of sin, because the blood of Jesus has washed them white as snow.

Justification – just 20yrs Later Trying to add to Cross / It is Something we Humans Drawn To

Justification by faith, the grace of God alone to save a soul is the Gospel. But here we are just 20 years from the demonstration of God’s unconditional love there upon the cross and people are trying to add to that work. I think it is something that we as humans are just drawn to do, that we feel this need to give God a hand, that nothing is free (no free lunches the saying goes), and we feel that to be accepted by God we have to add our piece in to be accepted.

Paul Tell over & over / It is all Grace – Not of Works

Paul is going to tell, over and over, with heart and passion, it is all grace, it is all done, and there is nothing for you to add, now go and live it out.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Why is this Important to You?

Why is this book important to you, why should you get out of bed on a Sunday to study it, how will it change your life? It is important and it will change your life because when you fully, totally, completely understand “the grace” of God, your whole way of thinking and living will change. You will see it is all God, you will see how much He loves you, an unconditional love that you cannot be separated from. When you settle it, that it is, all grace (Unmerited Favor – God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense), then you will no longer be living on “how am I doing”, looking at yourself, from inward evaluation, but free to just look upon Him, adore Him, have intimacy and fellowship with Him, and when eyes are fixed on Him instead of ourselves, His Spirit and power will flow through us..... and get this, we will finally be living the life we crave and long for.

It is All Grace

It is all grace, Paul will spend 6 condensed power-packed chapters developing on that theme, it is all Grace.

Outline:

- In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.
- Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul’s doctrinal instruction about grace.
- Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.

Key Words

You can determine lots about a book by looking at words that are continually repeated. Here are some key words that draw out the heart of this book. We see we will be set free from the law (having to perform), but that we are free to live and enjoy the promise by faith through the Spirit all because of Christ.

- Liberty 11 times
- Christ 45 times
- Law 31 times
- Flesh 18 times
- Spirit 15 times
- Faith 22 times
- The Promise 10 times

Ten Things we will Learn in 6 chapters:

1. There is only 1 Gospel
 - a. There is no other way to salvation except by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. We are justified by Faith in Jesus Christ
 - a. The work of Jesus on the cross, there is nothing we can add to it or take away from it. Justification is by grace through faith.
3. Believers are to be identified with the Crucifixion (Gal 2:20)
 - a. We need to see ourselves dying there on the cross, the old man nailed there with all his sins, and rising again into new life. A picture of baptism.
4. The Law is never able to give life.
 - a. The law only shows us we are dead, the law serves as a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, to show us a need for a Savior, but the Law is not and cannot be a Savior, it just shows us the need for a Savior.
5. By Faith we become the Sons and Daughters of God the Father in heaven (adopted into the family)
 - a. Once we are born-again we can call Him Father, Abba, just like Jesus did.
6. All Believers are One in the Lord (we are all part of the same body)
 - a. We are all one body, and every part has a function and is vital for the life of the body. The body has different functions, the eyes do something different than the feet, and they work together to function the body. God has a function for you in His body, and each is vital. No one is better, and no one is less, for each have a unique function in the body. We are one.
7. We are called into a position of Freedom
 - a. When the Son sets you free you are free indeed (John 8:36). Jesus sets us free, yet how often we put ourselves back into bondage. Bondages of doubt, addictions, prejudices, we get tangled up and are anything but free. There is only one way to be free in this world, and it is not a better income, more obedient children, more respect, a spouse, but the only way to be free is to recognize and believe by faith our position in Jesus.
8. There will always be a constant struggle between the flesh and the Spirit.
 - a. You who have been saved for a long time, don't beat yourself up thinking you should be perfect, for you will not win every battle against the flesh, that won't happen until you are in your new body apart from this fallen one. You who are new in the Lord, victories don't happen overnight, don't quit on yourself thinking you just can't do it. Just keep walking and the Lord will grow you and mature you. For everyone, be careful when you think you got it all together, for it is a fact that there will always be a struggle between the flesh and the Spirit.
9. God has promised every believer His Holy Spirit
 - a. We receive that Spirit by faith, and it is a free gift, and His Spirit will help us and lead us in living out our faith.
10. The Holy Spirit Produces Fruit in the True Believer
 - a. It is not us that produces the fruit. We are tapped to the vine, and when tapped to the vine "Fruit Happens". This fruit is fruit that remains, and it eternal. Do you want to be fruitful, then walk with the Lord, and "Fruit Happens".

Let's Start Walking

Let's start walking with the Lord today, let's start verse 1.

Chapter 1

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead),

Paul not Saul

The first thing that jumps out at me is that it says Paul not Saul. There is no mention of the old man, the murderer, the blasphemer, the widow maker. It is Paul not Saul. We are a new creation, we have been washed and cleansed.

2 Corinthians 5:17–19 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Paul not trying to Merge old Life

And notice that Paul was totally Paul, we do not see him trying to live a life that is merged between Paul and Saul, he isn't trying to merge his new covenant with the old covenant, and he isn't trying to merge salvation by faith alone, with salvation by works. He is living fully in his new life, Paul! How about you? Are you still trying to merge the two lives, are you trying to be a Christian in the world and a power-broker at work? Are you trying to be a spotless bride for Christ but still keep your old friends at your old stomping grounds? Are you trying to be set apart for Him and on-fire, but within the confines that your friends don't think you are a Jesus freak? Paul is living his new life and his new calling, totally separated from the old life and old ways which were pretty powerful as he was one of the top dogs in Israel and in the Temple.

Notice calling is From God / Let no Man Determine your Calling

Notice where the calling came from for Paul, it came from God (not men). Christian, let God determine your calling, not man, and that includes both what you do and who you are. The other apostles did not establish Paul as an apostle. What we learn from scriptures is that they really didn't want anything to do with him; in fact it was 17 years before they finally received Paul as an apostle. Wow, would anyone here have lasted 17 years without being embraced in our calling by man? But see Paul didn't wait for man's calling, Paul heard God's calling and that was all he needed, and that is all you need too. If you ever feel out of place amongst the Christians, I can relate. I have no idea what it was, maybe something to do with my personality, but when I got saved in my bedroom and started going to church, I was anything but warmly received. I remember walking up to the doors of a church and I was not wearing "the Sunday best" and I was about 10 minutes late, and there were these two woman outside talking and as I walked up you could just see this look of disgust upon their face that I was walking into their church. As I walked by the one said to the other, loud enough for me to hear of course, the disrespect of some people to come to church late. I wanted to stop and say ladies if you knew the rock God pulled me out from under you would be rejoice and saying amazing God. See, that didn't bother me because I was rejoicing in my salvation, I was blown away that God saved me, I was walking on a cloud saying I can't believe God wants me, God loves me, God loves me so much that He sent His Son to die for me. Based on that, what man thought couldn't stop me from the joy of my salvation. I actually disrupted a church service, yes it is true. Yes I came into church one Sunday (just saved a few months), and on the way I crossed path with this gal my age, and I said hey I know you, you are friends with Tom (who I played softball with and worked with – something like). She said hey I remember you, glad you are here, would you like to sit together (and it was just friends – it was nothing else), I was like sure, wow when they say get out and greet one another someone will actually greet me back. So anyways we are sitting about 5 rows back off on the side and the Pastor is teaching, and then he turns to that side we are on and it registers to him that I am sitting next to this girl, and you should have saw his face. His face had this look of horror on it (haha), so much so you could tell he lost his train of thought. So yep, I disrupted a church service. I could read his mind, and it was, "you stay away from the girls in this church, you got it". Believe it or not I came back to church (haha). See I was too excited about being saved, the Jesus had made me His own, the thoughts of man, what man may have

been thinking of me, never deterred me from following hard after God. You know what I did to get even with that pastor and those ladies? I brought 20 more just like me to church (haha).

What God called you to Do/Be

What has God called you to be, called you to do? Then don't wait for the calling or confirmation of man, go do it, go be it. He loves you!

Paul Identifies himself as Apostle / Others were Challenging It / Sent One – Words I speak from God

Paul identified himself as an apostle in his opening of the letter because there were people who were challenging the gospel that he preached, and thus he opens with the statement, I write these things you will read because I am an apostle (which means sent one) of God, and the words I speak/write are directly from God.

Paul lists his Ordination – Pretty Impressive / Taught in OT – Taught by Jesus – Demonstrated in Acts

In order to elevate their message, these men had to tear Paul down, and they do that by trying to discredit that he isn't one of the original apostles and thus he shouldn't be listened to. Paul also lists who ordained him into ministry, through Jesus and the Father. Pretty impressive. Where is the Holy Spirit in Paul's ordination? The Spirit confirms his appointing by speaking the Word of God through him, so we have 6 chapters of confirmation, and we will see that not one word counters anything that was written in the OT or taught by Jesus when He walked this earth, or was demonstrated in the Book of Acts. Should anyone come with a new doctrine or teaching, there are your 3 checks, was it taught in the OT, taught by Jesus, and demonstrated in the Book of Acts. Lots of foolishness would be put away immediately if people would do that when people come out with so-called new moves of God Spirit.

Galatians 1:2 and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

Region – not City

Galatia is a region, it is not a city. So it would kind of be like the churches in Anne Arundel County, not to the churches in Glen Bernie. Galatia would be modern day Turkey. Cities you might recognize from reading through the Book of Acts, were Pisidia, Lustra, Derbe, and Iconium. Paul went to and through this region on all three of his missionary journeys. People came to the saving knowledge of Jesus and churches were planted.

Multiple Churches / Circular Letter – Still Circulating / Igor – Letter from brother Paul

Paul is writing to multiple churches; so this letter would be read publically before the whole congregation (probably the Sunday meeting), and then the letter would be sent to the next church and they would read it to the congregation, and then pass it on, and on. Somewhere along the line people would start to hand copy the letter so there church could have their own copy to read over and over again. It is the word of God, and they were so excited to hear it and be able to hear it again and again. Do you realize that is what we are doing here today, a copy of Paul's letter (inspired by God) has made its way across the sea to the Church of Anne Arundel County, and we gather together to read it to together, to hear what the word is from God. Your brother Paul has sent you a letter, God has sent us a letter, and we are blessed beyond measure to have it today and read it. I remember when I was doing a short-term mission trip in Russia back in 1993, the walls had just come down, but the old Soviet regime was far from dead and they were not highly favorable towards Christianity. Igor my interpreter told me the story of being stopped in the street on his way to a small group bible study, and he said at that time you could end up in jail as you were considered an activist against the state. When asked where are you going, he said I am going over to my brothers and sisters house, and we are going to read a letter from our brother Paul. Upon that answer they let him go on his way. So, our brother Paul has written us a letter.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Galatians 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,

Paul – Man of Grace / 120 Times / From Widow maker to Grace

Paul is the man of grace in the New Testament, using the word grace some 120 times. Of course he is considering his former life; he was wreaking havoc on the church, dragging them out of their homes, making widows and orphans, going to the ends of the earth to find them and persecute them. We know the story of him holding the coats as they would stone Steven to death. Then Jesus would meet him on the road to Damascus, and everything would change. What is it that you have done (or not done) that would make you think you are worse than the Apostle Paul, that God could forgive Paul, but not you. God wants to extend and pour His grace out upon you.

Grace is God's Invitation Today / Continual Invitation – Needed / We want to Please – Short / Done

Grace – God's invitation to us today, His grace. He continually gives us this invitation because we continually need it. We want to please Him, that is in all of our hearts, we want to grow closer to Him, we love Him, and we desire to be found pleasing in His sight. Like a child wanting to please their parent, we can find ourselves downtrodden when we don't meet that level we are desiring to obtain. God gives us the same invitation every day, grace, because we can forget that it is all grace and nothing that we do, or can do, but God extends grace to us every day.

Definition of Grace

Grace – definition: that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech

**Strong, J. (2001). Enhanced Strong's Lexicon. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.*

God says I extend it to You Today / God's Romance – Bride & Groom / God has Courted You

So God says to us today, I extend to you from me, joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness, grace of speech. This is how I feel about you, regardless how you feel about yourself. The romance of His love pours off the pages unto us when we consider this invitation. We look at this definition and we see the heartbeat of romance from our God towards us, how He looks upon us as beautiful, as a groom to his bride, exhibiting and displaying the love that is in him towards the object of his desire, his bride. God has courted you, God has given the invitation for holy matrimony, and God loves His bride at whatever state she currently is in. Christian believe that today, regardless how you feel you are doing, believe that. You might change, but He never changes.

Peace – Siamese Twins

And then it says peace. Siamese twins of the New Testament, because you can only experience peace with God because of His grace. We are at peace with Him, there is no war, He is not upset with us, He loves us unconditionally, and thus He invites us into fellowship tonight.

Definition of Peace

Peace – definition: peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord, security, safety, prosperity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous)

**Strong, J. (2001). Enhanced Strong's Lexicon. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.*

Lots People no Peace – No Grace

There are lots of people that know they have peace with God, but they don't know the peace of God, because they have not grown in grace and are continuing looking inward rather than upwards. They haven't come to rest in His completed work, and are missing out on this invitation that He extends today..... Grace – definition: that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech....for that is what I feel and think about you My bride he says to us. So men are coming into these churches in Galatia and are trying to draw people away from the grace, that joy, delight, sweetness.....into bondage and legalism.

**Strong, J. (2001). Enhanced Strong's Lexicon. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.*

Galatians 1:4 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,

This is the Will of the Father / Death is not parents Vision / God has Emotions – God Feels

The will of the Father was that His Son should die. Every parent in this room has a vision and a hope that their child will grow old, live a full life, a life of love, peace, friendship, and prosperity. No one in this room is wishing for their child to have enemies, to be mocked and challenged every day, to be hated, beaten, scourged, and then killed in a violent torturous way. God has emotions, God hurts, God feels, God grieves. God felt every drop of pain and emotion that His Son went through. Talk to a parent who has lost a child and they will say it just isn't right, this isn't how it is supposed to be, a child is to outlive the parents not the other way around. The pain and the emotion just based on the fact that it is not to be that way. God the Father is alive, He made us in His image, therefore we know that He grieves like we do, he hurts like we do, and He weeps like we do. But this was His will, that His Son would die for you and for me, so there might be a "the way" for us to be able to come into His presence and be accepted as sons and daughters. Not only was it the will of the Father, but it was the will of the Son also, what amazing love.

Gave

The word gave here means "to endure the loss of someone".

Deliver

The word deliver means "to rescue, to lift a person out of danger". The idea of being rescued here is that we could not rescue ourselves.

Sin Separates

For our sins separate us from the Holy God, and we couldn't rescue ourselves

Isaiah 59:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

Eternal Death - Hell

The rescue is from hell itself, eternal death.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Verse 1 – to The Resurrection / The Power of the Gospel / Gayle Erwin

Paul wasted no time in getting to the resurrection in this letter, verse 1 is as quick as he got there. Reason is because the resurrection is the proof that God the Father accepted the substitution, the trading of place, the sacrifice for man's sin. Had Jesus not rose from the dead then that would have declared the sacrifice and the substitution was not acceptable. But to rise from the dead proves the sacrifice and the substitution was acceptable. The resurrection is the power of the gospel. See Buddha died, Krishna died, Joseph Smith died, Muhammad died, but none rose from the dead. Only Jesus Christ rose from the dead. I remember this man coming to Pastor Gayle Erwin and say he was going to start his own religion because he has some issues with Christianity, and he said toe Gayle what do you think of that? Gayle said I tell you what, if you die and rise from the dead, I will follow you. Only Jesus could and did rise from the dead, and it is proof positive that the sacrifice, the trade, the substitution of His life for our life was accepted, and that like Jesus, when we talk our last breath on earth we will too will rise from the dead.

Present Evil Age / Evil growing worse and worse / Who here locks their Doors ?

We are rescued from this present evil age. This present evil age; evil is growing worse and worse. Who here has a lock on their door? Who uses that lock? Why is that? Because you know there is evil lurking and you never know when and where it will enter into your life. Did you know a woman is raped every 40 seconds in this world, that 3300 people are forced into slavery every day in this world, right now as we speak there are 2 million children that are being sold as sex slaves, and a CIA report said 50,000 people are brought into the USA every year to be used as sex slaves (yes that is our good ole USA). Darkness, that people if given the chance will fly an airplane into a building and kill 3,000 people, or take a gun into a movie theatre or school and open fire. Scams are on every corner, real estate scams, credit card scams, funeral scams, internet scams, scams on every corner because man is full of greed and selfishness. This world is getting darker and darker, not brighter and brighter.

Gospel Delivers from this Evil Age

The gospel delivers us from this evil age. We have a means by which to be rescued and liberated from it.

Sit Quietly – Hear God say “I love you with an Everlasting Love”

It was the will of the Father, and the Son, to come and rescue us. And, if we were just to sit quietly, turn off all the noise and the never ending fast pace, and you will hear God say to you “I have loved you with an everlasting love, dying for you was My will and My pleasure”. And that love my friends takes us beyond this world, an evil world, and into a new world where He dwells, and we one day shall be. We are saved, He has rescued us, to whom be glory forever and ever, amen!

Galatians 1:5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel brings God Glory

The gospel brings God glory, and Him alone. If it was somehow based on us and what we did, then He would not get all the glory but have to share His glory. The gospel gives God glory because it has provided a way for sinful man to be rescued from his sin and the present evil age.

God Loves You – He is Desperate for You / Go Today with the Love of God close to You

God loves you, have you taken that away from this study today. He is passionate and desperate for you. I pray as you go on your way this week that you will keep the love of God near to heart, close to you mind, and on the tip of your tongues. Tell someone God loves them, tell yourself God loves me, bask in His glory, behold His glory. In Jesus name.

Galatians 1:6-10

The Why / The Theme

Paul is writing this letter, you can read the sense of urgency in it, and it is urgent because people are turning away from the one true gospel, and adding works on to the finished work of Christ on the cross. When Jesus said it was done, He meant it. The theme of the book, the message Paul is urgent about, is that the just shall live by faith, that it is all the grace of God and there is nothing man needs to do, has to do, to add on to “the good news”.

Galatians 1:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Are we Turning Away

A question for each of us to ask as believers, and that is are we turning away from the gospel. This study today is for the believer who believes there is only one way, and that is Jesus Christ Him crucified; but could we be “lightening it up” to make it more palatable? Are we afraid to say it like it is in fear people think it is too harsh, it makes them uncomfortable? Paul has a passion, and that passion carries over to today, that even we here today don’t bow to the modern gospel that is being preached today. Look around, and you will see countless churches and pastors changing the gospel, changing the definition of sin, changing “the One way”, out of fear of man. But Paul says he is not persuaded by man, and that is a word for the church of today 2014 to grab on to.

Outline:

- In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.
- Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul’s doctrinal instruction about grace.
- Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.

Read 3-5 for Context

We left off in verse 5 last study, and pick up here in verse 6, but let’s read verses 3 through 5 again to keep ourselves in the context of this epistle.

Galatians 1:3–5 (NKJV) ³ Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ 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, ⁵ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Just there – Natural Response is to Worship

Just there, when you begin to focus on what God has done for you, when you consider God “gave” Himself for our sins, to rescue us, deliver us, from this evil age, to provide a way that we may be forgiven of our sins, to escape judgment and receive eternal life with Him in heaven, the natural response is verse 5..... to praise, as Paul says “to whom be glory forever and ever, amen”. Paul speaking of love of God, a God who would give Himself for us, as he speaks on that and dwells on that, he breaks forth into praise saying to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen! Amen meaning so be it, it is fact, it is done, and it can’t be undone.

The Sacrifice of Praise – Want to be Lifted Up / Separate from Problem of the Week

The sacrifice of praise! Want to be lifted out of the miry clay? What to separate yourself from that tension you had with your spouse this week? Feel like you are leaning lopsided to cares of finances, cares of the “problem of the day”, cares of yesterday, today, and tomorrow? Offer the sacrifices of praise, get yourself to higher ground, get yourself above the flood waters of the cares of this world and get yourself up to the mountain, and spend time there with the Lord, remembering what great things He has done in your life, is doing, and will do.

Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Give Him Praise / God Loves You – He Gave Himself for You

Give Him the praise of thanksgiving, and watch how quickly your day and that situation you feel swallowed by changes. I am my beloveds and my beloved is mine. God loves you, God is desperate for you, God says to you today, it was my will to rescue you, to give Myself for you, from the foundations of the world, you specifically were on my heart and my mind, that one day you and I would have this love relationship. I love you He says, and I want you to know that today without any doubts, I gave Myself for you, and always remember that anytime you may

wonder and question where I am, what I am doing, and if I really do care about. I care about you, look and remember, glory in, that I gave.....Myself, to have you.

Not a Life Coach

There have been people who have left the church, and have said it is because we talk too much about Jesus, imagine that talking about Jesus at church. What their point was, they wanted more teaching series on how to have a better marriage, how to raise their kids, how to be happier. My response is this, Jesus did not come to be a life coach, but Jesus came to give life. And when we come to the celebration that Jesus has given us new life, all those other things will naturally happen in our lives, because the life I now live, I am living totally set apart for God, who loves me and gave Himself for me, and He will do nothing less than the best for me, and I know that is true because he gave Himself for me to prove it, and He came that I might have life and that more abundant, and as our Shepherd He will lead us to a place that is best for us. By the way, the word there for abundant means “superior in quality, extraordinary, remarkable, more excellent, uncommon”. What kind of life do you want to live? Ordinary or extraordinary?

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ *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.*

John 10:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.* ¹¹ *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

Ten Things we will Learn in 6 chapters:

1. There is only 1 Gospel
 - a. There is no other way to salvation except by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. We are justified by Faith in Jesus Christ
 - a. The work of Jesus on the cross, there is nothing we can add to it or take away from it. Justification is by grace through faith.
3. Believers are to be identified with the Crucifixion (Gal 2:20)
 - a. We need to see ourselves dying there on the cross, the old man nailed there with all his sins, and rising again into new life. A picture of baptism.
4. The Law is never able to give life.
 - a. The law only shows us we are dead, the law serves as a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, to show us a need for a Savior, but the Law is not and cannot be a Savior, it just shows us the need for a Savior.
5. By Faith we become the Sons and Daughters of God the Father in heaven (adopted into the family)
 - a. Once we are born-again we can call Him Father, Abba, just like Jesus did.
6. All Believers are One in the Lord (we are all part of the same body)
 - a. We are all one body, and every part has a function and is vital for the life of the body. The body has different functions, the eyes do something different than the feet, and they work together to function the body. God has a function for you in His body, and each is vital. No one is better, and no one is less, for each have a unique function in the body. We are one.
7. We are called into a position of Freedom
 - a. When the Son sets you free you are free indeed (John 8:36). Jesus sets us free, yet how often we put ourselves back into bondage. Bondages of doubt, addictions, prejudices, we get tangled up and are anything but free. There is only one way to be free in this world, and it is not a better income, more obedient children, more respect, a spouse, but the only way to be free is to recognize and believe by faith our position in Jesus.
8. There will always be a constant struggle between the flesh and the Spirit.
 - a. You who have been saved for a long time, don't beat yourself up thinking you should be perfect, for you will not win every battle against the flesh, that won't happen until you are in your new body apart from this fallen one. You who are new in the Lord, victories don't happen overnight, don't quit on yourself thinking you just can't do it. Just keep walking and the Lord will grow you and mature you. For everyone, be careful when you think you got it all together, for it is a fact that there will always be a struggle between the flesh and the Spirit.
9. God has promised every believer His Holy Spirit

- a. We receive that Spirit by faith, and it is a free gift, and His Spirit will help us and lead us in living out our faith.
10. The Holy Spirit Produces Fruit in the True Believer
- a. It is not us that produces the fruit. We are tapped to the vine, and when tapped to the vine “Fruit Happens”. This fruit is fruit that remains, and it eternal. Do you want to be fruitful, then walk with the Lord, and “Fruit Happens”.

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

Galatians 1:7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Quick to the Point / Verse 6 undoes Verse 5

This letter is the quickest to the point of any letter Paul has written. There is a problem and Paul is going to get to the point quickly because verse 6, will undo, all the glory of verse 3-5. Turning to another gospel rather than this one true gospel will make life anything but extraordinary, it will make a life of bondage, emptiness, and burdensome.

The Why he Writes

These verses are “the why” of why Paul is writing this letter

Marvel – Blown Away – Leave the 1 who Rescued You

I marvel – I am blown away, astonished, I am shocked and dumbfounded that you could leave this gospel that rescued you. The people in Galatia are turning away from this pure and simple gospel. The verb translated surprised includes an element of intense unbelief.

I can Say Same Today

I can say the same thing today, I am blown away, astonished, dumbfounded, a Vulcan-mind melt that someone could turn away from this gospel. I am blown away even still when I share Christ with someone, tell them the God in heaven loves them, died for them, and will receive them if they desire to come to Him, and then to hear people say, no thanks, I am not interested. My mind can’t wrap around that. But then, even more so is people who receive Jesus, the joy of salvation, living and just singing praise from their lips that He saved them and loved them, and life was just that simple, everything else was just minor details. But then, something distracts them, something becomes more important, something takes them away from that simplicity of Jesus loves me, this I know. People get distracted by the things of the world, or people get distracted by adding on what they have to do to be a good Christian, and in both cases they leave the simple joy that God intended, I love you, all I want is to be with you, and when we are together all the other things will take care of themselves naturally.

What is Happening in Context of Galatia / Paul preaches Gospel – Judaizers follow Behind

What is happening here in the context of this epistle, is Paul on missionary trips is preaching Jesus Christ Him crucified, that man can be cleansed and forgiven of their sin and have a personal relationship with God by believing that Jesus took their punishment for offending God by their personal sin, and a man or woman need only to believe by faith that Jesus took their punishment, that they then are forgiven. Done, period, believe and receive eternal life. But now as Paul moves on to his next missionary journey, men come from Jerusalem and say yes salvation comes through Jesus, but you also have to keep all the Laws and Regulations as prescribed by God to Moses. You have to keep the dietary laws, the law of circumcision, and the law of the Sabbath. So it is half what Jesus did, and half what you do, to be saved.

Trouble You – Make Seasick / Dress like This – Read 3&3 – 3 to thrive / Then God loves You

Verse 7 – some that trouble you - The Greek word translated “trouble” means “seasick.” It’s the same word used in Matthew 14:26, when, in the midst of a storm, the disciples were troubled when they saw Jesus walking on the water. The word connotes queasiness. I wonder how many people get seasick at the thought of what people tell them is the requirement to come before God. Hey you got to dress like this, go to church 3 times a week (because

it takes 3 to thrive), read 3 chapters OT and 3 NT, no makeup, no long pants if you are a woman, no long hair if you are a man, (don't drink, don't smoke, don't chew, nor date girls that do), you got to stop doing that, and after you get all that taken care of then you can come before God. Imagine the message that is received when a person hears some of the versions of this this perverted gospel, they hear God doesn't want you in His presence unless you make yourself perfect first.

Lake Charles Church

I remember going to a church in Louisiana that had all those rules, and I worked with one of their leaders. He was totally all about the rules. One day he was out sick and they had to open his desk to get files out and they found a stack of girly magazines. Talk about seasick, he was bound and battled with lust but still pounding with the rules. He had no one to talk to because they would tell him he was not saved and probably kick him out of the church. Grace when understood, knows you don't have to do it alone, but God will come and do it with you. The rules say it is all up to you, get it right or get out.

Pervert – Change from Original Design

Verse 7 – Pervert – Means to distort or change around the original design. Too many people out there teaching from the “New Revised Standard Perversion” translation of the Word of God.

Called for Definitive Purpose

Verse 6 - who called you in the grace of Christ - From him who called you into the grace of Christ. The One who called the Galatians was God. Called is from kaleo (καλεο). Its distinctive use in the New Testament is to call a person for a definite purpose. Consider that today, you weren't randomly called, you were not just global marketing campaign to get as many followers as possible, you were called with a definitive purpose, to live an extraordinary life with God Himself, personally and intimately. Live like it, let us not live life just going through it, but live believing God has something extraordinary for you, that He will do great things in you and through you.

Galatians 1:8 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.

Accursed – Damned and Doomed / That is Heavy you may Say

Verse 8 – let him be accursed – accursed means to be damned, doomed to destruction. Teach anything other than this gospel of grace, being justified by faith in the work of Jesus Christ Him crucified, and you will be damned to eternal destruction. Teach that all roads lead to God and you will be damned, teach that good works will get you to heaven and you will be damned, teach anything other than this one true Gospel and you will be damned. That is heavy you may say, that is fire and brimstone you may think, but God is so direct and does not mix words, because the people who change this gospel rob people from eternal life and extraordinary life. Another gospel robs marriages, robs family, and robs countries, because it separates people from Jesus Christ the only place for true life!

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

What is the Gospel

What is the gospel of Christ? It is easily summed up in a verse or two, God doesn't make it complicate, He makes it real easy and clear to understand.

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NKJV) ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Gospel means Good News

The word gospel, what does it mean? It means “good news”. The Gospel is good news! This word for gospel in the Greek is “euangelion”. From its root words it was used in the following manner:

- To bring glad tidings (good news, the God of the universe brings you glad tidings, He knows your name and wants to speak to you personally)

- To declare a message from the king (good news the King of the universe loves you)
- It was used to declare the birth of a child (good news to you Jesus Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem is God's gift to you).
- It was used to declare victory of an enemy (good news Jesus has beaten sin, the devil, and death)
- It was used to declare a promise (good news God promises you eternal life and a personal relationship with Him today and into eternity)
- And, has its origins in the soap merchants of ancient times who would advertise their wares by calling out, "Good news!" upon entering a town. In those days before deodorant or cologne, the arrival of soap was good news indeed! (Good news to you, your sins have been washed away, clean, white as snow, you have and can a new beginning today).

Mormons – angel Moroni

Verse 8 – or an angel from heaven - "The two sticks in Ezekiel 37 refer to the Gospel and the Book of Mormon," said the angel Moroni. "Put on these glasses, Joseph, and you'll see another gospel, a further revelation." Mormons teach that Jesus and Satan are brothers, Jesus is not God. Now the Mormons teach that God wanted to redeem man from his sin and called the two sons to the throne and said make a plan for me to redeem man. Upon completion God the Father said I like Jesus' plan that is what I will do; Satan got made and rebelled and set his whole purpose to destroy Jesus and his plan. So, Jesus' plan involved him becoming a man, so God the father left heaven and came and had sexual relationships with Mary, and Jesus was born. Does this sound like the gospel to you? And after you believe in Jesus, you now also have to keep all the Mormon dogma that Joseph Smith is a prophet (one as great as Jesus), that you have to keep all these Mormon rules, and then after you die you will become a god and get your own planet to rule. Does this sound like the gospel that we read in this bible? Of course not, hence why the Mormons need the Book of Mormon, so they could rewrite the gospel. The Book of Mormon was given to Joseph Smith the founder of the Mormon religion by the angel Moroni (as he says). Too bad Joseph Smith and all the Mormon followers don't read and believe this verse. He who teaches any other gospel, let him be accursed.

It is Good News – Tell it as Such / Paul not Ashamed of the Gospel

It is good news, is that how you tell people the gospel, do you tell it as good news? John 3, Jesus came to save the world, not to condemn it, that is good news, so tell others like it really is, it is good news! Paul said he was not ashamed of the gospel, and why should he be or anyone else be, it is good news God came to save you, God loves you, and you only need to believe it to receive it, and He will come and give you eternal life and an extraordinary life. That is GOOD NEWS, and we need not be ashamed of it regardless of how the country may be saying shut up and be quiet for you are making uncomfortable, don't shine the light on me it shows things I don't want to change from. It is good news, you can be free and have eternal life, extraordinary life, better than your life today, what isn't good about that!

John 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Romans 1:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

All Grace

It is all grace, nothing of ourselves, nothing we need to add.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

What about Works – John 6, the Works of God

What about works? Jesus tells us what the works of God are, actually is in John 6.

John 6:28–29 (NKJV) ²⁸ Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

We need not Fear Proclaiming Grace / what did God do For Us – He grew Us – Matured Us / When Love God

We Christians can be so afraid that if we proclaim this grace, that people will pervert it, misuse it, live any way they want. So we think we have to give them rules. How did it work for us? We got saved by grace, not of works, then what did God do? He began to teach us, to mature us, to grow us. As we understand His grace and His love, as we grow and mature, we just naturally start to be like Him and do the things that love does. When you love like God, no one needs to tell you not to hate, not to steal, not to mistreat people. Love just naturally leads us to live according to the law, which is an amazing dynamic. And, God by grace now lives in us, and He teaches us, helps us, in living according to the law. What is the law for today in the land we live, it is to keep order and protection, and that is why God gives us the commands/law, so that we might be protected from harm.

Romans 13:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Galatians 5:22–26 (NKJV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Here is a Key – You can Preach Grace after you Present the Law

Here is a great key, and that is you can preach grace after you present (not preach) the Law. When a person clearly sees sin, then they clearly see the offense, then they clearly see the Savior, and they will follow that Savior anywhere, it just takes time for them to mature along the way like every child grows up. If they don’t get the Law, the offense, the need for the Savior, then listen.....they didn’t get the grace part either, because they just didn’t get the whole reason for grace. How can we tell, well we will know them by their fruit. What if they are fruitless, well fruit takes time to grow. If still years later and no fruit, that I very concerning..... but it doesn’t change the gospel, and the gospel we present.

Matthew 7:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Clean the Fish after the Catch

So, God cleans the fish after He catches them. God took me with my anger issues, my temper, my arrogance and pride, my mouth, my selfishness. You just preach the gospel, God will clean them after He catches them, may we not try to clean them before we bring them to Christ.

Greg L Story

Just another word along this line of grace and maturity. I remember shortly after I got saved and I was talking to a good friend of mine who had just got saved himself. I remember him challenging me about grace. He felt I was legalistic because I said it was wrong for him to be living with his girlfriend who just got saved herself. I was totally irritated by him, I was angry, only by the grace of God I look back on see how I didn’t lose my witness on him by giving him a fire and brimstone rebuke. It burned me up for days, I continually thought about it for days. God allowed me to burn over it for days, because the whole thing broke one day when I said to the Lord, “it is not fair”. It is not fair that I sacrifice and he doesn’t yet both of us are saved. That is when God put His finger on my heart and said what is it that you are really upset about? Then I immediately saw it, I was mad because I wanted the freedom to do the same things. It wasn’t really that I cared that he was doing it, so much that I wanted to. I think sometimes we want to put the rules and the trips on people because we want them to “have” to do the same thing we are doing, because misery loves company. God grew me, matured me, showed me that His Word was for my best, it was His way of protecting me and providing for me, and I showed myself every time I thought I knew better and did what I wanted, it eventually (not immediately) turned bad for me. Now, when I share with people of the “why” of God’s word it isn’t because I want them to join my club, but because I know that God knows, what is best for them.

Galatians 1:9 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.

Paul Repeats / It is Urgent / There is No Other Gospel

Paul repeats this statement again here just a sentence later. He is making a point, a strong point, and thus the reason for this letter that he writes so urgently. This word is true for us today also, may we preach (proclaim) no other gospel than this one true gospel.

This Gospel Delivers from Evil Age / Kakos - Poneros

It is this gospel, the one and only true gospel, that can deliver a person from this present evil age (v.4). The word evil is not from kakos (κακος) here but poneros (πονερος). In the latter word, the positive activity of evil comes out far more decidedly than in the former. The kakos (κακος) man may be content to perish in his own corruption, but the poneros (πονερος) man is not content unless he is corrupting others as well, and drawing them into the same destruction with himself. Satan is not called the kakos (κακος) one but the poneros (πονερος) one. This present age is described by Paul as poneros (πονερος). The English word which best translate this Greek word is pernicious. Webster says, "That is pernicious which works mischief or destruction." This present age therefore is not content to perish in its own corruption, but seeks to drag all men with it down to its own inevitable destruction. The outstanding philosophy of religion of this present pernicious age is, that acceptance with Deity is by means of the good works of the individual. Every system of religion except that in the Bible bases salvation upon the good works of the worshipper. The Judaizers were part of this present evil age. Their system, not content with dragging down its own devotees to destruction, was attempting to pull down the Christian Church with it. Paul says that the substitutionary atonement of the Lord Jesus is that which will rescue the poor lost sinner from the clutches of the pernicious teaching of the Judaizers.

Wuest, K. S. (1997). Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader (Ga 1:4). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Galatians 1:10 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.

Verse 1 – Not through Man / Pleasing to God – and Extraordinary Life

Paul has already established in verse 1 that his calling was through God and not through or by man. So when you got that part settled, you won't fear man and what he thinks, you will just seek to live pleasing to the Lord, and that always results in an extraordinary life.

Galatians were Fickle / Acts 14

We know Paul doesn't do it because of man, else he would be staying as far away from these people in Galatia, for they were totally fickle. Paul experienced firsthand the fickle nature of these people when, after he healed a lame man, the Galatians bowed before him and worshiped him as Jupiter. That was in the morning. In the evening, the same people picked up rocks, threw them at Paul, and left him for dead outside the city in response to a whispering campaign instigated by his enemies (Acts 14).

We have the Gospel to Proclaim – It is Good News – Tell it as Such / We must be True to the Gospel

People are fickle, confusion, or deceived, but we are to keep on keeping on. We have a gospel to proclaim, and it is good news, don't preach it as if it is not. We now are called to pick up the ministry from Paul and take it to a lost and dying world. We as a believer must be true to this gospel, if we truly believe that heaven and hell are on the line than we need to be true to this Gospel, the one and only, the one true gospel, and we must tell anyone who will listen this is the gift, the Good News offered to you.

You here Today – It is a Gift to You / God's Testimony

If you are here today, here is the gospel, it is a gift for you and to you today. This Good News is God's testimony to you, a promise that can't change. When my son was on life support for 3 days, when I watched his chest expand and contract like a balloon, that is etched upon my mind forever and I will never forget it. God's testimony to you today is that He will never forget His Son on the cross, the 6 hours that Friday on hill outside Palestine, as He watched His only begotten Son suffer and die, and God says to you that He will never forget the cross, He will

never forget the cross, and when He looks at you He remembers His Son and what His Son did for you..... and your promise is sealed, sealed with the precious blood of Jesus, and it is your today for the receiving. Will you receive Him today?

End of Study

Galatians 1:10-24

The Why / The Theme / Justified by Faith – It is ALL Grace

Paul is writing this letter, you can read the sense of urgency in it, and it is urgent because people are turning away from the one true gospel, and adding works on to the finished work of Christ on the cross. When Jesus said it was done, He meant it. The theme of the book, the message Paul is urgent about, is that the just shall live by faith, that it is all the grace of God and there is nothing man needs to do, has to do, to add on to “the good news”. I sense the urgency today as this gospel seems to have two extremes, one extreme it is being changed, muddled, watered-down and people are deceived into believing they say a few words and then live as they feel but they are saved, and then the other extreme is people add to this gospel thinking their works are needed to get saved and stay in the graces of God.

Galatians 1:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

All Grace

It is all grace, nothing of ourselves, nothing we need to add. Man is justified through faith. When a person lives by faith, then God lives in them and through them, and all things become clear and thus God guides them on how to walk this walk as sons and daughters.

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

If Backslidden – Come Home

If you have fallen, backslidden, walked away, this epistle is God's heart to you, and that is that it is all grace. God received you through grace, and He continues to keep us through that same grace, and He speaks to you today to come home, come back to Him, where His arms are open to receive you back. Hear His words, come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Come home, your Father in Heaven is waiting for you.

Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV) ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Outline:

- In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.
- Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul's doctrinal instruction about grace.
- Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.

Writing to Churches in Galatia / European Background

Paul is writing to the churches (plural) in Galatia. There are several churches the will get this letter. One church will get it, and then read it to the congregation, and then pass it on to the next church. It is what we call a circular letter. This letter is closer to home than we may think, all of us with a European background. The inhabitants of Galatia are the same people racially as the ancient inhabitants of Ireland, Wales, and the Highlands of Scotland, also of France and northern Spain. They spread from Galatia over into western Europe and settled France and northern Spain, and then came over to the British Isles. As many of us are somewhat linked with these different groups which we have mentioned, we should have a special interest in the epistle to the Galatians

Galatians 1:10 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.

Persuade – Seek to Win & be Close / It will Consume You – Are they Happy – The Problem of the Week

Verse 10 - For do I now persuade men, or God? - Persuade means to seek to win and be close to. Paul is saying that he isn't trying to seek and be close to people, because if he does than he can't be God's servant. If you try to keep people happy, you will never be able to draw near to God because you will always wonder, worry, strive, and be consumed with the question "are they happy", and that worry and concern will consume you, because as I said last week, there is always the problem of the week, problem of the day, and it will separate you from the Lord. If you are going to be a servant of the Lord you have to accept that you can't please both man and God.

Lead Orchestra / Proverbs 29 – Fear of Man brings a Snare

It has been said, if you are going to lead the orchestra you are going to have to turn your back on the crowd. Proverbs 29:25, the fear of man brings a snare. How many times through the scriptures we see the demise and fall of a man who feared man. Pilate, feared man and didn't do what was right and just.

Proverbs 29:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

Story Man & Donkey

There was an elderly man who had a donkey that he used in his field, but the donkey was now too old to be able to handle the heavy workload, but was still useful in light duty work, so the man thought that before this donkey is completely useless I will take him to town and at least make a few dollars for he really needed money to support his grandson he was helping to raise,. So to town he goes, and his grandson wants to come along, and so there they are granddad, grandson, and donkey in tow. It is miles and miles to town. As they pass one of the homes of a family who volunteered at the local youth development programs who says oh my look at that, that granddad is making his grandson walk, isn't that ashamed? The grandfather heard that and said oh I don't want people to think that, so he puts his grandson on the donkey. They go just a little further and pass another house and that family sitting out front who volunteer at the local elderly home and they says look at that, isn't that ashamed, look that young boy is making that elderly man walk while he is riding, these kids these days. The grandfather hearing that says I don't want people to think that of my grandson, so he jumps up on that old donkey too. They go a little further and pass another family who volunteer at the local PETA who say isn't that ashamed look at those two making that old donkey carry the two of them, how sad. The elderly man and the grandson decided to carry the donkey and that would make everyone happy, but as they crossed a bridge they stumbled and lost grip of the heavy donkey and it fell into the water below and was swept away out of their sight by the rushing current. Yes, this is a silly story, but it speaks a truth, everyone has an opinion, everyone has a position and that is their thing, and you will never be able to please everyone's position, and in the end you will not do what you had set out to do in the first place.

Aristotle

There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing. — Aristotle

Be Free – Fear God

At any moment we are either fearing man, or we are fearing God. Be free, fear God, do what He says, when He says, and do it how He says. Don't worry what man may say, think, or respond. Paul can preach and live in power, because He has one purpose, to please God.

Galatians 1:11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

Galatians 1:12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

Straight from Jesus / Gospel you Received From Jesus – Not Man

Paul said this gospel of grace is right from Jesus himself that is where I got it. He didn't get information of Jesus, but from Jesus. Now the same is true for you by the way, the gospel you received is not of man but from God Himself, He supernaturally through the work of His Holy Spirit gave it to you, and then it became yours personally.

Destroy – Wasted It / Military Term / Widow Maker – What is it You have Done / Grace can't have Bounds

Verse 13 – tried to destroy it - Paul said he destroyed the church, another translation would read that he wasted it. It is a military term, he went at them like it was a war with an enemy. This is Paul's testimony, this is what Paul was doing before The Lord met him on the road to Damascus. The account of Saul's life begins in Acts 7 with the stoning of Steven, and then Acts 9 you read of his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Paul was out there making widows and orphans. So, what is that thing you have done that you think The Lord will never forgive you of? If there was something that you couldn't be forgiven of, then it couldn't be called the gospel of grace, because it would be bound by human limits.

Galatians 1:14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

Judaism – Religion of the Jews / Holy Spirit is Disowning It / Man Corrupts – Who would Want It

Verse 14 - in Judaism - Notice twice now Paul calls it Judaism (verse 13 and 14), maybe your translations say the religion of the Jews, and notice that he doesn't call it God's religion. For what Paul was doing and what the religious leaders in Jerusalem were doing was not of God, this was their man made version of what God had passed down to Moses. Holy Spirit is disowning the work of the Jews. Man loves to corrupt the things of God, the things that are so pure and protecting, and then make them into something that is nothing of the Lord, but dish it out to the world who says no thanks, why would I want to be part of that.

OT Law was still Beautiful

Even Old Testament Law (Law given to Moses) was to prove man couldn't do it on own and needs a savior, needs grace, the word grace used as "beauty and charm", and through His grace we see His beauty and charm the love He has for us. Like a man wooing a woman to become his bride. The Law showed man could do it on own, but God still provided a way for man to come to Him and that was through faith that God would still receive them through the OT sacrificial system.

Traditions of the Father / Some still Living in Traditions of Fathers

Verse 14 - being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers - So Paul was zealous for the traditions of the fathers. The traditions of the fathers - and I am afraid that there may be some of you that are still living in the traditions of your father. A family religion that you may be afraid of walking away because you know it will upset them, they will be disappointed that you have left the family religion and traditions, that Sunday dinners and holiday celebrations will not be the same should you go all in to follow Jesus. You must go, you must leave the family religion, for God the Truth is speaking to you to come, and you must come now, for later may be too late, and you will be locked into that lifeless religion of your family. Leave it, come to Jesus, and then go back to your family and bring them into new life, free them from a religion that is in tradition only, and lacks the power to make them new creations and to give them eternal life.

Paul Best of the Best / Philippians 3:5-6

Verse 14 - I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation - Paul said I was the best of the best when it came to keeping the rules and regulation.

- you say worship here I got there early to reserve my spot,
- you say worship on this day I set my alarm clock to not miss it,
- you say eat this I showed up with napkin in shirt and fork and spoon in hand.

I was the best of the best in keeping all the rules and regulation, and I was zealous to keep watch out for anyone else who wasn't doing the same.

Philippians 3:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Paul had the Fill of Law – And Found it Empty

Paul the apostle had followed the law of God circumspectly. He had followed it down all the way. He writes concerning himself that "as far as the righteousness which is of the law is concerned, I was blameless" (Philippians 3:6). And so Paul speaks of his zeal above his own peers. His zeal for the lost, his zeal for God according to the law and all was above those around him. And yet Paul found himself zealously following the law still empty and frustrated and he did not find the fulfillment. And that is why when he came to the glorious knowledge of Jesus Christ he was so transformed because he had followed the law all the way as far as you could and didn't find the peace. Now Peter could not really be the emissary of grace because Peter had not really followed the law that circumspectly, you see.

Importance of Paul's Pedigree – He knew Law & Wasn't Ignorant of It

The importance of Paul's pedigree is that no one can say Paul didn't include the law in the gospel because he was ignorant of the law. By birth and training, he was steeped in the law. By personal choice, he became a notorious persecutor of the church. In passionate zeal for the traditions of his fathers, he surpassed many other Jews of his own age. Therefore, his gospel of salvation by faith apart from the law could certainly not be attributed to any ignorance of the law. Why then did he omit it from his preaching? Why did his gospel run counter to his background, his natural inclinations, and his whole religious development? Simply because it was not the result of his own thinking, but was given to him directly by God.

**Galatians 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
Galatians 1:16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,**

There is Specific Time

When it pleased God. There was a specific time that God ordained for Paul to be saved.

It Pleased God to Save You / You are His Delight & Treasure

Grab unto to those words, when it pleased God, and know that it pleased God to save you and separate you unto Himself. You are His delight, you are His treasure, and you please Him tremendously. Let no lie you tell yourself take you away from that fact, you please God.

God Separates – Not Man – No Abortion

Separated me from my mother's womb - we could read right through that and miss this, but let it be noted and clear, that it is God who is to separate the child from the womb, not man, and thus it is not for man to end the life of a child in the womb.

Paul realized God had Specific Calling on his Life / Verse 6 – Distinctive Calling

God ... separated me from my mother's womb. Paul realized that even before his birth, he had been set apart by God for a special work. God has a special purpose for you in your life. Back in verse 6, the word for calling means to have a definitive and distinctive calling, a purpose for the calling, and God has a specific purpose for you on earth and each of us should seek it out and find it out, what is it Lord, what is my specific calling. Paul, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, and you..... all called and separated unto God while still in the womb. Let us go out and live it as it was determined. We are not ordinary people, but extraordinary because we have been formed in the womb by God Himself, and then separated unto Him for His good pleasure (Revelation 4:11).

Galatians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

Revelation 4:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Paul got Sidetracked into Religion / God waits for you even When Sidetracked

Paul got himself sidetracked from what God had intended. Even though I was a Jew's Jew," Paul argued, "God had something else in mind for me. From my mother's womb, I was called into the ministry of sharing the Good News of the gospel. Sidetracked for a while, I got involved in religion. God, however, knew all along that I would be an

apostle of the gospel of grace.” God waits for you, even when you are off in the wrong place, He waits knowing that you will get it and turn towards Him.

Called through Grace / Not Hell / This Story is your Story

Verse 15 - and called me through His grace, -He adds that God called me through His grace, referring to his conversion on the road to Damascus. If he had received what he deserved at that moment, he would have been cast into hell. But Christ, in wonderful grace, saved him and sent him out to preach the faith he had sought to destroy. Thank God for His grace, can we give the same to others like Jesus did for Paul, like Jesus did for us. Do you think you are only reading the story about Paul? Well you are not, you are reading a story about yourself, a story about a God who it pleases to separate you to His gospel of salvation and then to use you. Because it is all grace, and that grace will do for you the same it did for Paul

Do we Give same Grace to Others / Grace Unites – Cannot be Defeated

It is a treasure to consider how God views us, but let us not forget either that is how God views the person to your right and left, so how about us giving grace to each other just as God gives to us. Why not come alongside of God and pour out grace upon that brother or sister. Why let anyone have to go 3 years or 17 years without the human element of grace. I will tell you giving grace is as vital for each of us personally, because as we united as one, we have a strong body, and a body untied, cannot be defeated, it is too strong to be lose.

Galatians 1:16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

Galatians 1:17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Into Arabia – D.D. / Doctorate of the Desert

In verse 17 he says, “I went to Arabia.” Every servant of the Lord needs a time of seclusion and meditation. Moses had his forty years on the backside of the desert. David was alone with God while he tended sheep on the hillsides of Judea. Paul said I didn’t go to get confirmation from man, I didn’t go to Jerusalem, I went out into the wilderness of Arabia to be alone with God. In religious circles today, it’s impressive to have a D.D.—a Doctorate of Divinity. Paul had a D.D.—a Doctorate of the Desert. He was in good company: Moses, John the Baptist, and Jesus all spent time in the desert.

Maybe Difficult Days for You / John on Island Patmos

Maybe these are dry, difficult days for you. It could be that God wants to reveal Jesus Christ to you in a fresh way. For that to happen, He may do to you what He did to John the apostle when He sent him to Patmos....

- At one hundred years of age, John was exiled to Patmos—a rocky, barren, seemingly God-forsaken island. It was a tough situation, and, no doubt, John questioned what was going on. “I’m old,” he could have said. “I’ve trusted in the Lord. I’m linked to Him. Why this isolation?” When he saw Jesus Christ, John started writing. Twenty-two chapters later, the Book of Revelation was complete. When was revelation given to John? When he was isolated on an island.

Perhaps you’re at a point where you’re saying, “Who can I talk to?” or, “What counsel can I receive?”—when the Lord may have you on an island of isolation for a season in order to give you a revelation of Jesus Christ. Don’t bemoan your condition. Don’t bewail your situation. Worship the Lord. Draw close to Him. Be still—and you will see Him in ways you never would have had you been anywhere else.

Never Heard Paul Complain

Interestingly you never hear Paul complaining about his time in the wilderness and isolation, if anything you read that he quite enjoyed it.

Maybe God waiting for a Breakthrough Moment with You

Paul doesn’t just get a revelation of grace, but when he leaves he has a dedication to preach grace that can’t be moved by the world or man, regardless how difficult it gets. And so here is another thought for you, while you are

in the desert, you may get a revelation, a message to share, or God may be waiting for you to come to a point of desperation so He can have all of you, or all of a particular thing you are desiring

- Hannah could be called “the First Lady of Prayer” because she’s the first woman whose petition is recorded in Scripture. Her story is related in some detail, showing us how God uses deep human need as a springboard to accomplish his purposes. Whenever he does this, believers receive answers they can hardly believe. God uses deep human need as a springboard to accomplish his purposes. Whenever he does this, believers receive answers they can hardly believe. Hannah lived in Israel during an era of great lawlessness, a time when no king ruled and “everyone did as he saw fit” (Judges 21:25). To make matters worse, she shared her husband, Elkanah, with an unpleasant woman named Peninnah, who was his second wife. Hannah’s inability to have children made her the constant brunt of Peninnah’s taunts. Year after year this man [Elkanah] went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh. . . . Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. And because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat (1 Samuel 1:3–7). Constantly tormented, with no offspring of her own, weeping and unable to eat, Hannah seemed mired in a hopeless situation. In the midst of her pain, she didn’t know what God was about to do. She had no idea that he was going to raise up a prophet who would lead his wayward people back to himself. Nor did she know that God would choose her, among all the women of Israel, to bear that child. God chose this heartbroken woman out of compassion and grace. And he used a remarkable method to bring about the birth of Hannah’s son, Samuel. Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD’s temple. In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. And she made a vow, saying, “O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life” (1 Samuel 1:9–11). This prayer, one of the greatest in the Bible, not only changed Hannah’s life, but also altered the history of Israel. Scripture doesn’t say what finally drove Hannah to stand and pray that day, but it led to a breakthrough moment with God. This is the process the Lord often uses—working out his plans through weak human beings who feel compelled by their need to pray. Incredibly, we have the same potential in prayer that Hannah did. Like Hannah, our “breaking point” can lead to a “breakthrough” if it spurs us to call on God. Hannah asked for a son, but God gave her much more. The long, depressing cycle that had continued year after year was broken in just a few moments spent with God. The same can be true for us today because we pray to the same God Hannah prayed to—an unchanging God.

Soul mate / Job / Child

Now maybe, just maybe, you are waiting for something, and God wants to bring you to a place of deep revelation and breakthrough on the matter, so you can dedicate it to Him fully. Maybe you are:

- Maybe you are waiting for that soul mate for life, maybe God is waiting on you to come to a place where you want to give your life to someone, draw them closer to Christ, and to serve Him together, whereas you just don’t want to be alone.
- Maybe you want a job change to be more comfortable, but God is bringing you to a place that you say Lord I want a job where I can bring you glory, not make my life comfortable.
- Maybe you want a child, and maybe God is working in you what he worked in Hannana, where He wants you to say Lord give me a child so that he/she might serve you, change this world.

Galatians 1:18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

Galatians 1:19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.

Piecing together with Acts – About 6 Years

So he didn’t get back to Jerusalem until about six-and-a-half, seven years after his conversion. He had gone from Jerusalem to Damascus to imprison the Christians, those that call upon God. He was met by Christ on the road so

that when he got to Damascus he was a changed man. He ministered to the Christians that were there but realized that he needed to know more and went out into the deserts of Arabia and waited upon Jesus where he received the glorious revelation for three-and-a-half years; returned then to Damascus to stay there and now taught them for three years. And then finally came to Jerusalem.

Nobody Greets him in Jerusalem / 2 Sundays not Allowed In

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem and spent two weeks with Peter. The 12 disciples got 3 years with Jesus, and so did the apostle Paul, who got a one-on-one course. So he spent some time with James he adds, but just a little. Where were the other ten, why didn't they come and meet with Paul, why didn't they come and encourage him? Do you realize Paul is there for 15 days, that is two Sundays, yet Paul only sees Peter and James, and thus what it means is that Paul wasn't allowed into the church there in Jerusalem.

15 days with Peter / Not for Information Confirmation / To Hang Out / Take them through Baltimore

So Paul spends 15 days with Peter. The word "to see" means to get acquainted, but it has nothing to do with receiving information. Paul didn't go to see Peter to ask if he thought Paul was on target with the message. Paul knew what he had heard from God was from God, there was nothing for anyone to add to that or take away from. He goes to Jerusalem to hang out with Peter. Now when people come to town I take them to places of interest, I take them to the harbor, Annapolis, Gettysburg, and other places that are special to me. Imagine Peter taking Paul to the place of the last supper in the upper room and describing the foot washing, the laughter, the joy but then things got serious, and said one will betray Him. Then Peter describing the touch of Jesus in the foot washing. And then the Garden of Gethsemane saying ohh and Jesus sweat drops of blood for you and for me, and then to here is where he was beaten, scourged, over there was where the mock trial, and here is where I denied Him, there is where the rooster crowed, yet he never gave up on me. Then to Golgotha, and saying this is where is happened. Imagine swinging by where they cowered for three days saying we had no idea what was going on. And then to the Garden Tomb and saying right there, that one, it was and still is empty. Then, here is where He appeared to me that Resurrection Sunday. Oh, got to show you this, here is where the Holy Spirit fell on the Day of Pentecost, it was glorious.

I Pray we get to Retell the Story

I pray the lord gives us opportunity retell who He is and what we have experienced. We get to do what Peter did with Paul, and you know Paul is hanging on every word, and i pray we get the same opportunity. Lord, we are presenting ourselves and say Lord have your way and please use us to tell this story again and again

Galatians 1:19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Jesus had Brothers / Resurrection Changes Everything / The Book of James

Jesus had brothers and sisters. It is not until after the resurrection that they realized Jesus was who He said He was. The resurrection changes everything, it changes the way we see, our understanding. When you read the book of James read it in the context that he didn't know Jesus was God until after the resurrection.

- So when he says don't show partiality he knows what he is talking about, hey you never know just what God will do with that person you think is nuts.
- When he says watch your tongue, he probably reflects back to times where he told Jesus you are nuts.

So may we like James, look upon everyone as what God can do with them, and remember for ourselves, the resurrection is pure power, and when the resurrection happens in someone's life, my what can happen in the world they walk.

Paul first years Difficult – No Promise of Easy /

Paul's first several years as a Christian were difficult. Have you ever hear the gospel that says come to Jesus and all your troubles will go away. Finances will be great, marriage healed in a moment, everyone will love you, and all your enemies will say they are sorry, everyone will go out of their way for you.

I had no Enemies until Saved / Didn't Stand for Anything

You know what, before I got saved I didn't have enemies, for the most part everyone liked me. Do you know why, because I didn't stand for anything, at least nothing of any value, therefore I didn't offend anyone. But when I got saved, the same people who loved me started to distance themselves from me, and many even turned against me, because they didn't like what I stood for, it made them upset that they saw someone who stood for righteousness, and that made them very uncomfortable in their sin. Sadly, that applies to people who profess Christ as their savior.

Paul 17 Years before Allowed in to Church / Won't be easy – Good because you Right on Track

Paul went 17 years before they finally allowed him to come to church. It was hard for Paul, and it never got easy. Yes we are studying a gospel of grace, it is all grace, but grace doesn't mean that it is going to be an easy life. Jesus said you will suffer persecution in this world. Jesus said if they hated me they will hate you. Hey, am I making you feel good right now? I hope I am actually, because I and we are right on track, right on schedule, everything is going exactly as Jesus said that it would, and if it wasn't then I would be very, very, very concerned if it wasn't.

Galatians 1:20 (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)

It is True / People under Influence of False Teachers / This Truth right from God

Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not." Strange that he should have to say this! Strange that these Galatians, his own converts, should think for a moment that he might be untruthful! But when one gets under the power of false teaching, as a rule he is ready to make all kinds of charges as to the integrity, the honesty of other people. And so it is here, and the apostle has to say, "The things that I am telling you are true. I am not lying. What I tell you is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. I received this gospel of grace straight from God Himself. Paul could teach grace, give grace, because he received it from God and not man, and thus his grace wasn't founded and established on how men treated him but how God did. What we read in Paul's life was that when man wasn't there for him, God was.

This is Story about Us – Separated by Grace

Do you think you are only reading the story about Paul? Well your are not, you are reading a story about yourself, a story about a God who it pleases to separate you to His gospel of salvation and then to use you. Because it is all grace, and that grace will do for you the same it did for Paul

Galatians 1:21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

Galatians 1:22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.

Galatians 1:23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy."

Galatians 1:24 And they glorified God in me.

Paul back to Damascus and Tarsus

So Paul went from Damascus seven years after his conversion and then went on back to Tarsus where he was born and he went back to making tents.

They Glorified God – No way he Saved / Know Anyone like Paul – Take a Chance

They glorified God after they heard what God had done in his life. So they ran from Paul, saying no way he could ever get saved, but God did save him. Do you know anyone who you think will never get saved, never change? If we do, then we don't believe in all the power that is spoken of and proven out in this bible that rest in our hands. If you know the truth, the power, the ability of God, then we owe it to not only them but ourselves to give them the offer to this great news.

We all dealing with Something / Here you Are – Still Going / Because you Believe / Onward only Direction

Well, lots of great insight into the life of Paul, and lots of things we can apply to our lives personally as we look at his life and consider ours. It seems to me that every person I talk to in this church all have something they are dealing with. Some singles are lonely, some folks are dealing with an illness, some squeezing pennies, others

estranged from their children, others fearful that they kids will be alright, it seems to me that you all have something that you are dealing with, yet..... Here you are, you keep going, you haven't quit or turned back, and why is that? Because you believe in Him who you put your trust in. You know it is hard, if it was up to you, you wouldn't be going through it, but you believe in Him who you trust and thus you continue on saying I won't turn back, there is only onward in Him, and upward in His calling, and quitting and turning back is not an option. Paul will say in chapter 6, don't grow tired of doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV) ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Coming Home

This week I had to travel to California, and when I landed in the airport in San Jose as I came down the steps there was a mother and grandmother, beaming! They were holding a sign that said "Welcome home Bret, thanks for your service to the Country". Obviously he was coming home from Afghanistan. What I immediately noticed was it was just the mom and grandma, no fanfare, serving in a war zone no longer carried the magnitude that is once did. I watched people walk by, hurrying to baggage claim, catching the shuttle bus, basically oblivious who was coming home. I waited, I wanted to watch the reunion with moms and a son, and I wanted to shake his hand and thank him for his service to this country. It was a beautiful reunion, I thought mom was going to break him as she held him so tight. It was my pleasure and honor to say welcome home and thank you on behalf of a grateful nation. I seen a glimpse of heaven that moment, as we labor in the midst of this war on this side of heaven, and see so many people don't recognize or realize our sacrifice and commitment that we have made to live fully for him. Many, even professing Christians, push past us to get tot their next stop, almost finding us an inconvenience to them. But I see a glimpse of heaven as when we arrive, there will be our Lord, arms wide, saying welcome home my son and daughter, I am so well pleased with you, you fought the good fight, all the way to the end, you finished the race and you finished well. I am so well pleased with you. Welcome Home! And how long the embrace will last is something we can ponder and look forward toGod holding you, as the mother held her son that day in the airport.

Chapter 2

Galatians 2:1-3

Paul teaching on Grace / It is All God – Man only Receives It / That is Good News / Not Based on Time Either

Paul is teaching and preaching on grace, unmerited favor, nothing man can do in himself except receive it. We have been justified (just-as-if-I-had-never-sinned), through faith. That work is all God, nothing of ourselves, therefore no man can boast. That is good news, and it remains good news, even if you had a lousy week in your personal walk, God says the grace, this grace, My grace still applies, you are justified. Thank God His grace is not only not based on me, but that it is also not based on time. The same grace that saved you is the same grace that keeps you. Maybe you feel you have blown it, you say how can I even call myself a Christian, I should just give up and call it quits, but The Lord wants you to hear from Him personally right now that His grace is timeless, boundless, impossible to quench. So if you had a week of failures, let downs, defeats, and stumbling, hear The Lord say My grace is yours today, just as it covered your yesterday, and will cover your tomorrow, as it covers your today right now, right at this moment, right in this place.

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”*

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Recap Chapter 1 – Paul saved on Road to Damascus / 3 Years in Arabia / 15 days with Peter

Paul we read in chapter one that he got saved on the Road to Damascus, did some preaching for a time in Damascus and surrounding region, and then spent 3 years in the Arabian desert being taught the message of grace by The Lord, and then he preached the message of grace in the surrounding regions, and then we ended chapter one that he went up to hang out with Peter in Jerusalem for 15 days just to get acquainted. Now we pick it up here in chapter two verse one about a specific time that he returns to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles to discuss the revelation of grace he had received by The Lord.

Galatians 2:1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me.

Galatians 2:2 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.

Galatians 2:3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

Life Nuggets

There are so many life nuggets when you study verse by verse, for you see a person like Paul living out life just like we do, and we get to see how he handled life. Paul isn't just writing a theological and doctrinal treatise, but he is living out life as he does and thus we can gain so much for ourselves in not only doctrine, but practical Christian living.

Back to verse 1, and let's hear what the Lord has for us today.

Galatians 2:1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me.

It is Now 17 Years later – Still wasn't Accepted / God counted the Days of Paul's Rejection / Book of Numbers

It is now 17 years later. 17 years of the apostles keeping a straight-arm distance from Paul because they don't trust him, they don't know if he is the real deal, if he is really even saved. How long would you have lasted with that type of rejection? I think probably in some form, some way, each of you here today have (still are) experiencing rejection, enduring a separation, looking at something from the outside, and The Lord wants you to see here in this verse He counted the number specifically. It doesn't say after several years, or say so many years I can't remember, but it says specifically 14 years, that is added to the 3 years specifically counted in chapter one, for a specific total of 17 years. Paul is writing under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that is God Himself, and God says write 3 and write 14, be very specific not just a general "it was many a years" but a very specific 17 years because The Lord wants Paul to know, wants you to know, that He knows, He has counted the years, He is fully aware of how long it has been of that thing you are experiencing. He is saying I walked every day of those long 17 years with you, I know your pain, I know how heavy it has been upon your heart, I have caught every one of your tears, and know this My love, that you have never ever walked one of those days alone, not one tear has ever dried away in the dirt, but I have stood with you and held on to you every day of those 17. The Lord knows your pain:

- of your spouse who won't come to Him,
- your child swept away by the love of the self and the world,
- that illness,
- the financial worries,
- your child with special needs.....

He says I know your pain, down to the day, I have recorded it in My book and you have not nor ever will walk this trial out alone. God loves you, you are precious to Him, He sees and feels your pain, and meant what He said of never leaving you nor forsaking you.

Psalm 56:8 (NKJV) ⁸ You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

Good for us to Go back up to Jerusalem / Remember Back where Saved Out of / Lift Praise for New Life

Verse 1 - Went up again to Jerusalem - I think it a good thing for all of us at times to go up to Jerusalem again. I don't mean to be born again, again, that was once and done for eternity; but what I mean is there is a time to go back and remember where you once were, and what God took you out of. Paul was a widow and orphan maker when he lived in Jerusalem and no doubt when he returned he remembered familiar places, memories stirred of what he was, the things he did, then to stand in and on those same places a new man, how he must have broken into praise of the Lord's loving kindness, mercy, and this amazing grace. Take time to go back to Jerusalem, to remember how far The Lord had brought you, and I am sure you too will find yourself in praise and an uplifted Spirit. You see so often we get discouraged and dejected because we only see the moment, and that moment is filled with business and distraction, and we lose the focus of we are saved for more, so much more. So go back to your Jerusalem and take a stroll around town remembering what you once were, when The Lord met you, what He did for you, what you committed to Him back then, and just sit and simply enjoy Jerusalem.

Paul took Brothers up to Jerusalem / Be Titus and Go up with a Brother

Verse 1 - with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me - See also Paul took Barnabas and Titus with him to Jerusalem; and you too should take some people with you up to Jerusalem, take them and tell them what you had been, and what you now are. Like Peter showing Paul all the wonderful moments with Jesus, Paul no doubt pointed out some memories of his past life in Jerusalem, all the emptiness and vain things, and then declare Jesus rescued me! And, we can be a Titus and Barnabas, and we can go up to Jerusalem with a brother, relive their testimony, experience it for the first time, or again and again, and oh the power of a testimony – God rescued me.

Galatians 2:2 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.

Not for Public Dispute

Paul wasn't going to have a public debate over the matter, else cause the church to debate and cause dispute.

Not going up for Confirmation of Gospel / Gospel You personally Received is from God

Paul is not going up to the apostles to confirm if his preaching on grace is correct. His message of grace was given to him by The Lord, Paul knows that and needs no man to confirm that, regardless of their position of authority. May I say again, for you personally, the gospel you have received is by revelation of God Himself, and you need no man to confirm it, no man to say you are saved, no man to say you are the son/daughter of God. The Holy Spirit has confirmed it in your heart, now live it out freely and fully, regardless what any man may ever say to you.

By way of Revelation / Paul not going for Respect

Verse 2 - by way of revelation – I like that, by way of revelation. It has been 17 years and Paul still gets no respect from the apostles. Paul is planting churches, getting people saved, being stoned and left for dead, weathering storms and persecution, do great and mighty things for the Lord, but gets no respect from the apostles. Yet Paul doesn't go up to Jerusalem for respect, or to set them straight, or to make his name, Paul does not go up until God gives him the revelation (calling, direction) revealed to him from God now is the time to go up and do this. How often I find myself moving forward into something, just because I think it makes sense, just because that is what the natural man would do, and then I go and make a total mess of it. Only later do I realize I went alone, and not with the Lord, that I was doing my own thing, and not His, as my timing will never be the perfect timing. We need to be a people who listen for the voice of the Lord in every step, in every action, be so closely joined to Him that everywhere we go and everything we do, He is in it.

2 Corinthians 11:22–33 (NKJV) ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? ³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. ³¹ The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; ³³ but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

Arthur Blessitt

I had lunch with a man this past week, just stumbled across him actually, and he told me when he was just a teenager worker in the cotton fields down south, and he would carry water out to the workers, that God would say to him no walk 20 steps to the right, and then say now turn left and go 50 steps, and now go straight for 100 steps. He said Lord I don't understand what you are doing and why, and the Lord responded to him, I am teaching you how to hear my voice, and walk with Me. That man's name is Arthur Blessitt, and 20 years later he would carry the cross around the whole world preaching Christ, and he would spend 40 years, covering all 7 continents, 315 nations, over 40,000 miles, 80 million steps, and every step he said he would say "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus". An amazing story of listening to the voice of God. We need to live by the revelation of God, and each day ask Him Lord where will you have me go today.

Galatians 2:3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

Context of Acts 15 / Paul Stoned in Acts 14 / Why didn't Men Preach in that Town

In Acts 15 we read the account of the debate over circumcision. It is so amazing when you flow the debate out through the context. In chapter 14 Paul is stoned and left for dead by Judaizes, but Paul gets up and heads back into town to preach some more. You got to love Paul, you can't stop a man like that. But then the next town over we read of in Acts 15, that believers from Jerusalem come in and say hey Paul is in error teaching on grace alone, justified by faith through Jesus Christ. They say hey you have to be circumcised too if you want to be saved. Here is the thing, why didn't these guys go to the city where Paul was stoned and preach their message of Jesus is the Messiah, Him crucified and be circumcised also and you can be saved. No way, they knew preaching Jesus would get them stoned so they go where it was safe, and then preach their cause. I have met people who say you must be baptized to be saved (along with Jesus being Messiah), I've met others who say you must speak in tongues. I met people who come in and spoke with such power, and how anointed they are, but would never come out and go street-witnessing with us, but of course told us what we were doing wrong out on the street. And the thing is

they will only promote it and debate it in an already established church; why don't they ever go where nobody has gone before? Why must they always go to comfortable places to speak so boldly? Because, it is so easy to preach inside the church and among believers. BUT you will know what you truly believe and how much it means to you when faced with presenting it to the world of non-believers, outside of your comfort zone, and outside the walls of a church people. So a good check and balance on what we really believe, is where are willing to speak about it at, and where "don't" you speak it.

Titus said no Way / We can be Compelled by Man more than God / Titus not Pressured by Man

Verse 3 - compelled - So back in Acts 15, (or right here while in Jerusalem some believe – but I don't because of the next verses), when these men came (or the apostles), they told Titus who was not of Jewish decent that he had to be circumcised to be saved, even Titus said that is crazy talk, I won't do it. I think we can spend more time being compelled by man than God. Titus gives good example of not falling under the pressure of man's prompting, but the leading of The Lord.

What has God Compelled you to Do – Have you Done It / How did Paul go On for 17 Years?

So for you today, what is it that God is or has compelled you to do, and have you done it? Titus was not swayed, and what can we say about Paul? How is it that Paul was able to get up after a stoning, and go on again? How could Paul go 17 years of rejection and never quit? The answer can be found back in Acts 9, in eight life changing words, 8 all empowering words, "Lord what do You want me to do?"

Acts 9:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ 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." ⁶ 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."

Key to Paul's Life – those 8 Words

Listen to the key to Paul's life and yours, when Paul met Jesus on the road, his personal encounter, Paul says "Lord what do you want me to do? Have you asked the Lord that specifically? Have you said to Him, Lord what do You want me to do?"

Before Go On – I must ask – Have you had a Personal Encounter with Him

Before we go, I first have to ask each person here today, have you had a personal encounter with the Lord. Have you had an experience like Paul did when you knew that you had personally met the Lord, where you knew something had changed? When did you meet Him, what was the circumstances, how did you know something happened that changed your life forever. It isn't just a day when you decided I have to start going to church, but a day where you knew you had a personal experience with God Himself. You must have an experience with Jesus to be saved.

The Gospel / The Sentence of Death

The gospel, the good news, profoundly simply yet simply profound. Jesus Christ, God, died for our sin as the wages of sin is death, but He was buried, and He rose again on the third day. Profoundly simple, our sin separates us from the Holy God, the wages of sin is death, but in His great love for us took our punishment and went to the sentence of death for us. We know God accepted the substitution because the grave and hell could not hold Jesus as He rose from the dead on the third day. Man's response to the gospel is to receive it by faith, faith alone that is all Jesus (Galatians 3:11).

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NKJV) ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."

Rose on the 3rd Day

Speaking of that 3rd day, I was reading some of the teaching of the rabbis of Israel (from *Manners & Customs of the Bible), According to rabbinical thought, the spirit wanders about the sepulcher for three days seeking an opportunity to return into the body; but when the aspect of the body changes (decay), it hovers no more, but leaves the body to itself. The friends of the deceased were in the habit of visiting the sepulcher for three days after death and burial, probably because they supposed they would thus be nearer to the departed soul. When the

fourth day came, and decomposition took place, and the soul, as they supposed, went away from the sepulcher, they beat their breast and made loud lamentations. This explains the allusion to the “four days” in the John 11 passage regarding the death of Lazarus. The saying that one had been in the grave four days was equivalent to saying that bodily corruption had begun. But, on the 3rd Day, Jesus returned to the body, and walked out of the grave and led the way for all who will follow. There will be no beating of the chest, loud lamenting, for all who have put their faith and trust in Jesus follow the resurrection just as He did, except for us to be absent from the body will be immediate presence before the Lord in glory (1 Cor 5:8). This body will be left behind along with all its guilt and sin. Oh the glory of the resurrection, have you experienced personally yourself, have you had a moment where you realized “He is Alive”.

**Freeman, J. M., & Chadwick, H. J. (1998). Manners & customs of the Bible (p. 521). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers.*

John 11:39 (NKJV) ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Have You asked God – What do You want Me to Do?

So now back to all who have had that encounter with God, have you asked God what Paul did, “what do you want me to do? Real faith in Jesus always causes actions. Faith without works is dead. Jesus what will you have me to do. Jesus saved you so you may do something for Him. He did not die for us to go to church, Christian live beyond the hour of Sunday! Lord what will you have me to do for you today Monday, today Tuesday, and each day of the week. Roll away the stone and live, live for Him, ask Him Lord what will you have me to do, and watch your life be changed, amazingly changed through amazing love and power of living and walking daily step by step with Him.

James 2:20–24 (NKJV) ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²³ And 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. ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Let’s Pray Right now and you can ask God?

End of Study

Galatians 2:4-14

The Why / The Theme

Paul is writing this letter, you can read the sense of urgency in it, and it is urgent because people are turning away from the one true gospel, and adding works on to the finished work of Christ on the cross. When Jesus said it was done, He meant it. The theme of the book, the message Paul is urgent about, is that the just shall live by faith, that it is all the grace of God and there is nothing man needs to do, has to do, to add on to “the good news”.

Galatians 1:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.*

All Grace

It is all grace, nothing of ourselves, nothing we need to add. Man is justified through faith. When a person lives by faith, then God lives in them and through them, and all things become clear and thus God guides them on how to walk this walk as sons and daughters.

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”*

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV) ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Outline:

- In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.
- Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul’s doctrinal instruction about grace.
- Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.

Pickup in Chapter 2

So we made it all the way through verse 3 last week, so let’s read those verses and pick up in verse 4 for today’s study.

Galatians 2:1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me.

Remember from last study that God counts to the day your trials (3 years plus 14 equal 17, not a general several years). So 17 years Paul wasn’t accepted by the other apostles, and God knew to the day how that felt, and God knows how you feel in the midst of whatever trial you are currently facing.

Galatians 2:2 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.

Remember, Paul didn’t go up to Jerusalem to discuss what God had told him until God told him to go. How wise we would be to wait for God’s revelation to do things, rather than doing things we think make sense.

Galatians 2:3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

And remember, we looked at how Paul and Titus could continue on against the resistance, the hard times, the things men tried to compel them to do, and as we talked specifically about Paul, it was because of those 8 words, “Lord, what will you have me to do?”

Acts 9:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ *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.” ⁶ 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.”*

So now verse 4

Galatians 2:4 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), Galatians 2:5 to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Not Even an Hour – Paul said that is Enough / Doesn't Sound Gracious / Grace = Charm / No Grace for That

Paul said not even for an hour - in other words as soon as they got to the point about legalism, keeping the rules of Judaism, dietary laws, circumcision, and Sabbath laws, Paul stopped them right there and said we heard enough and are not interested. Doesn't sound very gracious does it, grace infers charm and beauty. In chapter 1, we saw grace declared in Paul's message (1:1–18), and depicted in his life (1:19–24). Here in chapter 2, we will see grace defended in his ministry—both before the church collectively and before Peter personally.

Charm out the Door / No Agree to Disagree / John 10:10 – Satan come to Destroy

When someone came in with something that was going to harm and take away from the Christian, all charm went out the door, there was no agree to disagree, when John 10:10 back end comes, Papa bear rises up. Jesus comes to give us life and that more abundant, that is grace, that is beauty and charm; Satan comes to kill and destroy, that speaks for itself and Paul has no grace for it nor should we. The world we live is trying to change this gospel, either make it so suffocating with rules and threats who could ever see love and grace in it; but at same time on the other side is a gospel that is all inclusive, no boundaries in behavior, and this who could ever see holiness and purity in it.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

There is a Place to not Entertain a Position for a Second

There are places in our Christianity where we say, no absolutely not, I won't entertain your position, not even for an hour. This is the Word of God, there is nothing more and nothing less, to it.

Parents – Not even an Hour / Matterhorn

Parents, a word for you on “not even an hour” when it comes to things that come into you house and life that can harm you kids. I am reminded of a story about two Germans who wanted to climb the Matterhorn. They hired three guides and began their ascent at the steepest and most slippery part. The men roped themselves together in this order: guide, traveler, guide, traveler, and guide. They had gone only a little way up the side when the last man lost his footing. He was held up temporarily by the other four, because each had a toehold in the niches they had cut in the ice. But then the next man slipped, and he pulled down the two above him. The only one to stand firm was the first guide, who had driven a spike deep into the ice. Because he held his ground, all the men beneath him regained their footing. Mom and Dad, you have to be entrenched and dug in deep to keep your family together. Ask the Lord daily..... Lord what will You have me to do.

Galatians 2:6 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.

Paul not Swayed by Influence / Christians swayed in USA by Influential

Verse 6 - Those who seem to be something - Paul says he is not swayed or going to be swayed by the so-called "influential" and their position, but he stands on the Word he knows is from God. We have a handful of influential people that the world looks to regarding Christianity, and to be honest I really don't care what they say, I only like Paul only care what the Word of God says. Some of these leaders want us to save the planet over souls, dig wells over planting churches, debate how many brewskis we can have rather than how to be filled with the Spirit, and how to have your best life today rather than preparing for the Kingdom to come. Paul doesn't care what they think, only what the Word of God says, and the church today has to be careful not to take any leaders word as being infallible but to search the scriptures and to search our own hearts of what The Lord is calling us to do.

Acts 17:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Celebrity Influence

And, what an influence celebrities have regarding so-called “spirituality”. The most dangerous thing is that Christians and Christian leaders prop them up and say come here so and so speak, they have an amazing testimony and are so of God, but when you get into their story or hear about their faith, they are not even saved, or they don’t live anything according to the word of God, but they make this profession and everyone runs to them and makes them a poster person of Jesus Christ. I have been to events hosted by large evangelical groups, and they bring out a speaker and it is only a few minutes into their speech where I can see, they are simply religious. They talk about God, but not Jesus, they talk about their hard works, their denomination, their sacraments, or some moment they had, but they don’t talk about Jesus. But Christians are so desperate to hold someone famous up, they blind their eyes to facts that are before them. Paul was not swayed by anyone, even those who appeared to be favored, Paul only cared about what the Word of God was and what God had called him to do.

Pastors Puffed Up / Weak & Foolish / Stay Humble when God starts Using / Beauty in Humility

Those who seem to be something - I utterly hate it when Christians think something of themselves. I despise when I meet pastors who think something of themselves. I see some websites that call out the name of the pastor more than the name of Jesus. I hate when I am at a conference and a pastor has this "kiss the ring" attitude, like he is something special above the other people, and there are people who treat them like that. I was talking to a pastor a few years back and he made more than one reference to me that I could sense he was kind of putting me down, and he and other pastors were kind of up there if you will. I said to, God says He will use the weak and foolish things to confound the wise..... I said you realize that really isn't a compliment to pastors, as God says ok where can I find the most foolish man to speak on my behalf so everyone knows it has to be from God, and I receive all the glory. Stay humble folks, especially when God bestows gifts upon you meant to bring Him glory, remember there is beauty in humility, and grace is best served on a platter of humility.

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (NKJV) ²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence. ³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—³¹ that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”

God will use Weak & Foolish – Do you Qualify / What will you have me to Do

God will use the weak and foolish things..... Do you qualify for that job posting, if so don't let success go to your head. And, if you say God can't use you, then you are in essence saying you are not weak and foolish. Just dwell on that for a second. Then, ask the Lord, what will You have me to do?

Those in Workplace – Don't let go to head

By the way, if you have been given a place of leadership in the workplace, don't let the power go to your head. If you are a worker-bee, don't strive to gain that power either. Go to work and work for Christ.

Galatians 2:7 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

Galatians 2:8 (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),

Galatians 2:9 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.

Galatians 2:10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

Clearly See Paul's Calling

So the apostles in Jerusalem finally after 17 years see the calling upon Paul, his special calling to the Gentiles, and they say go for it bro. We see Paul is finally fully accepted by them and counted as one of them.

Each Calling with be Different / Each – What will You have me to Do is Different / Go do Yours

How important it is to see this, Paul is going to the Gentiles, and Peter and the other apostles to the Jewish people, and so we see, each person's "what will you have me to do" will be unique and different, and so we need not worry what that person is doing over there, nor be concerned who joins us in where God told us to be, we need only to ask, and then do it.

Finally Accepted / Paul doesn't Hold Hurt Against Them / Must have Short Memory

Paul finally accepted as a brother after 17 years. We read of Paul taking a collection for the church in Jerusalem (Acts 11:29, 1 Corinthians 16:1). Take note of that, Paul doesn't hold their hurt against him to them. Paul comes to their aid in their time of need, why, because it is all grace. How about you as we close, are you still holding a hurt from someone against them even after they have made their mends with you? Grace..... It is all grace, and if you want to be free, if you want to have life and that more abundant, then it is grace. If you still hold that hurt, then you need to ask one question, 8 words to the Lord right now, "Lord what will you have me to do?" And in ministry, the church, your marriage, your family, you must have a short memory of hurts, and be quick to meet the need of those who hurt you when they come back to you.

Galatians 2:11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; Galatians 2:12 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. Galatians 2:13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

Early Church Agape Feasts / Jews believe Becoming One when Eat Together / Peter changes Seats

The early church had agape feasts wherein believers would gather together and share a meal. Many of them being poor, everyone would pool his resources and contribute to a big potluck dinner. Jewish tradition held that there was a special connection with whomever one shared a meal. The Jews, therefore, were forbidden to eat with Gentiles. Thus, Peter broke tradition not only in eating the food of Gentiles, but in eating with Gentiles. When the men from Jerusalem came (James and company), suddenly Peter distanced himself from the Gentile believers.

Can't sacrifice Truth for Sake of Unity / Nothing changed in 2,000 years – We all want to be Accepted

Paul lays the truth out there, regardless of the price it may cost, such as his relationship with the other apostles, including being accepted finally after all these years. See Christian, nothing has changed today in wanting to be accepted and in unity, but never can we sacrifice the truth for unity. We see that greatly today as everyone wants unity, even if they have to sacrifice the truth and no longer call right, right or wrong, wrong. Never may we sacrifice truth for the sake of unity.

Paul didn't go Storming into Jerusalem

Paul rebuked Peter openly and publically, whereas when he went up to Jerusalem we just read he spoke privately so not to cause a public debate and stir of disunity and contentions. Notice, Paul didn't go storming down to Jerusalem, saying, "Have a sausage, Peter. I dare you." No, Peter was in Paul's arena, and because Peter was trying to get the people to whom Paul was ministering to go in a different direction, Paul was justified in pointing out Peter's hypocrisy.

Rebukes Peter Openly / Peter quotes Paul / Can we Allow Brother to Correct us

Paul rebuked Peter openly and publically. Sounds harsh, but Peter when he writes his epistle will reference that Paul's writings were from God. This is huge when we consider it, that the great apostle Peter would allow himself to be corrected, and admit that he needed to be corrected. Let me ask you a question, as it will show a lot of where you are in Christ, when was the last time you were corrected? How did you receive it? Did you receive it? If you have not been corrected lately it could just mean that people are afraid to approach you, and you have to ask yourself why? Or if you have been approached, and you countered with anything less than Peter did, it may show you are not correctable, and that my friend is a dangerous place to be. It is a dangerous place to think you are always right, and everyone else is always wrong.

2 Peter 3:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

Paul rebuked Openly / Peter was Spirit Filled / We can be Bold in One Area and Weak in Another / Autopilot

Consider this, Peter had walked with Jesus, saw the miracles of Jesus personally, had denied Jesus and been restored by Jesus, had worked miracles himself, had preached mighty sermons, was filled with the Holy Spirit, stood up to the leaders of Judaism, went to jail for being so bold and brave..... but then cowers under peer pressure. You see, we all have the ability to be bold in one area, and wimps in others. We all need to recognize that because we are strong in one area that doesn't mean we will be strong in another. We need to examine every action we take, each time we take it, we can never be on auto-pilot because we might just miss something that the Lord is doing. Peter missed it, he missed what the Lord was doing, and you know what..... he missed an opportunity to be part of something great God was doing, as God was uniting and making for Himself a Body, One Body. Peter also missed some good grub (crabs, hotdogs, cheeseburgers, shrimp, and pork chops).

Galatians 2:13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

Galatians 2:14 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?”

Peter you ate Next to Us / You cant Keep own Rules / Hypocrisy tries to Make People do Impossible

“You ate right alongside of us, Peter,” said Paul. “Therefore, if you, a Jew, are unable to keep the rules and regulations of Judaism, how can you expect Gentiles to keep them? It makes no sense!” That’s what hypocrisy always does: It tries to make other people do what we ourselves can’t.

Peter’s Hypocrisy – Drew Barnabas Away / Mom & Dad – they see It!

Peter’s hypocrisy drew Barnabas to join the hypocrisy. Barnabas his name means “son of encouragement”, but his hypocrisy surely was not bringing encouragement to his Gentile brothers. Be careful that your rules and hypocrisy doesn’t draw others away.....mom and dad.

Key Hole – So Narrow / But – Some Rules you Make are Powerful

Some people are so narrow they can look through a key hole with both eyes. They can’t see how stifling and suffocating their actions are to themselves and others. But, so rules are good Do you have some legalism that you apply to your life? Let me say this, and that can be a good thing, just as long as your legalism doesn’t go to your head and make you think that you are more holy than the next person because of the “special rules” that you keep. It is ok to have your special rules as long as you don’t think everyone else should have to keep your rules. What am I saying you may ask? You may be saying Ray here you are continually saying it is all grace, and not rules and regulations, and now you say it is ok to be legalistic? Let me explain. See I have some rules, I have some regulations, and they have been viewed by others as bondage, legalism, and suffocating. I like the latter word because that is exactly what I am trying to do, and that is suffocate and smother certain things in my life. For instance, my job requires me to travel on occasion, and one of “my rules” is that I do not turn the television on, at all! Now, I would never preach to you that you should do as I do, but I have told plenty of men who travel for work why they may want to do the same. See the television in my house is set on parental controls, and it is PG and below, and unless I know exactly what the show is about I don’t unlock the control. When I enter a hotel room all by myself, that television has no parental control, and thus as I click through every image is before. I..... don’t want an image to flash in my eyes, travel to my thoughts, and there I am all alone in a place where no one would know what I am doing. Is that legalism, many have said that it is, is it suffocating, absolutely and that is my goal to suffocate and smother anything that can cause me to stumble.

2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (NKJV) ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

I haven't Lost my Car in 20 Years

Also as you may hear me say, I haven't lost my car since I stopped drinking. That is just me, there is a liberty there to drink if I want but there are way too many people looking to me and I don't want any to stumble. I don't want to give one person that I know to say, well Ray drinks so it must be no big deal. I don't know if it will become a big deal to them, so I want to be a catalyst to find out. Is that legalism on my behalf? I just think it is wisdom, and love, and I have no regrets about it.

Don't Allow Myself Alone with Woman

I don't allow myself to be alone with any woman other than my wife. This is good for "no appearance of evil", but that is also really good to make sure no thought can begin a disaster.

Commandments are Not Burdensome / Legalism is always Exhausting

Ray don't you feel burdened by having to keep your rules? No not at all because my rules are what have been given to me by the Lord. You can tell the difference between commandments and legalism, because legalism will always be bondage to you, it will always be exhausting, but the commandments of the Lord will actually free you. Yes you may have to battle the Devil at times, but you will have the power for that fight because the Lord will fight with you to keep you and protect you. But they will not be burdensome because just as John says....

1 John 5:3 (NKJV) ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

I don't want to Bum Him Out / Be Separated from Him – I want as Close as I can Get

See it isn't rules, I just don't want anything that is going to separate me from Him. I love Him so much that I don't want to bum Him out. The closer you get to Him, you will not be asked what is ok, how close to the line can I get, but how far away should I be so nothing separates me from you.

Dress Code Wisdom

We have always asked those who serve here to dress modestly when they serve in the church, we have a dress code. We know that some of these guides may seem extreme, even along the lines of legalism, but they have been prayerfully thought through and determined to be best for all. We often forget that we don't know everything that is going on in a person's life who comes to fellowship with us. We live in such a sensual and fleshly culture. Experience has told us that some men and women in the church are insecure about themselves and their spouse. We know that some people are struggling with online adult content. We know that some singles are lonely. We know that teenagers are facing peer pressure and the pressure of the world to dress to draw attention to themselves. In all these cases we want the church to be a place of refuge from the world and a place to focus solely on Jesus. We want to be examples to our youth. And, we want to keep the main thing, the main thing, and when people come to church everything will lead people into an experience with Jesus. Is that legalism? I just think it is wisdom, and love, and I have no regrets about it. We would rather error on the side of modesty than to have one brother or sister come in here and be stumbled.

Background Checks / 6 Month Wait

We do background checks on everyone who works in the children's ministry? Is that legalism? I just think it is wisdom, and love, and I have no regrets about it. We have a 6 month waiting period before people get involved in a public type ministry, that give them time to see if they want to call this church home, and for us to see their walk. Again, is that legalism or wisdom?

Is There some Legalism you Need in Your Life

Is there some legalism that you need in your life? Are there some boundaries that you need to set, some things you need to 'suffocate and choke out' because you sense it, you can feel it, it is creeping in and it is making grounds in your life, and you know it is keeping you from being all God wants you to be, you may even know that if you don't deal with it soon it is going to take you down. Then get legalistic on it, suffocate it, do it now. Let's pray right now for God to do that in your life.

End of Study

Galatians 2:15-21 (Easter 2014)

Title

The title of today's message is – "Do You Want to Change Your Life"

Get to Heaven

I am sure that at one time or another we have thought of a question or two that if possible we would like to ask God. We have often heard it said, "When I get to heaven, I have a few things that I want to ask God." That may or may not be true. We will just see. I tend to suspect that when we get to heaven and take one look into His glorious face we will say something like, "Never mind." It will be answered for us.

Kid's Questions for God

- "Dear God, I went to a wedding and they kissed right at church, is that ok?" -Neil
- "Dear God, I'm American, what are you?" -Robert
- "Dear God, we read that Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday School, they said you did it. So I bet he stole your idea." -Donna
- "Dear God, maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother." -Larry
- "Dear God, thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy." -Joyce

Adult Questions for God

We all have some questions we would like to ask God. In a recent USA Today poll, the readers were asked, if you could ask God anything, what would it be? The top answers were:

- Is there life after death? (19% asked)
- How long will I live? (6%)
- What is my purpose on earth? (34%)

Answers

Is there life after death?

John 11:25-26 (NKJV) ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

How long will I live?

Isaiah 55:9 (NKJV) ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

What is my purpose on earth?

Revelation 4:11 (KJV 1900) ¹¹ Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

God has Questions for You

Well God has questions for you, have you ever considered that? We will look and consider a few today in our study.

Picking up in Galatians 2:15 / Start with John 5 / Healing 38yr Paralytic / Made Himself Equal with the Father

Now we are picking up in our verse-by-verse study here in Galatians 2, verse 15, but I want to amplify our passage by looking at a real life story of Jesus and man who was paralytic for 38 years. Jesus will heal him, and we will gain so much understanding of the heart that Jesus has for us, His passion and compassion upon those who are weak. But, what should be such a joyous time, a reason to rejoice and celebrate because a man has been made well, will be the beginning of the destiny of the cross. The religious leaders will be more concerned about their rules, their regulations, their laws, than they will be for a poor soul bound and paralyzed for 38 years, as these religious leaders will be upset that Jesus healed on the Sabbath day, which according to their interpretation of the law that no work should be done.... Even if that work is the healing of someone who is hurting. Let me just start with this, Jesus really didn't break the law of the Sabbath, because He did no work, because touching and loving and healing

and comforting, is not work to Him at all, He delights in touching His people. Touching you, loving and comforting you, drawing near and carrying your burdens is not work to Him at all, He delights in it, because He delights in you! Now back to our story, working if the Sabbath was only the catalyst, because the statements Jesus made after the healing of this man ultimately cost Him His life. These religious rulers went on a blind rage from this day forward with the sole purpose of silencing this mysterious man from Galilee. Why? Because of the claim that He made. What could be so offensive? What could possibly fill their hearts with so much hatred? It is when Jesus said in verse 17 of John 5. "My Father and I." There was no mistaking what He was saying. And if there had been a mistake, He would have been the first to clear it up. Jesus was stating in the clearest way imaginable I am God. My Father and I we work together. We are equal." And that is why they wanted to kill Him because He claimed equality with the Father.

John 5:15–18 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶ For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."¹⁸ Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.*

John 5:1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Momentum / On A Schedule / Ultimately to the Cross

Verse 1 - After this - Before we even get going I want you to see that word there, "after this", or maybe your translation says "after these things". There is a momentum, Jesus is on the move, Jesus is on a schedule, He has appointments to keep, places to be, people to meet. He has an ultimate schedule to keep, and that is the cross. By the way, Jesus when was being crucified on the cross as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29) right below Him in the Temple area the Passover lambs were being sacrificed in commemoration of the Exodus from Egypt when the angel of death would pass over every home that had the blood of the lamb sprinkled over the door of that home, all a picture and foreshadow of the final sacrifice (Jesus Christ) who shed His blood so we could be covered from death. Jesus had an appointment to keep down to the hour, He had to be sacrificed during Passover at the exact same time the other lambs were being sacrificed.

Exodus 12:5–7 (NKJV) ⁵ *Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.*

Jesus keeps His Appointments / Question – Do you want to be Changed / Jesus can save from thing Paralyzing

Back to verse 1, after these things, as Jesus was on a schedule. He had met with Nicodemus in chapter 3, the woman at the well in chapter 4, and now He was on schedule to meet with the man who had been lame for 38 years. He will ask this man the same question He literally asks all of us today, "do you want to be made well", or my rendering, "do you want to change your life". Do you want to change your life? You can, you can have a changed life today and I mean more than just salvation because the gospel is so much more than just being saved from death, but from sin too. God will ask today, do you want to change your life, you can today, I can save you from that thing that is paralyzing you (your fears, your anxieties, your addiction, a sin has a stronghold on your life, maybe your anger, your controlling behaviors, your marriage is on life support, a past divorce is paralyzing you, a past abortion haunts you, your loneliness leaves you in a shell), He will ask you today "do you want to change your life", do you want to have change in that thing? He will show us three things in this story on how we can do that.

John 5:2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.

John 5:3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.

John 5:4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

John 5:5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.

Bubbling Waters / Who can Blame him

Kolubethra, the Greek word translated "pool," is a very precise term that means "a deep pool from underneath that comes bubbling." Thus, it would seem that the stirring of the water was due to the occasional eruption of an

underground spring. “But doesn’t the text say an angel came down?” you ask. Yes, but I believe that is a quote. You see, Greek text has no quotation marks. If it did, I believe this phrase would be enclosed in them as reference to the conventional wisdom of the day. But could you blame this man? Ever been so desperate that you would be willing to try anything to fix that situation? Jesus knows your struggle.

Man is a Multitude / a Nobody / Jesus always finds the Neediest in the Room / Willing to Spend Life for Them

This man is one of the multitude, but Jesus sees him in the multitude. This man was a cripple, he had nobody in his life because he says when the water bubbles nobody is there to help me. We see over and over through the scriptures, put Jesus in a room with hurting people, and He always will find the neediest and most hurting person, and then minister to that person. What is your need today? Jesus sees it. And remember this in the context of the story, Jesus knows that helping this man will be the beginning of the attacks from the religious leaders. Up to this point they had not resisted Him, but from this point on they will plot to kill Him, yet Jesus is not swayed by that at all, for nothing will stop Him from getting to this man to touch him and change his life. And, nothing will stop Jesus from getting to you, at whatever the cost. God is on His way for you, and nothing will stop Him from reaching you.

Jesus Singled him Out / You who are Investigating things of God

By the way, again we see Jesus singled him out and came to him directly from among the crowd. Maybe you are here today because you are investigating Jesus, looking into His claims of being God, wondering if He knows you personally, is He a distant God or a God that knows you by name. If that is you, consider this story of how Jesus seeks out an individual even amongst the crowd, and He will you too. And know this, the reason you seek and consider, is because God made you like that. You may have found success in the career field, recognition amongst your peers, you may have found love, you may have money, possessions, friends, yet something inside you feels empty, something is missing. God has made you like that, so you will seek Him, you will ask, what is my purpose for being here on earth. The answer is to have a personal and intimate relationship right now with the God that created you, loves you, and died for you. His name is Jesus, and He created you for His good pleasure, to have an intimate and loving relationship with you. His desire for you so great, He would give His live for you as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Revelation 4:11 (KJV 1900) ¹¹ *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

John 5:6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”

John 5:7 The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

Jesus Asks Question / Sounds Crazy – Not Everyone wants to Change / Become Accustomed

So Jesus asks the question, do you want to be made well, do you want to change your life? Sounds like a crazy question after 38 years of being a paralytic, you would think the answer would immediately be of course I do. But you know what, and we all have to closely examine ourselves, not everybody wants to be changed. You can be so accustomed to that lifestyle you have chosen you really don’t want to break free from it. You don’t want to change the company you are keeping. You don’t want to stop going to the places you are going to. A person can choose against change because they don’t want change. Loneliness can be the old friend that never leaves. Past failures can be an excuse that is convenient to claim. This man doesn’t answer with a yes, he answers with why he can’t change, as he says I have no one to help me into the water.

John 3:16-19

By the way, there is only one reason why people won’t commit their life to Christ as Lord and Savior, only one reason they won’t bow their need to Him, and that is because they love their sin and don’t want to turn from it. They may join religion, they may do good works, but they won’t humble themselves and say be my Lord (master) and be willing to turn from their sins. It isn’t evolution, it isn’t how can a God of love allow this or that, it isn’t I am waiting for a sign, it, or God wasn’t there when I needed Him, it is because they don’t want to give up their sin,

they don't want to admit they need a Savior (that is the pride of sin), they don't want to relinquish control over their life because they like calling the shots.

John 3:16–20 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Why Asks – to Desire His Help / Not Information – but Confession / Are you Satisfied?

Why does God ask this question "do you want to be made well"? Because He wants us to desire His help. The first step to change, is desiring change. I am reminded of another question God asks man, and that is "where are you". Did God, the all-knowing God, not know where Adam was after the fall? Of course He knew. But God wasn't seeking information from Adam, but confession. God continually asks us, where are you? As in where are you at in life? Are you where you ought to be? Are you satisfied with where you are? Are you at the place you hoped you would be at this point in your life? I am not talking about in your career or in some other. I am really talking about spiritual issues right now. Are you where you ought to be spiritually right now? Where are you? That's a good question. And now the next question. Do you want to be made whole? Let me broaden that question. Do you want to change your life? That Jesus was asking this man. Do you want to change not only physically but spiritually as well? Are you willing to put yourself just as you are in my hands? Are you ready for me to do for you what you are unable to do for yourself?

Why does God ask this? Because He wants us to desire His help

Genesis 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

From Where to There

The Lord asked Adam, where are you, so they could establish where Adam was beginning from. If you called and asked directions to the church, the first question we would ask is "where are you coming from", so we could establish the starting point of where you are, so as to get you to where you want to be. God starts with a where are you, so He can show you where you are, and to point to where you want to be. The where are you needs to be answered honestly, else we will never get to the "there", there is where I want to be, I want to change my life and have and be all that God desires me to have and be.

Do you really want Change?

Where are you? Are you where you ought to be? Or do you want to change your life? Do you really want your marriage healed? Do you really want to be free of your dependency upon drugs or alcohol or both? Do you really want to break free from sexual sin? Then there is God's part and there is your part.

John 5:8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

John 5:9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

Something in Tone of Voice touched the Lord / He Responds Honestly

There was something in the tone of our Lord's voice that touched this man. He thought He could be trusted. And He responds honestly. "Sir, I have no man. I have no one to help me. I have no one to assist me to get to that water when it is moved." And that is what he was saying. I have tried everything and it failed. I can't get there. And many are like this today. They have given up all hope of ever changing. They have resigned themselves to their position in life.

Response to Person lost All Hope / 3 things

So what is the response of Jesus to the person who has lost all hope? To the person who has given up on themselves? Three things.

- Number one. He asks the impossible.
- Number two. He removes all possibility of a relapse.
- Number three. He expects continued success.

Let me repeat those.

- Number one. First He asks the impossible.

- Number two. He removes all possibility of a relapse.
- And number three. He expects continued success.

First – Take up Bed and Walk – Do the Impossible

Let's start with the first. He asks the impossible. Jesus tells this man to do what he has not been able to do for 38 years. He gave Him the command. I am telling you take up your bed and walk. Now let's understand when we say take up your bed it's not like he had this giant four poster bed. Well it is kind of heavy Lord uh. Take it up now. No. It's not. It was like probably a bedroll you know. Almost like a sleeping bag so to speak. Maybe just a little straw mat or something. I want you to pick that up and I want you to walk. I want you to do what you have never done before because I am telling you to do it and I am God. And if I tell you you can do it, you can do it. With God all things are possible. Nothing is too hard for the Lord.

Luke 18:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

God's Words are His Will are His Enabling

So when God tells you to live this Christian life, when God tells you to love your wife as Christ loves the church husbands, when God tells you wives to submit unto your husband as unto the Lord, when God tells you children to submit unto your parents and obey them, when God tells us to resist temptation, when He tells us to do certain things, to go into all the world and preach the gospel, it is doable. God wouldn't have told us to do it if you could not do it. Now you can't do it on your own strength. But in His strength you can do it. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. Because the calling of God is the enabling of God. So first of all He asks for the impossible. This is very important.

Second – Remove all Possibility for Relapse

Number two. He removes all possibility of a relapse. He removes all possibility of a relapse. He says take up your bed and walk. In other words, there is no backup plan here buddy. If this doesn't work out, you don't go to your little bed anymore. That, that is over with. That is the past. We are moving forward. You can walk now. This is a whole new world for you.

Elijah calls Elisha

It reminds us of the story of when the prophet Elijah was looking for a successor (1 Kings 19). The Lord told him that that successor was to be Elisha. Often they are confused because their names are so similar, but they are two very different people. So one day Elijah is walking along and he sees Elisha plowing a field with his oxen and plow. And Elijah throws his mantle on him. And a mantle basically, a garment signifying you are my successor. You are to carry my ministry on. And Elisha's response is, "Let me kiss my mother and father good bye and then I will come with you." Elijah responds, "Go back. What have I done to you?" In other words, you know what, if you don't get what is happening right now, if you think you have time to just consider this, just forget about it. Oh no. Elisha understood immediately and so he wanted to indicate that to the prophet Elijah. So he made a bonfire out of his plowing rig and then the oxen became filet mignon as the two of them had barbecue together. That is called burning your bridges. And that is what a lot of Christians have not done. They have said yes I want to follow the Lord but they never burn their bridge. They are still dragging all this junk along with them from the old life. They haven't made a break from the old lifestyle. They haven't made a break with the old relationships. They haven't made a break with the old vices. And the result is it still has a hold of them and they are not moving forward. God asks the impossible. And He asks you to make no condition, have no condition for a relapse. No backup plan. And that means that we need to take the practical steps. Have you taken them?

Cortez

When Cortez came to conquer the new world, he brought his soldier to shore, had them turn to look back at the boats they came in, then gave the signal to the archer who then shot a flaming arrow into the sides of the ships, and made his men watch them burn and sink. He said there is no retreat, there is no going back, and he point into the jungle and said the battle is before you, there is nowhere else to go but in.

Harvest Crusade

Greg Laurie tells the following story:

I remember some years ago when we were holding our first crusades down at the Pacific Amphitheatre that on one of the first nights a man came forward and was a drug dealer. And he turned in his pager because that is how he did his drug deals. Now this is before everyone had cell phones. We started back in 1990. Cell phones were out then, but they were big. Remember how big they were. They were like walkie talkies. Hello. This is my cell phone. You know. Now they are so tiny you don't even know they are there some times. You search your pockets. Where did I put that little cell phone that is ringing? But you see he turned his pager in cause that is how he did his drug deals. Well uh the next day the counselor called him to see how he was doing. He says, "Well, I was out mowing the grass." The counselor said, "Oh, you are doing a little yard work." He says, "No, I was actually mowing down marijuana plants." Because this guy had grown in his yard these plants to supply people with dope. And he was mowing them down. But this man was burning his bridges. And that is a guy taking practical steps.

Go Spring House Clean

Now you might say well you know I used to drink a lot but I don't want to live that way anymore so but I still struggle with it. Well I ask you do you have any alcohol left in your house? Why? Why don't you pour it down the drain? Why don't you get rid of it? I still struggle with you know impure thoughts. Do you have any pornographic magazines laying around? Why? Get rid of them. Well I still have a problem with this. Have you burned the bridge? Have you removed that thing that you can go back to? Have you taken the practical steps? See that is what Jesus wants.

Third – Don't expect to get Carried – Start Walking

And thirdly. He expects continued success. He Jesus says walk. Don't expect to get carried. Get on your feet and walk. Take the practical steps.

Don't say Christianity didn't work for Me / Not Dealing with It – but a Him

You hear people say, "Well, I tried Christianity but it didn't work for me." You ever heard that before? Yeah I tried the whole Christian thing and it didn't work. Oh come on. That is just so bogus. So false. Don't tell me you tried the Christian thing or you tried Christianity. We are not dealing with an "it". We are dealing with a "Him". Christianity is Christ and He will work and change any man or woman who honestly comes to Him.

Like Joining Health club

That would be like saying well you know I tried the whole health club thing and it didn't work for me. Really. Oh yeah. I tried it. So you joined a health club? Oh yeah. Absolutely. How long did you go? For a month. A month. You went for a month. You didn't see any improvement. Not one bit of improvement. In fact I put on weight. Really. What did you do at the health club? Sat around. Ate doughnuts. You joined a health club but you didn't do what you needed to do. You need to use those machines. You need to use them with regularity. You need to apply yourself. You need to make changes in your diet, etc. So you really didn't do your part. So don't say you tried the health club thing or you tried the exercise thing and it didn't work for you. You really didn't try it.

Did you do Your Part

And when someone says oh I tried the Christian thing and it didn't work. I suggest you never did your part. Here is a few questions for you. After you were supposedly converted:

- Did you begin to study and memorize Scripture? Because the Bible says, "Study to show yourselves approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." The psalmist tells us in Psalm 119:11, "Your word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you." Did you memorize Scripture? Did you study the Bible?
- Did you get regularly involved in a church? Hebrews 10:25 says, "Don't forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is but exhort one another and so much more as you see the day of the Lord approaching." But you know there are people, yeah, I made this commitment to Christ. Did you go to church? I mean it is such a no-brainer. But I am amazed at well I went you know every now and then. Or I went to this church a couple of times. And I went to that church a few times. And and then I you know I listened to Christian TV or listened to Christian radio or watched Christian TV. You didn't really apply yourself you see.
- Did you get baptized? Well, you don't have to be baptized to be saved. No you don't. But why wouldn't you be baptized? The Bible commands you to be. Where you baptized? Well, uh you know I was busy

whenever those baptisms came around. It seems to me this is such a simple thing. Why did you not obey the Lord in this area?"

- Did you turn from all known sin? Because the psalmist says in Psalm 66:18 says, "If I hold on to iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me."
- Did you develop a prayer life? A Because the Scripture says, "Pray without ceasing for this is God's will concerning you."
- Did you deny yourself and take up the cross and follow Jesus? Jesus said, "If any man come after me, let him deny himself, take up the cross, and follow me, whoever will seek to save his life will lose it but if you will lose your life for my sake, you will find it." Did you do that? If not, don't tell me you tried the Christian thing. You haven't tried it. You haven't done it the way the Lord has told you to do it. You have to apply yourself.

Jesus said 3 things / Expect the Impossible – No Condition for relapse – Take Practical Steps Forward

Jesus says expect the impossible; make no condition for a relapse and I want you now to move forward. I want you to take the practical steps. I want you to do your part. 1 John 2:3 says, "We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands." And if a person says 'I know Him' but does not do what He commands, that person is a liar and the truth is not in him. Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus walked." Oh I have tried and failed. No you haven't. Jesus doesn't work for some and not for others. He will change any person just as they are immediately.

- Number one. Expect the impossible.
- Number two. Make no provision for a relapse.
- Number three. Jesus expects continued success.

Folks it is doable. Do you want to change your life? Do you want to change the behavior you are in right now? Do you really want to be a different person? It can happen

The Gospel

But your first step to God is through Christ, and the forgiveness of your sin. Sin separates us from the Holy God, and like the paralytic man, there is nothing we can do to overcome in and of ourselves. We can no more earn our salvation than the paralytic man could rise and walk. We need the help of Jesus. Let's all bow our heads for a word of prayer. Lord, we pray for any here that may not yet know you. Maybe they have tried or at least they thought they have tried Christianity but they really never have because they never came to you. It's all about Jesus. It is not about rules and regulations. It is about a relationship with you. And we pray Lord that you will help those that do not yet know you to come to you today and find your forgiveness.

Galatians 2:15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,

Galatians 2:16 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 the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Flesh wants to be Worthy / Legalism form of Carnality & Self-Righteousness

Verse 16- that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law - So our flesh somehow wants to be worthy, our flesh has a problem saying I need help. Our pride is directly connected to works. Legalism is a form of carnality because we are saying look what we can and have done; the problem is we can't say that for very long because it is only a matter of time before we blow it. Making rules and keeping rules to say look how worthy I am God is self-righteousness, and that is carnality. We so often only connect carnality with immorality, drug abuse, and the like. But in scripture legalism and self-righteousness is carnality.

Law just Proves we are Sinners and Need a Savior / The Law is Good / Shows we Can't – Jesus shows He Can

Verse 16 - for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified - The Law cannot and will not justify you. You cannot be saved by keeping the Law. The Law just proves to us we need a Savior. The Law is good because it shows us we can't do it, and then Christ shows up and shows us that He can, and He says take My hand and I will trade places with you.

Romans 3:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Psalm 19:7 (NKJV) ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

James 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

Galatians 2:17 “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!

Galatians 2:18 For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

Make Myself Transgressor

I make myself a transgressor – we make ourselves transgressors if we try to live under the law again.

Make Jesus a Sinner

If we say you need Jesus and keep these rules to be saved, then we make Jesus a sinner and liar because when He was on the cross He said it is done, meaning He has done it all.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

They going back Under the Law / Law makes us Guilty – to go back Under it Makes us Guilty Again

So these people were going back under the law even after Christ had set them free from the Law that convicted them. If we go back under the Law, all we are doing is making ourselves guilty again. Because, the law finds everyone guilty.

You will Blow it eventually / You will be Miserable / Spend whole Life Focused on You

So if you are trying to be good you are blowing it. And, you will be miserable because you will be focusing on what not to do, rather than what to do, and your whole Christian walk will be joyless. You will spend your whole life on what not to do next, or trying to fix what you have just done that you failed in.

No Peace until Look to Jesus – and Stop Looking at Rule Book and Self

You will have no peace until you look to Jesus and not the rule book. Look at what Paul says in these closing verses.

Grace Covers Sin – But not Sting of Sin

Now listen to me, grace covers sin, but it does not remove the sting of sin. So if you are not convicted of the sin you are habitually involved in, actions that the word of God clearly says are wrong, then you have to be real honest with yourself and ask yourself if the Holy Spirit is living inside of me, and I can sin without conviction, how can that be? Is the Holy Spirit really living in me? Am I really saved? If you are convicted, then know the Lord is working in you and through you, and you keep walking, you keep praying, you be diligent about your relationship with Christ, and He will complete the work in you. But hear His voice today say, stop that sin today, let’s move on to greater things.

John 16:8 (NKJV) ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Oswald Chambers

Oswald Chambers once wrote, and I quote, “Sin enough and you will soon be unconscious of sin.” End quote. You can be so accustomed to that lifestyle you have chosen you really don’t want to break free from it. You don’t want to change the company you are keeping. You don’t want to stop going to the places you are going to. You like where you are.

Galatians 2:19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.

Galatians 2:20 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.

Galatians 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

Trading Places with Jesus / Have you Died Yet?

Paul is saying when Jesus died on the cross that Paul died also, because Jesus took his place. Have you died yet? Have you asked Jesus to trade places with you, to take your punishment for breaking God’s Law? Wages of sin is death..... Jesus made the payment for sin. Either we allow Jesus to pay it, or we have to pay it, and we know that our works can’t make payment.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Friday = Death / Sunday = Victory

It is Easter and i am talking about victory over sin. Good Friday, the day of the cross, Jesus proved the wages of sin is death. Easter proves the gift of God is eternal life. Had Jesus not rose from the dead there would be no celebration on Easter Sunday. Friday is death and Sunday is victory. If you want change you can have it because Jesus proves He alone has the power over sin and death and you can and will too but it starts with, do you want to change

Verb Tense / Don’t try to Rehab Old Man – Crucify the Old Man

Verse 20 - I have been crucified with Christ – the verb tense is would read, “I am permanently crucified with Christ”. Once and for all. He doesn’t say he is rehabbed with Christ. Many Christians spend their whole life trying to rehab, clean up, the old man. Romans 6 we are told to put the old man to death. Don’t try to rehab and negotiate with the flesh; kill it completely, and live a new life with Christ.

Romans 6:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

No Longer I who Lives / Let Go & Let God / 1st – It is Done, 2nd – Trust Him

Verse 20 - No longer I who live, but Christ lives in me – Christian, let go and let God live in you, lead you, guide you. You can and will only do that if first you believe that you don’t have to try to win His favor and His love by what you do, because you then will always be getting in His way of what he is wanting to do in and through you. Secondly, trust Him, trust Him, that he knows what He is doing. Trust Him enough to say, not my will but your will be done. His will is always what is best for you because He loves you, you are His precious bride who He adores and loves greatly.

Matthew 26:39 (NKJV) ³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

He Loves You – He gave Himself for You

Verse 20 – who loved me and gave Himself for me – He loves you and gave Himself for you. What then would He ever withhold from you?

Romans 8:31–32 (NKJV) ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

When Fully See That

When we fully see that He has given Himself for us, how much He loves us, then we will follow Him anywhere and consider it the best place to be, and we won’t need a rule book because our ears will be tuned into His voice and our hearts will simply want to please Him and live in His will and His ways.

Do you want to be Made Well?

Do you want to be made well, do you want to change your life? Jesus has come down to trade places with you so that you can trade places with Him, so your sin can be forgiven, and you can become the Father’s son/daughter.

Response to Person lost All Hope / 3 things

So what is the response of Jesus to the person who has lost all hope? To the person who has given up on themselves? Three things.

- Number one. He asks the impossible.

- Number two. He removes all possibility of a relapse.
- Number three. He expects continued success.

Do you want to be Made Well?

Do you want to be made well, do you want to change your life?

End of Study

Galatians 3

Galatians 3:1-5

The Why / The Theme

We are in Galatians and have made it all the up to chapter 3. Paul is writing this letter, you can read the sense of urgency in it, and it is urgent because people are turning away from the one true gospel, and adding works on to the finished work of Christ on the cross. When Jesus said it was done, He meant it. The theme of the book, the message Paul is urgent about, is that the just shall live by faith, that it is all the grace of God and there is nothing man needs to do, has to do, to add on to “the good news”.

Galatians 1:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

All Grace

It is all grace, nothing of ourselves, nothing we need to add. Man is justified through faith. When a person lives by faith, then God lives in them and through them, and all things become clear and thus God guides them on how to walk this walk as sons and daughters.

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Outline:

- In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.
- Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul’s doctrinal instruction about grace.
- Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.

Recap Chapters 1&2 / Layout Court Case – Salvation through Faith (all Grace)

So Paul in chapters 1-2 wrote of his personal experience with grace as he told us about getting saved, going into the desert for three years to be taught the gospel of grace, then going up to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles to discuss the gospel of grace, and then his experience Peter playing the hypocrite of the gospel of grace. And now in chapter three Paul is going to start giving instruction and doctrine regarding grace. Basically he is going to lay out a legal court case, and airtight one at that, to prove salvation is all grace (all God’s work not man’s). This doesn’t just mean to get saved, but our life after our accepting Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Galatians 3:1 O 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?

Foolish = Mindless

The word “foolish” means “mindless, to not use your mind”. To put it into today’s wording it would read, “what in the world are you thinking”.

Bewitched = Cast a Spell / Feeling over Facts

Bewitched means “to cast a spell”, which means to charm or fascinate in a misleading way, as by flattery, false promises, or occultic power, and clearly suggests the use of feeling over fact, emotion over clear understanding of truth. “Who tickled your fancy?” Paul asked rhetorically, fully aware of the answer. “Why do you no longer embrace and enjoy the simplicity of Jesus Christ? Who put this spell on you?” Paul asks the Galatians.

Paul Concerns – Knows Men Complicated Gospel / Men came Into to Pervert Truth

The apostle Paul was deeply concerned about what was happening in the series of towns and cities known as Galatia. You see, after he had shared the Good News of Jesus Christ with the Galatians, men came in who began to complicate the gospel. “Paul’s message is cool,” they said, “but not complete. In addition to believing on Jesus Christ, you must show you are serious about Him by keeping rules and regulations.”

Clearly Portrayed – To be Posted / Who added another Sign under Paul’s Sign

Verse 1 - before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? – The words “clearly portrayed” at the time of this writing meant “to be posted”. So before the days of texts, emails, phone, internet, snail mail, CNN and Fox News, the way important messages were conveyed to the population was through “posting”. In the town center there was a post, and the message that was meant to be conveyed to the citizens from the officials was “clearly” written out, spelled out so there be no confusion of what was being said, and then it was posted (nailed to that post in the town center). So when you wanted to check your email you had to go to the town center and see if you had any new messages. Paul is saying, when I was with you, I clearly posted, clearly wrote it out, spelled it out, so there be no misunderstanding, that salvation was all based on Jesus Christ Him crucified. So he says, who has come in to tear down my posting, who has spray painted my sign, who has added another sign under my sign to confuse you and lead you astray.

20/20 Vision

Christian, When you find yourself confused, when you find yourself wondering, when you find yourself unsure how you are doing, you simply need to get your vision corrected, you simply need to get back to that place of 20/20 vision, and that is John 20:20. When we look at the nails in His hand, the pierced side, everything will come back into focus. Jesus loves me, I can clearly see that as he died for me. Jesus says when you doubt your salvation, when you have totally blown it, when you think you have gone so far away from Him that he will never receive you back, get your vision checked, come back to 20/20, and you will then see all things clearly again. I think it important to put in context when Jesus said this in verse 20, and that was after all the disciples scattered, after they had denied him, after they stood at a distance 3 days earlier as He was being crucified, it was while they were hiding in fear, behind the shut doors, thinking all was lost, it was there when Jesus appeared and showed them His hands, gave them a vision check. Notice verse 19, Jesus starts with the word “Peace”; Jesus said Peace, be at rest, for peace means “favor” and you have favor with the Lord. If you have been running from the Lord and wondering if He will receive you back, hear His words of “Peace be with you”, and see His hands pierced for you that says nothing you have done will ever separate you from Me. If you are filled with fear and anxiety of some situation or circumstance in your life, hear His words of “Peace be with you”, look at My hands, I am with you and will be with you through this all.

John 20:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

John 20:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Galatians 3:2 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?—

Rhetorical Question / Game Show Host - Sarcastic

So Paul simply asks this rhetorical question, did you get saved by the work of Jesus or by your own work? Did any of you get on this great streak of keeping all the commandments of God, and one day God showed up like a game show host and said “you are totally awesome, and you just earned yourself the reward of salvation, Gabrielle lets show him what they won”. And then Gabrielle does the Vanna White thing, and says because you are so awesome.....and then shows them their mansion in heaven and the streets of gold. Paul is literally being that sarcastic with them, as he making the point. Paul is making the point that you failed the law of God miserably like everyone else (Gal 2:16), the wages of sin was death (Rom 6:23a), you were guilty, but then you looked and saw Jesus on the cross, your vision became 20/20 and you knew you couldn’t make it to heaven on your own merit,

that you needed a Savior, and there He was, extending nail-pierced hands saying take hold of My hands and receive the gift of God, eternal life through my work not yours (Rom 6:23b).

Galatians 2:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *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 the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.*

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

How did you Receive Jesus

So how did you get saved? You simply believed, and knew you needed help. I didn't know much about God and the Bible when I got saved, I just knew I needed a Savior.

- I mean I knew Moses built the ark
- Charlton Heston led them out of the bondage of Egypt
- I knew the Noah's wife was Joan of Ark
- I knew about the great Italian prophet Malachi' (later to find it is actually Malachi)
- I knew God helps those who help themselves (later to find out actually Ben Franklin said that)

Faith of a Child / 25 Words – John 3:16

I knew Jesus loved me this I know. The faith of a child. Why children get saved, because it is that simple, nothing more complicated than that. John 3:16, twenty-five words, all that is needed to get saved and have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

How do you Continue – Through Faith / Same Began – Same End

So how do you continue on? The same way you began, casting all you hope, all your need, all your heart on to Jesus. Jesus you saved me, now Jesus keep me, now grow me, now do a work in me. And when you play it all the way through, it is how we end..... all Jesus! And if you are backslidden, have walked away, and you wonder how do I get back to the Lord, how do I restore what I once had? You do it simply, and simply do it, just how you first began.....cast all your hope, all your need, all your heart on to Jesus, and He will do the rest, and give you rest.

Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

How did you Receive It – How you Keep It

Paul is saying how you received it how you keep it, and you are being foolish thinking that now it is up to you to keep yourself holy in your works, when you couldn't even get saved by being holy. These Galatians were being told now that you received Jesus as Lord and Savior that was great, but now you have to keep the Sabbath, be circumcised, and adhere to the dietary laws prescribed in Law as it was given to Moses from God.

People want to help out God / Abraham & Sarah

People often feel they have to help God out. We can do that regarding our salvation. In verse 6 we are going to talk about Abraham, the Father of Faith, yet even Abraham and Sarah thought God needed help to fulfill His promise of making Abraham a great nation, even though he and Sarah were barren. There is something within us that always feels that if we are not contributing somehow or someway we are not part of it.

Genesis 15:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."* ² *But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"* ³ *Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"*

Sometimes because Don't want to Admit they a Sinner

And, many a times a person wants to add works on to salvation, because then they don't have to admitted that they are an offense to God, that they are not as guilty as the guy over there who is into all kinds of immorality, they just want to be considered "little sinners" not big sinners like that guy over there.

So Man makes way to be Religious and Feel Good / Some False Assurance – Others a Bondage

So, man makes up ways to help God out, to do their part and feel good about it. Some are deceived into false-assurance that they are saved, and others by their works trip may be saved because they believe it is Jesus Christ

Him crucified, but their works trip become bondage, and they lose the freedom of just enjoying that “It Is Done” just as Jesus said that it was.

*John 19:30 (NKJV)*³⁰ *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

Bewitched You – Beauty & Charm / Grace is Beauty & Charm / How Close – How Far Apart

Now here is the thing, and we find it unlocked right here in this passage, Paul says who has bewitched you, who has cast a spell on you, who has charmed you into believing this, believing that it is more than Jesus Christ Him crucified. Remember, one of the root meanings of grace is “beauty and charm”. Grace is so beautiful, it is charming, and it is lovely. But these men, and men today, they come and they bring something alongside Jesus and they make it seem like beauty and charm, and people get drawn into it. See how close the two are (beauty and charm), but see how far apart they are. That is Satan’s masterful work, he rarely wants to come with a dynamic counter, but something that is close (but oh so far away), something that seems beautiful and charming, until you see through all the trappings and see how ugly and destructive it really is.

7 Sacraments of Catholicism

The largest religious domination in the world is Catholicism (and a recent study concluded that somewhere between 1.25 billion people on the planet identify themselves as Catholic). The Catholic Church has what they call the 7 sacraments.

1. The Sacrament of Baptism:
2. The Sacrament of Confirmation:
3. The Sacrament of Holy Communion:
4. The Sacrament of Confession:
5. The Sacrament of Marriage:
6. The Sacrament of Holy Orders:
7. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:

No One Clear if Needed for Salvation / American Catholic Website

Now, depending on who you talk to, some will say observing/participating in the 7 sacraments are necessary for salvation, while others will say they are not. But I have personally found the vast majority of priests and followers (who really are devout) will say that if you aren’t faithful to the 7 sacraments, then you probably do not have salvation, you are not truly a child of God. Below is a direct paste from the Official website of American Catholics, and you can see the last part clearly says, they are for the experiencing of God’s saving presence.

The seven Catholic Sacraments are ceremonies that point to what is sacred, significant and important for Christians. They are special occasions for experiencing God’s saving presence.

- *Taken from the American Catholic Official Website.*

7 Sacraments Overview and Counter

Here is an overview of the 7 Sacraments (taken from American Catholic Website), and after each one I made note of why there is a problem with these 7 sacraments.

1. **The Sacrament of Baptism:** For Catholics, the Sacrament of Baptism is the first step in a lifelong journey of commitment and discipleship. Whether we are baptized as infants or adults, Baptism is the Church’s way of celebrating and enacting the embrace of God.
 - a. Problem – how does an infant know what he is doing? Thus we can see a ritual over a relationship. They believe baptism covers Adam’s original sin, not Jesus’ blood.
2. **The Sacrament of Confirmation:** Confirmation is a Catholic Sacrament of mature Christian commitment and a deepening of baptismal gifts. It is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation for Catholics. It is most often associated with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Problem – Notice they call it “sacrament of initiation”, thus salvation is a process not a onetime act that comes by receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior based on the finished work of the cross.
3. **The Sacrament of Holy Communion:** Catholics believe the Eucharist, or Communion, is both a sacrifice and a meal. We believe in the real presence of Jesus, who died for our sins. As we receive Christ’s Body and Blood, we also are nourished spiritually and brought closer to God.

- a. Problem – based on number two above, it is considered part of the initiation, and you can't take communion until confirmation. Catholics will not allow non-Catholics to take communion at their church, thus you can see a 'condition' on who they consider worthy to come before God.
4. **The Sacrament of Confession:** The Catholic Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Penance, or Penance and Reconciliation) has three elements: conversion, confession and celebration. In it we find God's unconditional forgiveness; as a result we are called to forgive others.
 - a. Problem – confession is before a priest not God, so now there is a layer between man and God.
5. **The Sacrament of Marriage:** For Catholics, the Sacrament of Marriage, or Holy Matrimony, is a public sign that one gives oneself totally to this other person. It is also a public statement about God: the loving union of husband and wife speaks of family values and also God's values.
 - a. Problem – if you are divorced then you will become separated from the church. If you are divorced and come to church, you will be refused communion.
6. **The Sacrament of Holy Orders:** In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, or Ordination, the priest being ordained vows to lead other Catholics by bringing them the sacraments (especially the Eucharist), by proclaiming the Gospel, and by providing other means to holiness.
 - a. Problem – as quoted above, the man leads the person to holiness.
7. **The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:** The Catholic Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, formerly known as Last Rites or Extreme Unction, is a ritual of healing appropriate not only for physical but also for mental and spiritual sickness.
 - a. Problem – Last Rites must come from the priest. I remember when my cousin died and we went to the funeral, I remember it so clearly the priest saying we believe Doug is in heaven because the priest made it to the hospital in time to administer last rites. Meaning, Jesus Christ Him crucified is not enough for eternal salvation, but need a priest to administer last rites.

It sounds so Beautiful and Charming – But it is separating from Christ

It sounds so beautiful and charming all these sacraments, but when you really start digging into them, some are so dogmatic they are suffocating. Others, put a layer of works in there that produces self-righteousness, and in many cases just false assurance of salvation because the person believes they go to heaven based on their works not Jesus Christ Him crucified. The chats, the candles, the rituals, can really move on the emotions, but the fact is they separate the person from the simple truth of the Gospel, the simple relationship God wants with His children (He doesn't want a mediator between His children), as I don't want my son Camden to have to go through someone to talk to me, I want him to freely barge into my room and say daddy do you want to go to the park, or daddy can you make me a grill-cheese sandwich, or daddy I am afraid for I heard thunder and saw lightning.

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) ⁵ For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

My Cousins Death / My Offer to God / God will take you Up on the Offer

I had only been saved about 3 months when my cousin died, and I remember it like it was yesterday even though it was some 23 years ago. I remember my cousin's young teenage children so struggling with the early death of their father (maybe around 40). I remember the priest sitting across from me in the room outside the viewing room, and I said to him sir how do you comfort people, what words do you say to them in their great time of need (and I asked sincerely because I wanted to know how to comfort people who hurt). And he responded by saying, well God, at least my God, will always be there for you. He was being very clear to me, that we did not have the same God, and I was damned for it. Wow! That coupled with the statement of last rights, I remember riding home (about a 4 hour drive) and I said to the Lord, "I know I don't know much, and I know I am not much, but if you ever want to use me to tell others about You, here I am". God, took me up on my offer. He will take you up on the same offer....., he isn't looking for the mighty and wonderful, just the willing and the moldable.

Mormons

Now how about the Mormon Church, look into that and you will see they bring such beauty and charm as they are big time on family, on giving, and doing good works. Family and serving sounds so charming, so beautiful, until you get into the meat of it and find that Mormons believe salvation is based on more than Jesus Christ Him crucified,

but also must be a member of the Mormon church and adhere to all its practices such “eternal marriage”, tithing, and missionary service, and membership in the Mormon church (if you are not a member you are not saved). So once again we see, Jesus Christ Him crucified is not enough, you have to join the church and keep their rules to be saved. Today there are 15 million people who identify themselves as Mormons.

Speaking of Family

Joseph Smith himself speaking of family said, “I have done through the Mormon Church what Jesus Christ could not, I have united the church”. Yes he did, he was quite the picture of the family man, he had 11 children..... well that is to his one wife Emma. We aren’t sure how many children he had with his other 7 wives (well that is the ones who were under the age of 18, two whom were sister age 17, and one as young as 14). So we don’t know how many children he had with those 7 wives all under age of eighteen, nor do we know how many children he had with the other 26 wives, and thus including his “eternal wife” Emma, totaling 34 wives. Yes he is quite the picture of a family man. By the way, eleven of his 34 wives were also married to other men simultaneously. We aren’t sure because the Mormon church is and has done all they can do to hide that information from the general public else we might not think so highly of the founder Joseph Smith. So much for beauty and charm once you really dig into it. Yes, I am being as sarcastic as Paul is in this verse as he was with the church in Galatia.

Think about What you Doing

Verse 1 – O Foolish Galatians - Paul is saying think about what you are doing, just stop and think about it logically, for you are making mindless decisions.

Greatest Danger for Christianity Today – Churches of Beauty & Charm (prayerless & spiritless)

Verse 3 - Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? – here is one of my greatest concerns of today, and that is that people are getting saved for real today based on the Good News of Jesus Christ Him crucified, but then after a while of walking with Him, being excited about simply being saved, couldn’t get enough of the Word, after a few years of that they want something else, not the spiritual things, but the fleshly things. They want to be entertained at church, they want a feel-good experience at church, and quite frankly they don’t want to be reminded that they are sinners. They want to hear they are wonderful, they are more favored than others, and they have 20 clubs (softball, knitting, skiing, etc) they can choose from to spend their leisure time. Having begun in the Spirit, now let’s complete this walk with making the flesh comfortable and enjoyable.

Galatians 3:4 Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

Be Ashamed to Suffer – Yet not Get Benefit out of It

This verse speaks of the sufferings which the Galatian saints went through as a result of having received the Lord Jesus as Saviour. The only record of any persecutions in the Galatian cities is in Acts 14:2, 5, 19, 22. We are left somewhat in the dark regarding these sufferings, their nature and extent. Paul appeals to the Galatians not to let these sufferings be in vain by turning their backs on grace and putting themselves under the legalistic system of the Judaizers. The construction in the Greek text gives the idea, “If it really be in vain.” It leaves a loophole for doubt in the apostle’s mind that the Galatians really were swinging away from grace to law. It implies an unwillingness on his part to believe this.

If You going to be Criticized for Being Saved – Get Everything Out you Can

Hey, if we are going to be saved, and face opposition from the world for being Jesus Freaks, hate mongers, and Bible Thumpers, as they call portray us to be..... if we are going to suffer, then suffer it not in vain, get all the presence of God and Holy Spirit blessing your life as possible, don’t put yourself under mindless rules and suffocating legalistic trips, enjoy the Lord for all He is.

Galatians 3:5 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?

Paul not Legalist – But Legal Mind / Starts a Court Case

Paul isn't a legalist, but he has a legal mind. So he turns this into a court case, and starts calling witnesses to testify, and the first witness is the Holy Spirit. Usually lawyers save their best for last, but Paul starts with God, the 3rd Person of the trinity, and starts his case of grace only, not anything man can do or add.

Which Message did Holy Spirit Give You? / Keep that One

He says which message did the Holy Spirit give you? Then keep the one He gave you, not the one these men have come and give to you.

Next Witness is Abraham

Next witness is Abraham, and we will pick that up in our next study. Paul will make the point in this court case that he didn't invent the gospel of grace, of salvation by faith, believing God would do the work, Paul will show us that he received this message of grace from God as God showed him the picture and story of Abraham.

Conclusion

Spirit 18 Times / Christianity is a Spiritual Thing

Here is the first time, of 18 times, that the word "Spirit" will be spoken. Paul will speak of the Spirit over and over in the rest of this epistle because, Christianity is a spiritual thing, not a fleshly thing. Let me just close with a couple comments regarding the Holy Spirit, but just know we will be going deeper regarding the Spirit in the weeks to come.

Spirit is God – Not Mystical Force

And it is always good to remember, the Spirit is God, not some mystical mysterious force. The Spirit is the third person of the trinity (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). So when we say a person is Spirit-filled, that means God is living in them and influencing them and flowing through them.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Street Witnessing in CA

I remember street-witnessing in California when I was in Bible College, and I remember sharing about Christ to this young man about 20 years old, and he pretty much wasn't very interested. But then I said and then God comes and lives inside of every person who receive Him as Lord and Savior..... And it was like a lightning bolt hit him! He was like you mean God would come live inside me, that God would desire to be so close to me that he would actually come in to me, you mean that God would be willing to be that personal to me! It really wasn't a question mark at this point, but rather an exclamation mark! He prayed to receive Jesus as His Lord and Savior, and all who have done the same will see Him in heaven.

In His Presence / Filled with Galatians 5:22-23

In His presence is fullness of joy, He (God) is Spirit, and we are filled with His Spirit when we receive Him as Lord and Savior, and so we can take that to another level meaning here is everything you are filled with when you are filled with the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

What does Spirit do For You / How Know You have Received Him

What does the Spirit do once you receive Him into your life, how can you know that you have received Him into your life?

- You will have a new outlook on life, you won't have the same outlook as the rest of the world does

- There will be a desire for the things of God
- You will be sensitive to sin.

All of the above is because God is in you and doing a work in you.

We Fight against it because it Separates person from God

Here is the summation of our study today, and a reason we fight so hard against people trying to add anything to their relationship with God, or anything that separates a person from their relationship with God, and that is that many Christians go into sin because they are not enjoying God in a personal relationship.

Sin Appealing when no True Comparison

Sin will appear appealing because it doesn't have a true comparison against the joy of the presence of God. Christianity is a spiritual thing, and thus we must always be cultivating the spiritual things not the fleshly things. But if the spiritual things are not cultivated, then the fleshly things will seem so appealing.

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Steak & Lobster vs Baloney Sandwiches

It is like a baloney sandwich, and I have eaten plenty in my life and just along with it. But give me a choice of steak (seared to allow the juices to be trapped in during cooking), and then lightly salted to bring out the full flavor, and couple it with a Maine Lobster boiled to perfection, with a melted butter on the side for dipping, throw in a bake potato topped with sour cream and a little bacon bits, with fresh steamed broccoli..... and I will chose that over the baloney sandwich every time. But never expose me to the steak and lobster, never given it to me to taste, starve me, and that baloney sandwich can suddenly seem so appealing. So it is for the Christian who isn't tasting and seeing the Lord is good, for the Christian distracted, who is not cultivating the spiritual things the things of the Lord, all of a sudden sin (the baloney sandwich) looks appealing.

Psalm 34:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Christian – Cultivate the Spiritual Things this Week

Christian, enjoy your salvation this week, enjoy Jesus. Don't get complicated by your performance, go back to that 20/20 vision, go back to the cross and know you are accepted in Him because of Him, not on your performance. And then cultivate the spiritual things, have a special time in the Word this week, in prayer, go for a walk with Him, tell Him you love Him, taste and see the Lord is Good, and you will find that nothing else will compare.

Not Responsibility but Response

It is a spiritual thing, therefore our cultivation of the spiritual things is not out of responsibility, but a response to the Spirit of the Living God living in us, calling out to us to come enjoy Him personally and intimately.

End of Study

Galatians 3:6-9

The Why / The Theme

We are in Galatians and have made it all the up to chapter 3. Paul is writing this letter, you can read the sense of urgency in it, and it is urgent because people are turning away from the one true gospel, and adding works on to the finished work of Christ on the cross. When Jesus said it was done, He meant it. The theme of the book, the message Paul is urgent about, is that the just shall live by faith, that it is all the grace of God and there is nothing man needs to do, has to do, to add on to “the good news”.

Galatians 1:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

All Grace

It is all grace, nothing of ourselves, nothing we need to add. Man is justified through faith. When a person lives by faith, then God lives in them and through them, and all things become clear and thus God guides them on how to walk this walk as sons and daughters.

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Outline:

- In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.
- Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul’s doctrinal instruction about grace.
- Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.

Recap Chapters 1&2 / Layout Court Case – Salvation through Faith (all Grace)

So Paul in chapters 1-2 wrote of his personal experience with grace as he told us about getting saved, going into the desert for three years to be taught the gospel of grace, then going up to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles to discuss the gospel of grace, and then his experience Peter playing the hypocrite of the gospel of grace. And now in chapter three Paul is going to start giving instruction and doctrine regarding grace. Basically he is going to lay out a legal court case, and airtight one at that, to prove salvation is all grace (all God’s work not man’s). This doesn’t just mean to get saved, but our life after our accepting Christ as our Lord and Savior. In our last study Paul called his first witness, God Himself (the Holy Spirit) to testify that they received Him simply by believing, and in today’s study we will see Paul call his second witness, Abraham, and we will see the court case that Abraham received and was accepted, by faith, believing that God would do all the work, and need only believe.

Galatians 3:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ O 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? ² 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?—³ Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? ⁴ Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ 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?

HOW WERE THE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS SAVED?

H. A. Ironside was traveling and dropped in on a Sunday school class. The unprepared teacher asked how Old Testament saints were saved and somebody answered, “By keeping the law.” The teacher said, “Correct!” Ironside raised his hand and said, “Romans 3:28 says it’s not by the law.” The teacher responded, “Oh, that’s right, sorry. So how were Old Testament saints saved?” Somebody else answered, “By making sacrifices.” “Correct!” Ironside raised his hand and said, “Hebrews says the blood of bulls and goats is not sufficient.” “Oh yeah...why don’t you just tell us how!” “The same way we are today, by faith!”

Confusion Today about OT Salvation

There is much confusion about how the Old Testament saints got saved. It surely was not the law or sacrifices we have just read. The law was to show man was hopeless and needed help, needed a Savior. The sacrifices were only a foreshadow of the Ultimate Sacrifice Jesus Christ who would come to take the punishment for breaking the Holy Law of God. So an OT person, how did they get saved, by faith believing that One would come to take their punishment for breaking God's Holy Law. They did that by faith. The example, the picture for all the OT people, was Abraham, and Paul uses that picture and example for all people still today.

Galatians 3:6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

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

Galatians 3:8 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."

Galatians 3:9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

By Faith

Abraham was not some man of great pedigree. He was an idol worshipper, he was not a man who sought after God, but one day God showed up to him and Abraham's whole life changed. See that is how it goes, none of us seek after God, we are all off doing our thing, but then one day (at God's perfect timing) He shows up and presents Himself to us, and we then decide if we are going to follow Him or go on doing our own thing. God appeared to Abraham long before the Law, long before animal sacrifices, about 600 years before the Law and the institution of the sacrifices. How was Abraham considered righteous (right standing before God), by believing God would do what He said He would do. Paul says that is how man was saved, and still is saved, by believing. Not of works, not on performance, but by believing.

Genesis 15:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. ⁷ Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."

Titus 3:4-7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Morning Devotions – Real Life People

I love doing my morning devotions in the Old Testament, because it is filled with stories of people who lived just like the rest of us. Real life people with real life stories. I love telling stories of real life people with real life stories, whether OT or present day. Imagine if you would 4000 years ago, imagine if there was no television, no internet, no newspaper, imagine there was nothing to do after the end of a day of working out in fields except to gather together as a family in front of a fire in your small home or tent. Imagine that, it is kind of hard for us. Imagine the children of Israel when in 400 years of slavery after a harsh and hard day of mud sloshing, brick molding, brick baking, brick making, brick carrying. Way different than today isn't it. But we all love a story, and before the written word we know as these scriptures, the Jews had what they call the Oral Torah, and it was stories passed down from generation to generation through these times of togetherness. One of the stories, one of the greatest stories (mind you this is before the Exodus) would be the story of Abraham and Isaac, which we have the blessings of being recorded for us in Genesis 22.

Recap / Abraham's Life Defined / The Promised Seed

Chapter 22 is truly one of the most powerful chapters dealing with His-Story. In past chapters we see Abraham whose life was defined by pitching tents and building altars. God had given him the promise of a child, and that through his child all the nations of the world would be blessed. So now it is about 25 years after the promise, Isaac is born, the promised Seed.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

Mind you, it all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the

Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) 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."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Message Outside our Time

Genesis 22 is a message given to us from outside our time domain, written 4000 years ago, and fulfilled 2000 years ago on the cross.

Where 3 Days Prophesied / 1 Cor 15

Paul, writing to the Corinthians, speaks of the gospel that he had preached to them. He said the gospel that he had preached to them was that of Christ, who died, and was three days dead but who rose on the third day. He speaks of it like it was from the Old Testament. Now, where does the Old Testament scriptures teach that Christ died for our sins and was resurrected on the third day? As I look at the Old Testament scriptures, this must be the reference to which Paul was referring:

(1 Corinthians 15:1 NKJV) Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

(1 Corinthians 15:2 NKJV) by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you; unless you believed in vain.

(1 Corinthians 15:3 NKJV) For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

(1 Corinthians 15:4 NKJV) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Jonah – Jesus

Jesus Himself tells us that Jonah is a picture of Him spending 3 days dead so that is a given:

(Matthew 12:39 NKJV) But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

(Matthew 12:40 NKJV) "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Gen 22 / Hosea 12

Here in Genesis 22, is another. The Prophet Hosea said:

(Hosea 12:10 NKJV) I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets."

(Romans 15:4 NKJV) For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Picture Perfect / Similitudes

This study we will see that it is picture perfect. It is a picture of the One who loves you, and would die for you. We will see all the similitudes of the gospel right here in Genesis 22.

(Genesis 22:1 NKJV) Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 22:2 NKJV) Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Isaac not a Baby

Verse 1 - Now it came to pass after these things: Probably a period of 25-30 years or so after the weaning of Isaac.

So this is important to see because Isaac isn't some little boy, he is a man who is willingly going along with this. We see Isaac as a type of Christ.

Isaac a Type of Jesus

Before we get into the text let's look at some comparisons of how Isaac is a picture, a type of Jesus Christ:

- Isaac was a miracle birth in that he was born to man and woman past childbearing age, as Sarah was in her 90's and Abraham was near 100. Jesus was born a virgin birth.

- Isaac was promised a long time before his birth, 20 years. Jesus was promised 4000 years before His birth (Genesis 3:15).
- God named both of them before their birth.
- Both Son's delighted their Father.
- Both of them were obedient to their Father, even to the point of death. Genesis 22 / Philippians 2:8.

Isaac is a type of Jesus Christ; Jesus is the fulfillment of the type.

God Forgets Our Sin

Verse 2 - Take now your son, your only son Isaac - Here is a blessing encoded here, God forgets our sins, He doesn't remember them. God, here, does not recognize Ishmael. Ishmael was the work of the flesh and God refused to recognize him. Abraham and Sarah thought God needed a hand to get things accomplished, and how that is so a picture of us, but God doesn't need our help. Ishmael is not the child of promise or the work of the Spirit.

God doesn't need a Helping Hand from Us

We often try to offer to God the works of our flesh and God will not accept them. So much of the endeavor for God is done in the flesh. That is one of the weaknesses of the church today. We are endeavoring, in the ability and energy of the flesh, to do the work of the Spirit. The Psalmist said, "Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain who build it; except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." (Ps.127:1). We're going to be surprised when we stand before God and our works are then tried by fire; because, so many of them will be burned. The works of the flesh will all burn. I've tried for years, in my flesh, to do the work of God and to build the church of Jesus Christ, but it was all for nothing. I spent a lot of years laboring in vain. God doesn't recognize the work of your flesh, He wants the work of the Spirit in your life.

God is Love

Verse 2 - whom you love: Love is probably one of the most important words in the Bible, for it is the very essence of who God is, God is love:

(1 John 4:8 NKJV) He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

First Mention / Father & Son

Our Similitude, Interestingly this is the first time love is mentioned in the Scriptures. There is a study of the Bible which takes the first use of a word and usually sets a pattern for its use throughout the Bible. This is called "First Mention." When you are studying a certain word or subject, you should always go back to the first mention of the word to get some light upon its meaning. This is the first mention of "love" and what is interesting is that it is the love of a father for his son. We hear a lot about mother love, but the first mention of love in the Bible is not about a mother for her child or a husband for his wife; but, of a father for his son.

First Mention in NT

What is the first mention of love in the New Testament?

- In Matthew's Gospel, we are told that when Jesus was baptized that the voice of God spoke from heaven saying, "This is my beloved son."
- In Mark's Gospel the first mention of love is also at the baptism of Jesus where Mark records the voice from heaven saying, "This is my beloved son."
- In Luke's Gospel, the first mention of love is again at the baptism of Jesus when God said, "This is my beloved son."
- The Synoptic Gospels all agree, but what is the first mention of love in the Gospel of John? John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son..." God's love for the world in that He gave His only son. God loves you. God came for you while you were still in sin, God became sin for you, so He can make you a son/daughter.

Area of Jerusalem

Verse 2 - and go to the land of Moriah: The land of Moriah was the area of Jerusalem. Abraham lived down by Beer-Sheba, about thirty miles away from Jerusalem. You could make about ten miles a day walking and so, it was about a three day journey.

Offer – Lift Up / Moriah – Foreseen of God

Verse 2 - and offer him there as a burnt offering: Offer means to "lift up, and Moriah means "foreseen of Jehovah". Jesus said:

(John 12:31 NKJV) "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

(John 12:32 NKJV) "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

(John 12:33 NKJV) This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

Not Human Sacrifice / Sneak Preview 2000 Years Early

Moriah you see is a sneak preview of the coming attraction. God is sending mankind a message, a message of His love and mercy. God is against human sacrifice, He never would ask Abraham to do something that is contrary to His ways. God is allowing Abraham to play a part in presenting the gospel 2000 years before it happens. Did Abraham know it, I don't know, all I do know is that he was faithful in his role, and so was Isaac.

(Genesis 22:3 NKJV) So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

No Hesitation

Verse 3 - So Abraham rose early in the morning - Abraham doesn't hesitate he awakes early in the morning and goes. When the Lord speaks to us we do well not to hesitate or we may miss out what He wants to show us or use us for. Has God showed you something, ask something of you, has He come and asked you to offer something up to Him (maybe it is the drinking, the relationship that is separating you from Him, maybe that anger and resentment of a past hurt, maybe it is that hobby or habit that consumes so much of your time, then today don't hesitate and get there to offer it up to Him, and let Him convert it into a great moment in your life.

Lad – Young Men / Maybe 33 / Forget Sunday School

Verse 3 - and took two of his young men with him: The word, in the Hebrew, for young men is the same word used for "lad" in verse five, speaking of Isaac. So, Isaac was about the same age as these young men that went along with them. Based on the time passing, Isaac was probably about 25-33 years old. Forget the Sunday school pictures, Isaac was a full grown man. Based on the sum of all the other parts, of how each point is clearly a symbol of Jesus, I have no problem believing that Isaac was 33, the same age Jesus was when He went to the cross. Isaac is carrying the wood, and thus we know he isn't some little boy.

2 Men / Via Delrosa / Thief of Hearts

Our Similitude, when Jesus would walk the Via Delrosa on His way to the Cross, he had two men with Him. Two thieves, which I think is a good picture for Jesus is the greatest thief of all, for He will still your heart with His love. If you are here today and have not asked Jesus into your life, I pray He steals your heart today, I pray the Spirit is moving in you to convince you of His great love for you, and I pray today is the day of your salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV) ² For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

That Place – Very Specific Place

Verse 3 - and went to the place of which God had told him: to the place, it will be mentioned again in verse 4 and 9; this isn't any ole place, this is a very specific place.

The Temple Mount / 2 Chron 3

This is another marvelous prophecy by Abraham. The mount of the LORD is Mount Moriah and today is known as the Temple Mount. In II Chronicles we read:

(2 Chronicles 3:1 NKJV) Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

NT / Calvary – That Very Specific Place

In the New Testament we read of “to that place”:

(Luke 23:33 NKJV) And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

Look at Geography / Golgotha

If you will take a careful look at the geography of mount Moriah, you will note that the Temple Mount is at the side of the mountain and not at the top of mount Moriah. Mount Moriah continues on a gentle slope from the Temple Mount up to the top. However, when Solomon built the temple and the walls and many of the buildings, he did it on the north side of the city where the rock is perfect for building. It lays in strata and all they have to do is cut it. That is where they quarried the stone and so on the north side, mount Moriah has had a great chunk taken out of it. Originally at Abraham's time this stone had not been quarried and so from the temple mount, the gentle slope would have come all the way up to the top of mount Moriah which is now across some sort of valley from the wall of Jerusalem. If you stand near Herod's Gate on the top of the wall of Jerusalem, though you are standing nearly sixty feet from the ground down below, the wall is only twelve feet high, because of the bedrock. As a result of quarrying the stone, there are caves which resemble a skull. Thus the name of the place became Golgotha which means, "the Place of the Skull," or in Latin is called, "Calvary." Above the skull, Golgotha or Calvary, was originally mount Moriah and no doubt when Abraham went to the mount, he went to the top which was customary in those days when you built an altar. So, on the top of the mountain where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac, some two thousand years later; because, God so loved the world, he gave his only begotten Son as a sacrifice for our sins. Interesting, I was looking at a topography map, and the one I was looking at said the peak of Golgotha is 777 meters.

Exact same Place

In the same place where Abraham built his altar, God would sacrifice His Son and the prophecy of Abraham was fulfilled when he said, "God will provide Himself a sacrifice." In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen and it was, two thousand years later. The picture of Abraham sacrificing his son is a foreshadowing of that which God would do for love of the world in sacrificing His only begotten Son.

(Genesis 22:4 NKJV) Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.

Camden – Time to Engage / Image those 3 Days for Abraham

Imagine what it was like for Abraham for those 3 days, knowing what lies before him, yet by faith he continued on. I try to put myself in this place of a real life person in a real life event, and it was hard. I stared at Camden as I pondered this passage, that face of his, those beautiful cheeks, that precious smile. I thought of memories past. This week was funny, ever see the animation The Incredibles? Me and Camden have watched it about 30 time in 30 days. Remember Elasta-girl when the kids get into a fight at the kitchen table and her elastic arms are everywhere, all the while Mr. Incredible is in the kitchen reading the paper with his mind a million miles away, and then you hear from the dining room Elasta-girl screaming out “Bob it is time to engage, you need to do something”. Well I am in my study, my mind a million miles away, I hear commotions and rumblings out in the living room as Faithful the dog is chasing Camden and trying to bite his behind, but I just am oblivious, then I hear from the living room Camden scream out, “Dad it is time to engage, you need to do something”. I can’t imagine, don’t want to imagine, life without him, he is precious to me, I love him with all my being.

3 days Dead / God Got a Problem / Heb 11 / Abraham Believed the Resurrection

Verse 4 - Then on the third day: For three days, as they journeyed, Isaac was as dead in the eyes of his father, Abraham. Nonetheless, Abraham, the whole while, was believing in the resurrection. He could not understand what was going on nor could he understand the command of God. He saw a real dilemma, God's dilemma. God had said that through Isaac would his seed be called and Isaac was not married nor did he have any children. The

"seed" has to come through Isaac, but God is saying to offer him as a sacrifice and the only way this can happen is for Isaac to be resurrected. In Hebrews it says,

(Hebrews 11:17 NKJV) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

(Hebrews 11:18 NKJV) of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"

(Hebrews 11:19 NKJV) concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

(Genesis 22:5 NKJV) And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

First Mention of Worship / To Bow Down – To yield my Will

Verse 5 - the lad and I will go yonder and worship: This is the first mention of worship in the Bible. Sometimes as we sing praises to God and lift our hands, we say that we have been worshipping God, but technically that is not what the Bible terms as worship. The word worship means "to bow down." It is a reference to the "bowing down" of my will to God. You can lift your hands and sing with your eyes closed, but you may be resisting God in your heart. What Abraham is really saying to these young men is, "We're going to go up to that mountain and bow down our will to God."

We Will Come Back - Plural

Verse 5 - and we will come back to you: So, Abraham declares that they're going to worship and they will come again. The word "come" here is a plural verb. We will go and we will come back again to you is what Abraham is saying. He doesn't know how they will both come back, but he believes God's promise that his seed will be called through Isaac.

(Genesis 22:6 NKJV) So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

The Wood – The Cross / The Government

Verse 6 - So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son: Even as Jesus had the cross laid upon Him and He bore it toward Golgotha. In Isaiah 9:

(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:7 NKJV) Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

He has the Right to Rule Over me – Because Government Upon His Shoulder

The government is upon His shoulders, that is the Cross; that is why He has the right to rule over me, reign over me, because He alone was the sacrifice, He alone is the substitute. He is the government, and I am His citizen, and He has the authority, the right, to govern over me; but more so, He proved His love for me and dedication to me, and I would be a fool to follow anyone else, including myself.

Fire – God's Judgment / Holy God / Ish 59 – Hab 1

Verse 6 - and he took the fire in his hand: Notice that the Son carried the wood, but that the Father carried the fire. Fire represents judgment, as God the Father would hurl His wrath for man's sin upon His Son Jesus Christ. God is too Holy to wink at sin, He must judge it:

(Isaiah 59:1 NKJV) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

(Isaiah 59:2 NKJV) But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

(Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?

The Knife

Verse 6 - and a knife: The Knife - Jesus would be pierced on His side.

The 2 Together – In Agreement

Verse 6 - and the two of them went together: The two of them walked together, they were in agreement on what had to be done. For Jesus, this would be the hardest part, the separation from the Father:

(Psalms 22:1 NKJV) My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?

The Separation / If Only I could Get This – To be Terrified to be Out of Communing with the Father

Jesus was terrified to be out of commune from the Father. The Father and Son always walked together, they never knew separation, yet for those 6 hours on the cross that one Friday, the Father would have to turn His back on sin, for He is too Holy to behold it. I believe Jesus sweat drops of blood in the Garden not because of the pain of the Cross, but because the pain of being separated from the Father. If only we could see the way Jesus saw, for if we could we would be terrified to be out of commune with the Father.

(Genesis 22:7 NKJV) But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

(Genesis 22:8 NKJV) And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

Provide Himself / Old KJV

Verse 8 - My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering: Not that God will provide for Himself, as you read in the New King James translation, (a poor translation) but God will provide Himself:

(Genesis 22:8 KJV) And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Lamb Not a Ram / Prophetic (Exodus 12 & Isaiah 53)

Here is a very important point to catch, in verse 13 it will be a ram caught in the thicket, not a lamb. It is a huge difference to the story. They are two different words in the Hebrew. (The word for Lamb here is the same one used in Exodus 12:3-5 for the Passover Lamb, and the same word used for Lamb in Isaiah 53;7). This is a prophecy of Abraham concerning Jesus Christ, God the Son, who was provided as a lamb slain for our sins, the substitute for our sins:

Exodus 12:3–5 (NKJV) ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

Isaiah 53:7 (NKJV) ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

(1 Peter 1:18 NKJV) knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

(1 Peter 1:19 NKJV) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

John 1:29

And John, the Baptist, cried, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29).

Marvelous prophecy that God would provide Himself as the lamb for the burnt-offering:

(John 1:29 NKJV) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Isaiah 53

Isaiah the substitute Lamb:

(Isaiah 53:4 NKJV) Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

(Isaiah 53:5 NKJV) But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

(Isaiah 53:6 NKJV) All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

(Isaiah 53:7 NKJV) He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

(Genesis 22:9 NKJV) Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

Isaac had the Power / Submitted to Father

Isaac was approximately twenty-five to thirty-three years old at this point. The next advent that we read of is the death of Sarah and Isaac was about thirty-seven when his Mother died. Surely Isaac could have overpowered his Dad, approximately one hundred and thirty years of age; but, he submitted instead.

Jesus in the Garden

Even as Jesus, when going to the cross, submitted to the will of the Father but could have escaped it. In the Garden, He prayed:

(Luke 22:42 NKJV) saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Jesus Arrest - The Cup of the Father

When the soldiers came to arrest Him and Peter pulled out his sword, "Then said Jesus unto Peter:

(John 18:11 NKJV) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"

Jesus submitted to Will of Father / Cords of Love

Jesus was submitting to the Father by going to the cross and Isaac was submitting to his father by being bound on the altar. Jesus could have called fire from heaven to escape the cross if He so chose, but he didn't. He was not bound by the cords, but by the cords of love for you and for me.

(Genesis 22:10 NKJV) And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Imagine Abraham's Tears / Believed somehow God would Resurrect Isaac

I imagine, at this point, that Isaac was looking up at his Dad and saw the tears rolling down Abraham's cheek. This was the hardest test, Abraham ever had. He believed that somehow God was going to bring Isaac back to life. He didn't know how, but God had promised that through Isaac would Abraham's seed be called and he believed God. It would be hard to imagine whether Isaac or Abraham suffered more. When Jesus hung on the cross, who suffered the most? We don't often think of the pain of the Father's heart when the Son was being sacrificed for our sins. I would have to say that the Father was suffering the most.

(Genesis 22:11 NKJV) But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 22:12 NKJV) And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

Good to have Ear for the Lord

Verse 11 – Here I am – It is good to have an ear tuned to the voice of God, so as to hear Him when He speaks, to stop when He says to stop, and to go when He says to go. Slow down folks, tune in, spend time with Him, develop an ear to hear, believe God speaks, and He speaks to you personally and individually.

James 2 / Faith Without Works

James gives us a very interesting commentary on this particular passage of scripture:

(James 2:21 NKJV) Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

(James 2:22 NKJV) Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

(James 2:23 NKJV) And 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.

Works demonstrate what you Believe

James uses this as part of his argument that faith has to produce works that are in harmony with what you declare that you believe. The faith of Abraham was demonstrated in the fact of his willingness to offer his son.

(James 2:17 NKJV) Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

(Genesis 22:13 NKJV) Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.
(Genesis 22:14 NKJV) And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

Lord Will Provide / God's Provision Found at the Cross / HIMSELF – NOT FOR HIMSELF

Verse 14 - The-LORD-Will-Provide – In the Hebrew, Jehovahjireh. The Lord will provide, and a Name for all of us to draw into our hearts and minds. Whatever you want to see of God's provision in your life will always be found on the Mount. When you doubt God's love for you, His care for you, His provision for you, then go back to the Mount, and lift your eyes up and you will see His provision. Back in verse 8, Himself will He provide. God will provide Himself, not for Himself. Here it was a ram, the Lamb was still yet to come.

Man – Lamb - Worm

God became a man, the man became the Lamb, and then "catch this" the Lamb became the worm. Psalm 22 the great Messianic Prophecy concerning Jesus:

(Psalms 22:6 NKJV) **But I am a worm**, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

(Psalms 22:7 NKJV) All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

(Psalms 22:8 NKJV) "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!".....

(Psalms 22:14 NKJV) I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

(Psalms 22:15 NKJV) My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

(Psalms 22:16 NKJV) For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

(Psalms 22:17 NKJV) I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.

(Psalms 22:18 NKJV) They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

Tolaf / Scarlet / Red Spot / Reproduction

I've become a worm, the word there is "tolaf". Back in the days of Jesus if you wanted to make a scarlet garment, you would get these worms and grind them up into a solution, and then dip the garment in the solution and it would become red/scarlet. These worms, these Tolafs, when they would reproduce they would climb to the limb of a tree, then during reproduction it would die. As it dies it would leave a red spot on the tree limb. So it was during reproduction that it would die. Psalm 22, I am a worm, not a man, so that I might die for Ray and the church of Anne Arundel County, and Christians everywhere.

White as Snow

Then according to Zondervan Pictural Enclopedia, after 3-5 days the red spot dries up and turns white and then flakes off and falls to the ground:

(Isaiah 1:18 NKJV) "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."

From King to Worm – For Me

God is King of the Universe, God became a man, the man became the Lamb, the Lamb became the worm. From the King of the Universe, to the worm of the earth. He became like me, so He can take my sin, die in my place, pay my price for offended the Holy God. God provided Himself the Lamb.

(Genesis 22:15 NKJV) Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,
(Genesis 22:16 NKJV) and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son;

Angel of Lord - Jesus

Going back to verse twelve, the angel of the LORD said, "...thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from "me." The angel of the LORD is none other than Jesus Christ. The Book of Hebrews talks about the problem that God has when he wants to make an oath to man. When you make an oath, you swear by something greater; but, God can't swear by anything greater so He swears by Himself. There is nothing higher to swear by. God wanted to establish the promises by two immutable things. Number one It is impossible for God to lie.

(Genesis 22:17 NKJV) "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.

(Genesis 22:18 NKJV) "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

All Nations Blessed

Verse 18 - In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.": - So, we become the beneficiaries of the obedience of Abraham. Blessed because of Jesus, who was born of the "seed" of Abraham. For many years it was thought that there were only three thousand stars in the sky. Before the age of telescopes, guys would sit out and count the stars at night. Several Astronomers of ancient times, counted the stars and came up with numbers in the area of three to six thousand that are visible to the naked eye; so, the early skeptics cast doubts on the Bible being inspired by God. God made a severe mistake here by indicating that the stars were too numerous to count but then along came the telescope and it has been estimated that the number of stars, in our universe, are ten to the twenty-fifth power. It has also been estimated, by the number of cubic feet of sand that exist, that there are probably ten to the twenty-fifth power grains of sand on our earth.

(Genesis 22:19 NKJV) So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

Where is Isaac

Now, where was Isaac? It doesn't mention him coming back with Abraham, although we're sure he did. The Spirit does not mention it deliberately, because Isaac was a type of Christ.

Jesus Will Return For His Bride

After Christ's death, he was taken up into heaven and will not appear again until the Holy Spirit brings back the "bride" for the Son. Today the Holy Spirit is gathering, from among the world, a "bride" for the Son. When the "bride" is gathered, the Holy Spirit will bring "her" to the Son and He shall arise to meet them in the clouds of the air and so shall we ever be with the LORD. Isaac doesn't appear on the scene again until the time when his bride is brought to him by Eliezer, servant of Abraham who is a type of the Holy Spirit in Genesis 24.

(Genesis 22:20 NKJV) Now it came to pass after these things that it was told Abraham, saying, "Indeed Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor:

(Genesis 22:21 NKJV) "Huz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram,

(Genesis 22:22 NKJV) "Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel."

(Genesis 22:23 NKJV) And Bethuel begot Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

(Genesis 22:24 NKJV) His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Thahash, and Maachah.

Strange Way to End / After these Things / Lord Provide – Rom 8:32

Seems like a strange thing to add on to the end of this amazing story, but look at this. Whose mentioned in verse 23, it is Rebekah, Isaac's wife. Verse 20 starts with "after these things", after what things? After 3 days of being dead, after the resurrection, the Bride is brought forth to the Son. This is a picture of you and me. Jesus become a worm for me, so that I might become His Bride. Jehovah Jireh, the Lord provides.

(Romans 8:32 NKJV) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Conclusion of Galatians 3: 6-9

So, where we began, it is all grace, it is all God, it is nothing a man can do, for just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness".

Galatians 3:6 (NKJV) ⁶ just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

End of Study

Galatians 3:10-29

The Why / The Theme

We are in Galatians and have made it all the way up to chapter 3. Paul is writing this letter, you can read the sense of urgency in it, and it is urgent because people are turning away from the one true gospel, and adding works on to the finished work of Christ on the cross. When Jesus said it was done, He meant it. The theme of the book, the message Paul is urgent about, is that the just shall live by faith, that it is all the grace of God and there is nothing man needs to do, has to do, to add on to “the good news”.

Galatians 1:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

All Grace

It is all grace, nothing of ourselves, nothing we need to add. Man is justified through faith. When a person lives by faith, then God lives in them and through them, and all things become clear and thus God guides them on how to walk this walk as sons and daughters.

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Outline:

- In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.
- Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul’s doctrinal instruction about grace.
- Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.

We Study the Bible / be Eager – Move Quickly

Our passage today we will be reading about the law (10 Commandments), covenants, tutors, and heirs; some verses will have us scratching our heads, wondering what does this mean in American (I mean English). I would venture a guess that a passage such as this may only make it to a Sunday across American pulpits about one in every 10,000; hence is why we are a unique and different church, because we study the bible, are students of the bible, even passages such as this. I will tell you, there is a power in this passage, and I am thankful we go verse by verse because I too may have skipped over it. So we have bible studies on Sunday mornings, not sermons (which means “a religious speech”). Are we better than other churches, no not at all, we are just different. We are different in that we study. Paul writing his young protégée Timothy said to him, and it applies to us, study to show thyself approved unto God. Maybe your translation says “be diligent”, maybe yours says “study”, as the word means “endeavor, diligent, labour, study, work”, and it means “to be eager, to move quickly”.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV 1900) ¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Other Places Called to be Eager

There are several other places this word “spoudazo” is used in the NT, several other places that we are called, instructed, challenged to “be eager, to move quickly”.

- *Be eager, move quickly, to remember the poor* -
- *Galatians 2:10 (NKJV)* ¹⁰ They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.
- *Be eager, move quickly, for unity in the body* -
- *Ephesians 4:3 (LEB)* ³ being eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;

- Be eager, move quickly, to fellowship with the saints –
- **1 Thessalonians 2:17 (LEB)** ¹⁷ *But when* we were made orphans by separation from you, brothers, for a short time (in face, not in heart), we were even more eager with great desire to see your face,*
- Be eager, move quickly, to rest in Jesus and stop striving –
- **Hebrews 4:11 (NKJV)** ¹¹ *Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.*
- Be eager, move quickly, to make your calling and election sure (have you settled your salvation with God?)
- **2 Peter 1:10 (NIV84)** ¹⁰ *Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall,*
- Be eager, move quickly, to separate yourself from sin and be spotless before Him -
- **2 Peter 3:14 (NKJV)** ¹⁴ *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;*

Pray

Let's pray over these points now, if God has been speaking to you let's be eager, let's move quickly, to settle these things, and enjoy being found and doing these things.

Outline Galatians 3:10-29:

- The Curse of the Law (3:10-14)
- The Promise before the Law (3:15-20)
- The Purpose of the Law (3:21-24)
- The Release from the Curse of the Law (3:25-29)

Often Skipped – Yet Very Powerful / Understanding Why the Law – How to Use the Law when Witnessing

So in this passage we will read about the law (10 Commandments), covenants, tutors, and heirs. Let me just say this, this is possibly one of the most missed passages of digging into in all the scriptures, yet..... on of the most powerful passages in all the scriptures. Why? Because God unfolds to us, the power of conversion. True conversion, true salvation, sure salvation, and He does it by giving us an understanding of why He gave the law (which many Christians really don't fully understand), and how to use it when we share Christ with others. Let me say this, when you understand why God gave the law, and then you use the law when witnessing, all of a sudden your presentation of the gospel flows, it makes sense not only to you but to the person you are witnessing to, and..... it is supernaturally by the Spirit of God empowered to reach the heart of the person who hears it. In Psalm 19, the Word of the Lord says "the law of the Lord" is "perfect" in "converting" the soul. There is nothing more "perfect" in your witness than sharing the law, and sharing the law, for with the law comes the "knowledge of sin", and with the knowledge of sin come the heart's understanding for the need of a Savior.

Psalm 19:7 (NKJV) ⁷ *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;*

Romans 3:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Today's Modern Gospel

You see, today's modern gospel is Jesus loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. Give your life to Jesus and He will make your life brighter and your teeth whiter. Now here is what is amazing, and that is that we live in unprecedented times, church growth is at an all-time high, ministries and denominations claiming mind-boggling numbers of people saved. But here is what is troubling (as recorded in various surveys **of professing Christians**):

- 80% of the people who make decisions for Christ at a crusade or event fall away from the faith within a year.
- 8 in 10 teenagers walk away from the faith after high school never to return.
- 49% of professing Christians believe living with someone before marriage and having sex outside of marriage is acceptable.
- 33% believe abortion is acceptable
- 53% of the men who are part of Promise Keepers visit pornographic websites at least once a week.
- 50% of Christian marriages end in divorce

- But the good news is that 77% of Christians recycle (haha)

There is Problem / Law of Lord is Perfect for Converting the Soul / Those who See It – Will Follow Him Anywhere

There is a problem, and it is evident, and huge. I believe it is because people are not being presented the true gospel, but a gospel of ease and comfort, and when ease and comfort face all the delicacies of the world, the world wins out, because world offers immediate satisfaction and obedience is a marathon that's finish line is in heaven. But when the true gospel is presented, understood, received, lives will be changed and salvation will be sure. For the law of God is perfect for converting the soul, there will not be false converts, and as we study we will see that when people their offense before the holy God, and the Holy God taking their offense, they will be motivated by love and follow their God anywhere He goes, and seek to live and please Him.

Psalm 19:7 (NKJV) ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

The Curse of the Law (3:10-14)

So the first thing the Law does is tell man they are cursed, and the consequences of the curse is horrible. Although just movies, they do get one thing right, and that is that every curse must be lifted.

It is Written / The Law / Faith

Paul makes 5 direct quotes of the OT, and 1 reference. First thing to point out is that:

- 5 times in this passage we will see reference to it is written, or it say, or the Scripture, all making the point that these things are based on scriptures, and as we started we should be good students of the Word and know what they mean and why.
- 13 times the word "law" is used, and so we glean the theme and importance of the law, and why we need to find out what it means and how to use it in our witnessing.
- 9 times the word "faith" will be used, and we can start tying things together of it is all faith.

10 Commandments

So in our passage today we read about the law of God. What is the law, we find it in Exodus 20:

- #1. "You shall have no other gods before Me... (Exodus 20:3).
- #2. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image... (Exodus 20:4-6).
- #3. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain... (Exodus 20:7)
- #4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy... (Exodus 20:8-11)
- #5. "Honor your father and your mother... (Exodus 20:12)
- #6. "You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13)
- #7. "You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)
- #8. "You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15)
- #9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)
- #10. "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods; (Exodus 20:17)

Galatians 3:10 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."

Galatians 3:11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."

Galatians 3:12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."

Cross-reference

Deuteronomy 27:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ 'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' "

Habakkuk 2:4 (NKJV) ⁴ "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith."

Leviticus 18:5 (NKJV) ⁵ You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

Clear Point – Law Condemns not Saves

Paul makes the clear point that according to the law, a person is condemned and not saved. In verse 12 it is said if you think you can be saved by the law, then the standard is perfection, and thus every man fails. In James we are

told that if you break even on of the commandments then you are considered guilty of them all, and thus God looks at the “little sinner” as wretched as the “big sinner”. The thief is as guilty as the murderer.

James 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.*

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Jesus raise the Bar / Not just Actions but Thoughts

Jesus raises the bar so to say, as He shows that the law is spiritual, not just physical. So even if you don't commit the act physically, but in your mind, you are guilty because Jesus shows the law is spiritual and not physical only. If you lust in your heart you are guilty of adultery, if you have hatred in your heart you are guilty of murder.

Matthew 5:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’”* ²² *But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.*

Matthew 5:27–28 (NKJV) ²⁷ *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’”* ²⁸ *But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

Galatians 3:13 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”),

Galatians 3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Cross-reference

Deuteronomy 21:22–23 (NKJV) ²² *“If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³ his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.*

Isaiah 49:6 (NKJV) ⁶ *Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”*

God Provided Way to Righteous & Holy

God provided a way for Him to be righteous and holy, while at the same time being loving and forgiving. He did it by trading places and becoming the sacrifice. Jesus is called the Lion and the Lamb, and on side the Lion will judge and roar against the sinning law breaker, then on the other He will be the sacrifice to take the punishment.

Romans 3:19–26 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

Propitiation = Satisfaction / Million Dollar Check / Resurrection = Satisfaction

What does “propitiation” mean? It means “satisfaction.” Jesus’ death satisfied the demands of a holy God who said that sin must be punished. Jesus was the propitiation, the satisfaction. The question is: Did it work? Did God look at the death of Jesus Christ and say, “Yes. That will do. Ray’s sins are now forgiven”? Did the blood truly take away my sins? I could go through the actions of writing you a million-dollar check, it would mean nothing if I didn’t have the funds to back it up. Jesus claimed to be dying for our sins, but did His death “take?” Did it really satisfy the demands of a holy God who said, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4)? Yes. The Resurrection proves it. It’s the validation of what Jesus does. His blood does indeed cleanse us. It is valid. It “took.” It works! “This Jesus hath God raised up” (Acts 2:32)—validating what He did on the Cross and what He continues to do in our lives.

Acts 2:32 (NKJV) ³² *This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.*

The Promise before the Law (3:15-20)

And now the promise that God would do all the work, and it would not be up to man is clearly reinforced in these next verses, so man can enter into the rest of Jesus, and it is not up to Him to perform, but look to Jesus and the work He performed on the cross. Reminder, this is something we are encouraged and told to be eager about, to move quickly to get to.

Hebrews 4:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

Galatians 3:15 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.

Build on This that it is God who Confirms

Paul will continue on to show us that the covenant is confirmed by God, not man.

Galatians 3:16 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.

Cross-reference

Genesis 22:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Holy Spirit

Here through the Holy Spirit we have a tie back and through the whole OT and into the NT that the Seed (notice capital S, and is singular not plural) is a reference to Jesus the Messiah. So God promised back in the garden that man's sin (Adam and the fall) would be restored by God Himself. The promise that one Abraham's offspring (Seed) would be the Messiah. We studied a glorious picture of that in our last study as we looked at Genesis 22 and the picture of Abraham and Isaac up on Mount Moriah. That God would provide Himself the Lamb for the sacrifice.

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV) 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."

The Covenant of Redemption based on God Jesus

The scriptures here are building that the covenant is based on God and not man.

Galatians 3:17 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.

Point is they wrapped up in Law / Miss the Promise / So Too do we stop Short of Promises and stop at Failure

The point is being made to the people at that day, and to this day, hey you are so wrapped up and focused on the law that you are missing that God gave the promise that the just shall live by faith 430 years before Moses was given the law. You need to go back further and remember Genesis 3 (the first mention of gospel), and Genesis 22 of the promise of God being the sacrifice. That is so much a picture of man, how we stop short of going all the way back to the promises of God, and we get stuck on the failures of ourselves.

Galatians 3:18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Galatians 3:19 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.

Galatians 3:20 Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.

Little Wordy / But Covenant is One Way

Yes, a little wordy, but in simple terms what is being said is that this covenant is not based on man, but God only (see there in verse 20 it says, "but God is one"). See we make contracts today, like we enter a contract to buy a house, and this guy says I will sell it for this much, and we sign saying we will pay it. It is a two-way street. But what is being said here is that the covenant that God made with Abraham, with man, is totally based on God. He will perform the covenant, the contract, completely and we have to do is receive it. In fact In Abraham's day,

when two parties wanted to seal an agreement, they would cut an animal in half and meet each other in the middle, thereby saying, “We’re dead serious about this.” So Abraham got a bullock, cut it in half, laid it out, and sat there waiting for God to show up. He waited and waited, wondering where God was. When birds started swarming around the carcass, Abraham shooed them away. Time passed. Abraham’s eyes grew heavy. His head started bobbing, then slumping. Finally, he was sound asleep. Sometime later, he awoke, looked at the bullock, and saw it had been barbecued. God had come when Abraham was asleep and had moved all the way through the carcass (Genesis 15:17). God didn’t meet Abraham halfway. He did the whole thing, saying, “Abraham, this promise I’m giving you is not based upon your agreeing with Me and doing your part. No, I’m going to do it all. I’ll even do it while you’re asleep.” God still does it all, precious people. Your salvation, the blessings that are poured upon you, the work of the Spirit flowing through you in ministry—it’s all God.

Genesis 15:17–18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. ¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

You can Rest

Christian you can rest, God has done it all. If you want to get busy about something, get busy and move quickly to the rest He has promised you.

Hebrews 4:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

The Purpose of the Law (3:21-24)

Now Paul clearly says what the purpose of the law is, and that is to show people they have offended the laws of God, they are guilty before Him, and thus will face judgment for breaking His Holy Law.

Galatians 3:21 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.

Galatians 3:22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Galatians 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

Galatians 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Purpose – Guilty / Need a Savior

Paul clearly says what the purpose of the law is, and that is to show people they have offended the laws of God, they are guilty before Him, and thus will face judgment for breaking His Holy Law.

Tutor

The word “tutor” is the Greek Word [paidagogos /pahee-dag-o-gos/], it means “schoolmaster” or “instructor” or a ‘tutor’. In the time of this writing it was specifically used referring to 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 better class. The boys were not allowed so much as to step out of the house without them before arriving at the age of manhood. This is what the law does for us, it shows us God’s standard.

The Law Worked on Me

The purpose of the law worked for me, as at the age of 27 I had it all as the world would say; I was working at the Space Center launching rockets, was finishing my master’s degree, had the motorcycle, jet-ski, nightlife, but since about the age of 21 I had known something was missing. Then I read the whole OT and I saw that I had offended the Holy God by breaking His laws, that I was guilty. But even as I read I was not discouraged, even though I was convicted, because I knew that somehow God was doing something in my life and would do something, and then when I reached John 3:16 I saw it, for God so loved the Ray that He gave His only son for Ray. I believed it and I received it, and my life has never been the same.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

This is why we Use the Law to Witness

This is why we use the law to witness, this is why this passage is so important. When a person comes under the conviction of the Holy Spirit for their sin, and they clearly see and themselves are pierced in heart for offending God, and then when they see that God stepped in, took their place, when they see the price of sin (God's only Son), when they see that God does not wink at sin but fires His wrath down upon it, then they will fully see the holiness of God, and the love of God, and be "perfectly converted". The word for "converting" in Psalm 19 means to "turn back", "to repent", "to return". It was used also to mean "of dying". And thus we see the law will bring a person to repentance, to turning to God, to dying to one's self (and selfish desires), and turn to the Lord.

Psalm 19:7 (NKJV) ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Spurgeon

Quote from Charles Spurgeon: "Lower the Law and you dim the light by which man perceives his guilt; this is a very serious loss to the sinner rather than a gain; for it lessens the likelihood of his conviction and conversion. I say you have deprived the gospel of its ablest auxiliary [its most powerful weapon] when you have set aside the Law. You have taken away from it the schoolmaster that is to bring men to Christ ... They will never accept grace till they tremble before a just and holy Law. Therefore the Law serves a most necessary purpose, and it must not be removed from its place." Charles Spurgeon

Law Skips Argument

Use the law when you witness, for it is God's tool to pry open the heart. The law skips the arguments of the human intellect as man wants to debate about evolution, wars and how could a God of love allow this or that, and it just gets to the heart of the matter, man has broken God's law. And you know what, when I first witnessed, I always went for the biggies, I would jump on drunkardness and sexual immorality, and I immediately caused sleeves to be rolled up and defenses to be made. But now I can ask, have you ever stolen anything, have you ever lied, have you ever used the Lord's name in vain. And because the law is designed to do what it is supposed to do, converting the soul, it is not me against them, but the Spirit working upon them. Once convicted of their sin, then the good news is really the good news, and it means something more to them, and all those statistics we read at the beginning of this study will not be their case, because they will not wink at sin, or take it lightly, they will see holy God, loving God, and choose to follow Him to the ends of the earth and their life.

And.....Christ will be in them.

The Release from the Curse of the Law (3:25-29)

And Paul closes out by saying that once a person is converted by the law, then Christ comes and lives in them, and their lives will be changed because you can't have Christ living in you, and live like the rest of the world.

Galatians 3:25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Christ now Our Tutor – not the Law

The law is no longer our tutor but Christ Himself living in us become our guide. Not to condemn us, but to love us and lead us into the promises of God.

Spirit now Working in Us

The Spirit is now working in us, changing us, against which no law can touch or condemn us as we will study in chapter 5.

Galatians 5:22–25 (NKJV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 3:28 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.

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

God is saying we are 1 Body

And the Lord makes the point that we are all one, equal, His promise is for all who will receive it. It is not the promise to the Jews only, nor the Americans, but to any and all who will take His offer.

Conclusion

Wow, lots said in just a few verses. But for us to recap.

- The Curse of the Law (3:10-14)
- The Promise before the Law (3:15-20)
- The Purpose of the Law (3:21-24)
- The Release from the Curse of the Law (3:25-29)

Application:

What do you need to be eager about today? Is God calling you to move quickly to something?

- Be eager, move quickly, to study the Word of God -
- Be eager, move quickly, to remember the poor -
- Be eager, move quickly, for unity in the body -
- Be eager, move quickly, to fellowship with the saints -
- Be eager, move quickly, to rest in Jesus and stop striving -
- Be eager, move quickly, to make your calling and election sure (have you settled your salvation with God?)
- Be eager, move quickly, to separate yourself from sin and be spotless before Him -

How about Evangelism? Use the law to convert the soul. Come to our evangelism training classes to better equip yourself on how to do this.

Give Thanks – have you stepped back recently and just sat with the Lord and thanked Him for what He has done? Why not take some time today to do just that.

End of Study

Galatians 4

Galatians 4:1-11

The Why / The Theme

We are in Galatians and have made it all the up to chapter 3. Paul is writing this letter, you can read the sense of urgency in it, and it is urgent because people are turning away from the one true gospel, and adding works on to the finished work of Christ on the cross. When Jesus said it was done, He meant it. The theme of the book, the message Paul is urgent about, is that the just shall live by faith, that it is all the grace of God and there is nothing man needs to do, has to do, to add on to “the good news”.

Galatians 1:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

All Grace

It is all grace, nothing of ourselves, nothing we need to add. Man is justified through faith. When a person lives by faith, then God lives in them and through them, and all things become clear and thus God guides them on how to walk this walk as sons and daughters.

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Outline:

- In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.
- Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul’s doctrinal instruction about grace.
- Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.

Today – Fascinating

Let’s read our verses for today, and get right into what God has for us. I find today’s study a most fascinating one, and I think you will too.

Galatians 3:26–4:11 (NKJV) ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. ¹ 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, ² but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. ³ Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. ⁸ But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. ⁹ 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? ¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹ I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

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

Galatians 4:1 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,

Galatians 4:2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

We need to go back to verse 29 of chapter 3 to get the full context, and that is that believing and receiving the promise that was given to Abraham, that through his Seed the Savior would come to redeem us, to buy us out of sin, to release the curse that was upon us for breaking God's Holy Law (His Commandments). And so, the point being said here is that all who believed, still had to wait for the Messiah, for the Promised One of the Promise, to lift the curse of the Law. In that culture, they had slaves (but don't confuse that with today's version of slavery – of brutality and mistreatment – as God gave very specific instructions on how slaves were to be treated respectfully), a slave was someone who couldn't pay their own debts and put themselves under the responsibility of the owner. But the point of our story here is that although a son was to receive the inheritance of the father, until he became of full age, his portion of the inheritance was no greater than that of the slave in the house, the slaves that he could say do this, do that, get me this, and get me that. But once the father died, the son got all the inheritance, Thus, once Jesus died, and rose again, the inheritance was given, but all had to wait until for the Promised One.

Galatians 4:3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

We see that in verse 10 that these elements are the Mosaic and Levitical Laws given such as keeping the Sabbath, the dietary law, all the performing things. So Paul continually builds the case to them and for their good, hey you are free from performing, you can just rest in Him, you can now enjoy your inheritance. We will talk more about what that inheritance is.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Galatians 4:5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Fullness of Time / A Dispensation

I want to draw you attention to verse 4, “the fullness of time”. God had a set time of when He would send forth His Son to redeem all who would come unto Him. The “fullness of time” is what in the theological realm is called a “dispensation”.

Total of 8 / For Evangelism and Counseling / Equipping of the Saints

These Dispensations (scholars have grouped them from as low as 3 to as high as 10, but all say the same thing in the end), I have them grouped into 8 for our study today. Now part of our ministry charter is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. These Dispensations are powerful for us as we evangelize, counsel, and our personal understanding of God. These 8 Dispensations remove every excuse (we use them as apologetics) for a person for not coming to Christ (oh if I see it I'd believe it, how could a God of love allow all this suffering, if only I wasn't raised in such a messed up home, etc), and these same 8 Dispensations at the same time show there is only one hope in this world, man's efforts will always leave us short, will always leave left in bondage, left in depression, left in defeat, and only by Jesus Christ will we have “life and that more abundant”.

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Today we Equip / But God will not leave us Lacking

Today we study for the equipping of the saints so that we might do the work of the ministry, but I assure you that God never leaves us lacking, and as we glean for others, God nourishes us first.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) ¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Found in Ephesians

The word “dispensation” is found in Ephesians:

Ephesians 1:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

Ephesians 3:2 (NKJV) ² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

Dictionary Definitions

Here are some dictionaries definitions for this word “dispensation” to help us understand what the word means, and what God is doing through the dispensations we will study today.

DISPENSATION (*Easton's Bible dictionary*) — (Gr. *oikonomia*, “management,” “economy”). (1.) *The method or scheme according to which God carries out his purposes towards men is called a dispensation.*

DISPENSATIONS (*Unger's Bible Dictionary*) (Gk. *oikonomia*, “management of a household,” hence English “economy”). *A dispensation is an era of time during which man is tested in respect to obedience to some definite revelation of God's will.*

DISPENSATION (*Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*) — *a period of time under which mankind is answerable to God for how it has obeyed the revelation of God that it has received.*

The Dispensations of God:

- 1.) *The Dispensation of Innocence* (from Adam to the Fall)
- 2.) *The Dispensation of Conscience* (from the Fall to the Flood)
- 3.) *The Dispensation of Government* (from Flood to Tower of Babel)
- 4.) *The Dispensation of Promise* (from Tower of Babel through the Exodus)
- 5.) *The Dispensation of the Law* (from Mt. Sinai to the Cross)
- 6.) *The Dispensation of Grace* (from the Cross to the Rapture)
- 7.) *The Dispensation of the Tribulation* (from the Rapture to the 2nd Coming of Christ)
- 8.) *The Dispensation of the Kingdom Age* (From Second Coming through the Millennial Kingdom)

1) The Dispensation of Innocence (from Adam to the Fall)

The age of innocence, the perfect Garden of Eden. But then came the Adam-Bomb

Romans 5:12 (NKJV) ¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Psychologist B. F. Skinner voiced the belief of many when he said, “If you can change the external environment of a group of people, they will live at peace.” Scripture, however, says otherwise, for when God placed man in the perfect environment in the Garden of Eden, what did man do? He chose to rebel in the one and only way possible. He chose to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that was placed in the Garden as a way for him to choose for or against God’s love.

People say.....

- **Perfect Environment** – if only I didn’t live where I live I wouldn’t be who I am, and I wouldn’t do the things that I do – well Adam lived in the perfect environment and he still chose sin, it isn’t our environment, it is our nature.
- **Perfect Parent (Family)** – if only I didn’t live in the home that I do and have the parents that I have, I would be all sold out for God – well Adam had the perfect parent and the perfect family, and he still chose sin, it isn’t our parents, it is our nature.
- **Perfect Church** – man if only I could find an on-fire church, a better pastor, cooler Christians, then I would be all on-fire for the Lord and would be doing the things that I am doing. Well Adam had the perfect church and the perfect pastor, he had the most awesome fellowship hall in the universe (the Garden) and he still chose sin. It isn’t our church, it is our nature.
- **Perfect Government** – If it wasn’t for this government upsetting me with all their foolishness and wastefulness I would have peace and security, and wouldn’t be so fired-up all the time, and I could spend more time with the Lord. Well Adam had the perfect government and the perfect president/king, yet he still chose sin. It isn’t our government, it is our nature.
- **Perfect Job (with Perfect Boss)** – perfect job, perfect boss – need I say more, Adam tended to the Garden, and God was his boss. It isn’t our jobs that shape us, it is our nature.
- **Perfect Mate** – perfect mate, ahh it is my spouse that keeps me from seeking the Lord, always causing me problems. Adam had the perfect wife (and she was perfect because she was the one God picked her out just for him), yet Adam still chose sin. It isn’t our spouse, it is our nature.

- **Perfect Health** – if I wasn't me, if I was more beautiful, more fit, younger or older, healthier, not struggling with this health issue, I could focus solely on the Lord. Adam had perfect health, yet he chose sin. It is not our health, it is our nature.

B. F. Skinner was wrong, for it was only during the age of innocence that God declared that which He had made to be good. But because the first dispensation came to a close when man fell, the Bible says at that point, all of creation entered into a fallen condition—groaning, aching, and longing for the day of restoration (Romans 8:22) *Romans 8:22 (NKJV)* ²² *For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

2) The Dispensation of Conscience (from the Fall to the Flood)

Many think that if everyone simply followed their conscience, the world would be right. So in the period between Adam and Eve's fall in the Garden of Eden and the Flood that covered the earth, God declared "If you do well, you'll be accepted" (see Genesis 4:7). But it didn't work, for the dispensation began with Cain killing Abel and ended with the imagination of man being evil continually (Genesis 6:5).

Genesis 4:7 (NKJV) ⁷ *If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."*

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV) ⁵ *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

People today say if everyone would just stay out of my business and leave me alone I'd be fine. People all say or think that they are a "good person", but the Dispensation of Conscience proved that man left to himself will be devoured by his evil imagination and desires. Paul said:

Romans 1:21–23 (NKJV) ²¹ *because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.* ²² *Professing to be wise, they became fools,* ²³ *and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

Romans 3:12 (NKJV) ¹² *They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."*

3) The Dispensation of Government (from Flood to Tower of Babel)

Mankind still has a tendency to think that if we could only elect good leaders, the problems of the world would be solved. Following the Flood, based upon the right and responsibility of capital punishment given to Noah, mankind was to govern himself. Yet the "Dispensation of Government" began and ended dismally. No sooner had God given Noah responsibility to govern the world than, unable to govern even himself, Noah ended up drunk in his tent, fathering two peoples who would be problematic to the people of God throughout their history. The end of the dispensation is typified by the Tower of Babel—a government project constructed of mud and slime whose end result was total confusion.

Men can't judge/rule other men, because in the nature of every man is their own desire to practice what is evil, wrong, contrary to seeking the best of others first. Paul said:

Romans 2:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ *Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.* ² *But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.* ³ *And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?*

Man spends so much time and energy seeking leaders and helpers on earth, rather than seeking the Lord, and thus will always fall short (just like the Tower of Babel couldn't reach the heavens).

4) The Dispensation of Promise (from Tower of Babel through the Exodus)

"We need a promise, a hope that good is coming," says man. God gave Abraham such a promise when He said He would make of Abraham a great nation (Genesis 12:2). He gave him and his descendants the sign of circumcision (you are special – you are my special people), yet when famine hit, Abraham's descendants lost hope, disobeyed God, and headed for Egypt (Genesis 26:2). They looked at the promise, but totally missed the Promiser of the promise.

Genesis 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ *Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.* ² *I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.*

Romans 4:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised. ¹³ For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Man is always thinking that tomorrow is the answer, and thus never faces that today, is today, and today's issues need to be dealt with today.

Man says I am nothing, if I just knew that I was special to God, that He really cared about me, gave me some kind of sign, then my life wouldn't be this bondage and slavery that I am in. The children of Israel knew they were special, had a sign (circumcision), but when it came down to believing God was able to do all that He promised, they didn't exercise faith and **chose to take things into their own hands**, and the resultant was 400 years of slavery.

Today God has given the ultimate sign to all men everywhere that they are special, that sign is the Cross.

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

5) The Dispensation of the Law (from Mt. Sinai to the Cross)

Man today says if I just had some rules to live by, some guides to stay within, I would do well. Well God gave the 10 Commands, just 10, and man failed them miserably. Jesus boiled them down to just two, and in Galatians it is boiled down to one – love!

Matthew 22:35–40 (NKJV) ³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Galatians 5:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

The Law leaves every man guilty before the Holy God. The Law doesn't help us, it just leaves us helpless. It doesn't justify us, it just leaves us guilty before the standard of the Holy God.

(Rom 3:20 NKJV) Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

It is not 12-Steps, nor 7 principles to be highly effective, nor 40 days to find your purpose, it is One (the Great One – Jesus Christ).

6) The Dispensation of Grace (from the Cross to the Rapture)

“You tried a perfect environment. You tried to live by your conscience. You've given human government a whirl. You tried rules and regulations. Now,” says God, “try this: For by grace are you saved, not of works. It's a gift of God” (see Ephesians 2:8, 9).

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Romans 3:23–25 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

All of the previous dispensations lead to the one we are in right now—grace. We admit that government isn't the answer, that environment won't solve the problem, that our consciences are corrupt and seared. We admit we're sinners in desperate need of a Savior.

But some sadly, many today confuse God's grace for weakness, for a winking at sin, and they abuse His grace, and thus the next Dispensation sends a real clear message about God's holiness.

7) The Dispensation of the Tribulation (from the Rapture to the 2nd Coming of Christ)

After the church is taken to heaven, God will begin to make Himself known powerfully and visibly to those who don't believe on Him, to those who want nothing to do with Him. Hundred-pound hailstones will pelt the earth, and blood will fill valleys two hundred miles long as God employs terrible tragedy in a wake-up call to earth. Many people confuse God's grace as a license to sin and live selfishly, they say a gracious God would never punish me for my sin, He understands my weaknesses, and how I can't break these bondages and addictions.

The Tribulation Period clearly declares God's Holiness, and His call for every man to live Holy lives, that He does not condone sin, nor wink at sin, and He is dead serious that every man must repent of His sin.

Revelation 6:15–17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,* ¹⁶ *and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"* ¹⁷ *For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

One of the other things God will be doing in the Tribulation is waking up the Nation Israel, and drawing them to Himself.

As we study the Tribulation in chapters 6-19, we will see God doing 3 very specific things:

- To Shake-up the Heathen
- To Wake-up a Nation (Israel)
- To Make-up the Kingdom

Romans 11:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

God calls every man everywhere to repent:

Acts 3:19–21 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,* ²⁰ *and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,* ²¹ *whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

8) The Dispensation of the Kingdom Age (from the 2nd Coming through the Millennial Kingdom)

At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will come back to rule and reign in Jerusalem for one thousand years. It seems all would be well at last. But in Revelation 20, we read an amazing thing: After one thousand years of such peace that the lion will lie down by the lamb, after one thousand years of such health that those who are one hundred years of age are considered children, after one thousand years of perfect conditions for humanity, guess what happens? Man rebels against God once again. Not you and me—but many of those who are on the earth in a human state will turn away from Jesus, ushering in the creation of a new heaven and earth.

There are those who say, if I could see Him, then I would believe in Him, but this final Dispensation dispels that for even after seeing Him, sitting under His perfect environment and perfect leadership, many a men will chose to rebel against Him, because many a men want to rule and reign over their own lives without say or correction from the Lord.

Luke 19:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² *Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return."* ¹³ *So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, "Do business till I come."* ¹⁴ *But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, "We will not have this man to reign over us."*

That mentality always ends in destruction.

Luke 19:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ *But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.' "*

The Dispensations of God:

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- 8.) *The Dispensation of the Kingdom Age* (From Second Coming through the Millennial Kingdom)

As Counselors & Evangelist – OT Nugget – Bring them into the Inner Sanctuary

As counselors and evangelist, there is a little golden nugget in the OT that should be central and paramount to our counseling and evangelist, and that is we need to get the person into the inner sanctuary of God, and we do that through the Word of God.

1 Kings 6:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *And he prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple, to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there.*

Inner Sanctuary – Holy of Holies – Presence of God / Throne of Yahweh – The Back Room

The “inner sanctuary” was referring to the Holy of Holies, where the presence of God dwelt in the Temple. I like the definition one dictionary gives, “[the Throne Room of Yahweh](#)”. And I love the simplest definitions given, “the back room”. Our ultimate goal in all our evangelism and counseling is to bring people to the throne room of God, get them out of the clouded confusion of the world and bring them into the “back room”, where it is just a private audience between them and God. We do that through the Word of God.

OKJV – Oracle / The Word brings them into Inner Room

I like the OKJV translation, as it uses the word “oracle” instead of “inner sanctuary” – and the fact is, both translations are good and right. We bring a person to the “inner room” through the Word of God. Share with them this word, these things we have just studied, and the other 31,102 verses.

1 Kings 6:19 (KJV) ¹⁹ *And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.*

Back Room – Find Grace

For it is in the “back room”, the throne of Yahweh, that they may find grace to help in the time of need. If we want to truly help someone, give them this word!

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Galatians 4:5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

We go from slaves to sons, from beggars to heirs.

Redeem – there is a Cost

To redeem means there is a cost, a payment due.

1805 ἐξαγοράζω [exagorazo /ex-ag-or-ad-zo/] v. From 1537 and 59; TDNT 1:124; TDNTA 19; GK 1973; Four occurrences; AV translates as “redeem” four times. 1 to redeem. 1A by payment of a price to recover from the power of another, to ransom, buy off. 1B metaph. of Christ freeing the elect from the dominion of the Mosaic Law at the price of his vicarious death. 2 to buy up, to buy up for one’s self, for one’s use. 2A to make wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good, so that zeal and well doing are as it were the purchase money by which we make the time our own.

**Strong, J. (2001). Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.*

Inspect the Sacrifice – not the Sinner

I believe Jesus because He had kept the law perfectly could have walked right into heaven there in Matthew 17 in what we know as the Mount of Transfiguration. He had kept the law, He had earned His right, He was perfect for 33 years, and based on His works He could enter into heaven. Jesus showed that it could be done. But no man could do. Jesus proved He was sinless and spotless. You see when someone broke the commandment of God, they would take a sacrifice to the temple, and lay their hands on the head of the sacrifice (Leviticus chapters 1-5) and it was a symbolism that they were transferring their guilt and shame unto the innocent animal. The law prescribed that the substitute, that animal, had to be spotless and without blemish. Now see, when the sinner came to make the sacrifice, the priest examined the sacrifice, not the sinner. It was already concluded that the sinner was a sinner, there was nothing to inspect and determine at that point. What was up for inspection was whether the sacrifice, the substitute, was acceptable, spotless, and perfect. Jesus was spotless, perfect, he could have walked into heaven and said see I have shown it could be done, do it yourself and I will see you in heaven. Rather, He stayed, He wouldn’t go, He turned Himself towards the cross, and nothing was going to stop Him from the cross because He was not going to go without you, He was not going to leave you to try to make it, because failure was sure, and separation was guaranteed, but while we were still yet sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 17:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ *Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³ And behold, Moses and Elijah*

appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴ Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

Romans 5:6–11 (NKJV) ⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

First Time Jesus doesn't call God - Father

I find it interesting, that Jesus always referred to the Father as Father, and not His God, but one time He did, and that is on the cross at that moment when He traded places with us, and took our wrath. It was there that He called God, God, because we could not call Him Father because our sin separated us from Him, and we could only call Him God.

Matthew 27:46 (NKJV) ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

John 20 – We can Call Him Father

After the resurrection Jesus says these words so there is no doubt:

John 20:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "

Friend at Work

I am reminded of a friend a worked with years ago who had a daughter by birth, and a daughter the same age they had adopted. I remember asking him one day what was it like, and does his heart show any partiality. I'll never forget his answer as he said you know ray, when they climb up on my lap and give me a kiss, I cant tell the difference between their kisses.

2 Children Fighting

I am also reminded of the story of two children fighting, one who was natural born and one who was adopted, and the natural born says to the other oh yea, well you were adopted! The other child responded and said, well mommy and daddy wanted me, they were stuck with you.

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

You call Him Abba / Slaves Not Allowed to Call Him Abba

Slaves not allowed to use the word, but here Paul says you are no longer a slave. You can call Him Father, Abba Father. When we were slaves to sin we could not call Him Abba.

ABBA—This Syriac or Chaldee word is found three times in the New Testament (Mark 14:36; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6), and in each case is followed by its Greek equivalent, which is translated "father." It is a term expressing warm affection and filial confidence. It has no perfect equivalent in our language. It has passed into European languages as an ecclesiastical term, "abbot."

*Easton, M. G. (1893). In *Easton's Bible dictionary*. New York: Harper & Brothers.

An Aramaic word, in the emphatic state, meaning 'father'. The word passed into Hebrew, and occurs frequently in TB, where it is used by a child to its father and also as a style of address to rabbis. The term conveyed both a sense of warm intimacy and also filial respect; but in Jewish circles it has never been a form of address to the Almighty.

*Payne, D. F. (1996). *Abba*. In (D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer, & D. J. Wiseman, Eds.) *New Bible dictionary*. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

It appears that it was Jesus who first applied the term to God, and who gave authority to his disciples to do so. Paul sees in its use a symbol of the Christian's adoption as a son of God and his possession of the Spirit.

*Payne, D. F. (1996). *Abba*. In (D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer, & D. J. Wiseman, Eds.) *New Bible dictionary*. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

abba (ʾAββā, 5) is an Aramaic word, found in Mark 14:36; Rom. 8:15 and Gal. 4:6. In the Gemara (a Rabbinical commentary on the Mishna, the traditional teaching of the Jews) it is stated that slaves were forbidden to address the head of the family by this title. It approximates to a personal name, in contrast to "Father," with which it is always joined in the NT. This is probably due to the fact that, abba having practically

become a proper name, Greek-speaking Jews added the Greek word pater, “father,” from the language they used. Abba is the word framed by the lips of infants, and betokens unreasoning trust; “father” expresses an intelligent apprehension of the relationship. The two together express the love and intelligent confidence of the child.

**VINE, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.*

Baby Lips

The words for Abba are formed off words of a baby. Come as a child, it is not meant to be a complicated relationship.

To Call Father was Foreign

This concept of Father is actually foreign to the hearers. The Jews really didn’t know God as a Father. Nowhere do you find someone in the OT speaking to Him as a child to the Abba Father. In the OT we read plenty of time of God as the Father positionally, but not relationally. Yes He was the God of their fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; but not the endearing Abba Father. So for Jesus, and then Paul to say He is Abba Father, an intimate and loving Father, is a new concept to them

Mark 14:35–36 (NKJV) ³⁵ He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. ³⁶ And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.”

Romans 8:12–17 (NKJV) ¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ 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 8:26–27 (NKJV) ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Spirit of Intercession

By the way would you like to release the Spirit in your life, do you desire for the move of the spirit in your life? We all do, and here is a sure way, pray! Set yourself apart, a place undivided and undistracted, and open your mouth and speak for as we read in Romans Christ lives in us, and the Spirit is looking to be released to talk to the heavenly Father, and as we do the Spirit is being released in and through us.

Romans 8:26–30 (NKJV) ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Galatians 4:7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Ephesians 1 - Inheritance

We are heirs to all spiritual things. Here is the promise of our heirship, recored in Ephesians which we call the Swiss Alps of the New Testament. We see our inheritance is spiritual things, for this is a spiritual thing, not your best life today on earth living for the pleasures of the world, the ease and comfort of the world, but for God, Abba Father God.

Ephesians 1:1–14 (NKJV) ¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. ¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Quick Overview on Ephesians

Ephesians has been called the Alps of the New Testament. We climb to see who we are in Christ, and we see that we are seated in the heavenly. 5 times in this book is the reference made...in the heavenly. This book is written to believers...it is not apologetic nor evangelistic, but to the believer to elevate them from wherever they are to the highest place they can be.

Ephesians takes the Believer to heights they have never been before. Verse 1:3 is the Key verse to the Book, This is where Ephesians wants to take us, into heavenly places with Christ; to show us the treasure of riches and blessings that are for us there. (Eph 1:3 KJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

What are some Spiritual Blessings? Forgiveness, justification, holiness, wisdom, acceptance, citizenship, security...Galatians 5:22 names a few: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Galatians 4:8 But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. Galatians 4:9 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?

First Prayer is of Repentance

Verse 9 – after you are known by God. - The first prayer God hears is the prayer of repentance. That is how a man or woman becomes known by God. The Law that separates them must be dealt with, the curse of the law that is upon them, must be lifted. A man who prays and asks God for favor, but refuses to repent, simply speaks words into the air, for the first prayer God hears is one of repentance of sin and asking Him to come into a person's life for a personal relationship.

Proverbs 28:9 (NKJV) ⁹ One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

Hetty Green

Weak & Beggarly elements - She had gone down in history as "America's Greatest Miser", yet when she died in 1916, Hetty Green left an estate valued at over 100 million dollars. She ate cold oatmeal because it cost to heat it. Her son had to suffer a leg amputation, because she chose to wait in line at a free clinic, and gangrene set in and he lost his leg. After she read the morning newspaper she made her son go back out on the street and resell the paper. She was wealthy, yet she lived like a pauper. We can sit with amazement and wonder why she did what she did, but she is actually an illustration of too many Christian believers. They have limitless wealth at their disposal, and yet they live like paupers. The book of Ephesians is written to believers that they may stand-up and claim the riches available to them; Paul is crying out and pleading not only with the Galatians, but us today, claim your inheritance and live like the Kings kids, not in material things, but in spiritual things.

Galatians 4:10 You observe days and months and seasons and years.

Galatians 4:11 I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

Paul writes – Peter writes

Paul is writing to them to guard them against the false teachers who are coming in and saying you need more than Jesus, you need to keep these rules, do these things in order to be saved and continue to be saved and find favor with Him. Paul writes them to guard them. Paul is writing them approximately 53AD (give or take 2 years). About ten years later Peter will write them. Read Peter's introduction to them in his epistle to them. I like verse 2, as Peter says grace and peace be multiplied. He tears a page off the Paul introduction, but adds the word "multiplied", be magnified, manifold, abounding, and abundant. Peter understands grace, and he preaches grace. **1 Peter 1:1–9 (NKJV)** ¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. ³ 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, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the

last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Storm is Coming

But here is something to piece together. Right now as Paul writes them they were dispersed from their homes in Jerusalem because they became believers in Jesus the Messiah. Remember Paul was hunting them down and dragging them out to death before his conversion. Now in Galatia they have found some rest from the persecution but they are starting life all over again, most with nothing because they had to leave it all in Jerusalem (homes, occupations, fields, shops, etc). But there is another storm coming; nine or ten months after Peter wrote his letter, the persecution against Christians that had been simmering for quite some time came to a full boil. On July 19, A.D. 64, Caesar Nero set fire to the Imperial City of Rome. You see, determined to stamp his image upon a new Rome, Caesar hired arsonists to destroy the old one. Maybe you remember stories of Caesar fiddling while Rome burned. While that may not have happened literally, Caesar was fiddling around very definitely! The ensuing devastation gave him justification to rebuild structures like the Circus Maximus. Seating over one hundred thousand people, the existing Circus Maximus wasn't big enough for Nero. So he had it burned along with most of the city and rebuilt it to give three hundred thousand spectators the opportunity to witness sporting events, gladiatorial bouts, and, eventually, Christians being thrown to lions. Due to the immediate suspicion that he had a part in the fire, Nero knew he had to quickly find a scapegoat. He conveniently found one in the Christian community. "It's not I who burned the city," he said. "It's these who speak of the unquenchable flames of hell." Coupled with the absurd misconception that, due to their observance of Communion, Christians were cannibalistic, and combined with the fact that because Christians stressed love and purity, they were a threat to the rampant perversity of the day, the populace was eager to blame Christianity for their crumbling families and charred capital city. Consequently, only months after Peter's Epistle was penned, persecution would come that would result in the annihilation of six million Christians as they were lit as candles or fed to lions. So Peter addresses this issue as he writes to people who would be understandably vulnerable to confusion and depression as they questioned the reason for their relentless persecution.

God gives word before Storm

God gives a word before the storm. God prepares the believer to endure the storm by giving them the word.

Must Understand Grace

You have to understand grace, you have to understand not under the law, required to perform, else when the hard times comes you will think that trial, that hardship, that attack is because of you, because you failed God, you did not perform up to His standard, and now He is teaching you a lesson, he is venting His anger upon you because you failed Him.

Beggarly Things won't Save or Comfort / Only Relationship with "Abba Father"

The beggarly things will not save, nor comfort, in ties of trials and hardship. Religion cannot save, nor cannot it deliver you from this world. You need to know God as "Abba Father", a loving and caring Father who receives you in all your faults and failings, and has a plan and purpose for your life, even in the midst of a fallen world.

Be Holy

Yet in the midst of hardship, the call to be holy. You would think it would be mountains of God loves you, you are special, and the sorts (and there is plenty of that); but in the midst of all their hardship the call to "be holy". Holy, means to "to not be common". Don't be like the rest of the world, set yourself apart, don't go in their flow, don't get sucked into their lusts, and don't do what is common to all, but be set apart.

1 Peter 1:13–16 (NKJV) ¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

End of Study

Galatians 4:12-31

The Why / The Theme

We are in Galatians and have made it all the up to chapter 3. Paul is writing this letter, you can read the sense of urgency in it, and it is urgent because people are turning away from the one true gospel, and adding works on to the finished work of Christ on the cross. When Jesus said it was done, He meant it. The theme of the book, the message Paul is urgent about, is that the just shall live by faith, that it is all the grace of God and there is nothing man needs to do, has to do, to add on to “the good news”.

Galatians 1:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

All Grace

It is all grace, nothing of ourselves, nothing we need to add. Man is justified through faith. When a person lives by faith, then God lives in them and through them, and all things become clear and thus God guides them on how to walk this walk as sons and daughters.

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Outline:

- In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.
- Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul’s doctrinal instruction about grace.
- Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.

Today –

Let’s read our verses for today, and get right into what God has for us. Once again, God has a word for us that will not leave us unchanged, as this Word of God will change us from the inside out. This word for today offers us freedom, it offers us power.

Galatians 4:12–31 (NKJV) ¹² Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I *became* like you. You have not injured me at all. ¹³ You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth? ¹⁷ They zealously court you, *but* for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸ But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. ¹⁹ My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰ I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you. ²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. ²⁷ 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.*” ²⁸ Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. ²⁹ But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, even so *it is* now. ³⁰ 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.*” ³¹ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Patrick Henry

"Give me liberty, or give me death!" is a quotation attributed to Patrick Henry from a speech he made to the Virginia Convention in 1775, at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia, he is credited with having swung the balance in convincing the Virginia House of Burgesses to pass a resolution delivering the Virginia troops to the Revolutionary War. Among the delegates to the convention were future U.S. Presidents Thomas Jefferson and George Washington.

Freedom comes through Grace

In our text before us today, we have that spiritual declaration, give me liberty or give me death. The liberty and freedom comes through “grace”. Many people have a problem with grace, we all can, we fight it so often, it bothers us because it seems to suggest that we are weak and He is strong, we are poor and He is rich, that there is something wrong with us that can’t be fixed by us. But when a person comes to the place of realization that they are broken and need fixed, they are weak and have no source of strength, they are poor and have no means of wealth, they are helpless and in need of help..... Then they are free to simply say “Lord it has to be all you, for in and of myself I can do nothing”. It will be there that man or woman of God will finally be able to walk away from the things that bind them, and walk into the freedom and new life God has for them. This is beyond salvation only, it is living the victorious Christian life today, not waiting for heaven to be set free, but living free today. How, by saying it is not on me Lord, but it is all on You, I will not try to please you with my works, I need only be your son knowing my Dad got this, He loves me no matter what, and all I need to do is stay close to Him and He will take care of the rest.

So, let’s let the Word of God do its work in our lives today, picking up in verse 12 where we left off last study.

Galatians 4:12 Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I became like you. You have not injured me at all.

Mix of Jews & Gentiles / Paul reached out to Gentiles – Knowing others would Judge him

This area was a mix of Jews and Gentiles. There were Jews there that were dispersed from Jerusalem because of the persecution that followed for those that left the Jewish religion to follow Jesus. Predominately this area was a Gentile area, and Paul became a Gentile by association. For Paul now Christianity has cost him his job, his reputation, his family it appeared, and his security. And if that wasn’t enough, when he goes to the Gentiles he catches heat from the Jewish believers for ministering to the Gentiles. Paul gave of himself so they could be free.

Galatians 5:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. ¹² I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

Paul like Jesus – for the Joy Set Before Him

Paul gladly gives himself for these people. Paul had met Jesus on the road to Damascus, or better said Jesus had met Paul, and Paul never looked back for he knew what the Lord had called him to do, and Paul was pouring it all out for Jesus and to be like Jesus, and here we see just how much Paul was just like Jesus, that for the joy that was set before him, the salvation of these people, he gladly and freely endured the pain and shame to reach them. He considered it worth it, and thus never felt the pain.

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

What are You Willing to Give so Others Free

What are you willing to give so that others may be free? Let me ask this, what are you currently doing so that others may be free? Can you give a day to go share the gospel? Can you give an hour to pray for the lost? Are you willing to face opposition, have your reputation challenged? For those who will, they will be just like Jesus, just like Paul. **You see, you will never find freedom holding on to self – only after you let go of self will you ever find and live in true freedom.**

Matthew 16:24–26 (NKJV) ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Here is a poem by CT Studd to reflect upon:

“Two little lines I heard one day,
Traveling along life’s busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart,
And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, ’twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one,
 Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
 Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet,
 And stand before His Judgement seat;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
 Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, the still small voice,
 Gently pleads for a better choice
 Bidding me selfish aims to leave,
 And to God's holy will to cleave;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
 Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, a few brief years,
 Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
 Each with its clays I must fulfill,
 living for self or in His will;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
 Only what's done for Christ will last.

When this bright world would tempt me sore,
 When Satan would a victory score;
 When self would seek to have its way,
 Then help me Lord with joy to say;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
 Only what's done for Christ will last.

Give me Father, a purpose deep,
 In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
 Faithful and true what e'er the strife,
 Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
 Only what's done for Christ will last.

Oh let my love with fervor burn,
 And from the world now let me turn;
 Living for Thee, and Thee alone,
 Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
 Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one,
 Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
 And when at last I'll hear the call,
 I know I'll say "twas worth it all";
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
 Only what's done for Christ will last. "

Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
 Only what's done for Christ will last.
 And when I am dying, how happy I'll be,
 If the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee."

C.T Studd

Galatians 4:13 You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first.

Galatians 4:14 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.

Paul's Plans Diverted / Eye Disease

Verse 13 – Paul did not originally intend to go to Galatia to preach the gospel, it wasn't on his missionary itinerary. Somewhere along the way Paul became very ill, verse 15 lends us to believe it was some type of eye disease. The possibility is that Paul got this disease ministering in the lower warmer regions, and headed up in elevation (where

Galatia is) to try to beat the disease. Whatever the eye disease was, it made Paul look freakish. Medical writings say that these types of eye diseases that were common in that day in that region caused the eyes to ooze, be bulging, and red.

Application / Russ Steger

It was an illness that brought this great work of God into this area. It wasn't Paul's planning, it was even his burden for that region, it was the illness that brought him there. But when Paul got there, his heart was there for the people because Paul had a heart for the lost and hurting. It isn't what we want to hear, but God will allow an illness or hardship to come upon you to move you to a place and a people you would have never went to or had a thought about. When these things happen we can complain against God, we can turn against God, we can challenge Him and say how could you allow this, or we can say here I am in this place, Lord use it for your glory. I remember a dear brother in Bible College whose mother was dying of a cruel cancer, a cancer so harsh she had to live out her final months in a hospital bed. But filled with the Holy Spirit this godly woman was, embracing the hardship through tremendous pain, every person who came to her room she would say, if you have come to see me you have come to see my Jesus, and before she went home to be with the Lord she lead 10 staffers to the Lord.

We are not Immune to Hardship

We are not immune to hardships, exempt from the fallen world, the great apostle Paul had a great and painful disease, but God used it to do a great and mighty work. He will do the same for you. Tell people your story, for this world is filled with hurting people. Greg Laurie the great evangelist lost his son at the age of 33, Greg was hosting Harvest Crusades faithfully for 25 years, yet even he endured such a tremendous loss. But I remember his words, and I keep them close to my heart and mind:

Preach to the hurting, you will never lack an audience – Greg Laurie.

Galatians 4:15 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.

What Compassion / May God give us the Heart for the Hurting

Oh the compassion the people there in Galatia had for Paul, a love so deep that they would have given their own eyes to Paul. It appears whatever the ailment and illness was it was something to do with Paul's eyes. Oh may God give us such compassion, I pray God would show us how we can walk right past the hurting, we can look right through the hurting, how we can be so drawn to people who are only just like us. These people in Galatia had such hearts of compassion, that they saw through Paul's physical appearance and ailment, and right into his heart.

Legalism kills Compassion

But once some form of legalism comes in, bondage comes, and all compassion goes out the door. Legalism kills compassion, legalism makes people judgmental of others. You see, you may not even realize it, but if you are looking at your performance and thinking you are doing pretty well, if you look at how well you are doing and forget grace, then you will start to look at the hurting and those struggling, and have no compassion for them, no heart for them, you will look right through them unto your click, the people who have it together just like you think you do, and then your click will sit around and talk about "can you believe they did that". A performance based Christianity has no compassion.

Galatians 4:16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

Must have Relationship to speak Truth

Must have a relationship, must have shown compassion, shown that you care before you can speak truth into their lives. Paul became like them, endured hardships for them, he showed his love for them through his actions, and now he can speak truth to them. People are upset with him, some even have turned against him after hearing all the whispers of the false teachers, and Paul says do you now hate me because I tell you the truth?

Accountability

How funny when you consider it was the legalist who turned the people against Paul, but today we are afraid to tell the truth so often because they are afraid to be called legalistic. We are afraid to say “hey why are you doing that, you shouldn’t be doing that” because we are afraid they will say oh you are being legalistic. Can I ask you something, “what is accountability”, what does it mean when we say are “you accountable”, do you have an accountability partner? Accountability means to be held responsible for one’s action. Again, accountability means to be held responsible for one’s actions. We think accountability is a bunch of people sitting around confessing, or people saying how are you doing brother. That may be well and good, but usually it is too late prevent the problem because the problem in many cases has already happened. Here is what accountability should be, it should be with people who have relationships, and people who are willing to tell the truth to the person. Here is an example, two people who have relationships are having coffee, no agenda, just conversation, and one says last night I was watching this show (blabla). Now that show is not a good show, it is not honorable or pleasing to God. Accountability is that the other person is truthful enough, bold enough, cares enough, to say you know what bro you really shouldn’t be watching those shows, they will put thoughts into your mind that will do nothing good for you, or your marriage. Another example, as two talk, and one says “yea I was having lunch with this co-worker and she was telling me (blabla). Once again, accountability is that the other person is truthful enough, bold enough, cares enough, to say you know what bro you should not be having lunch alone with any woman without your wife being present. But, people are afraid to say to the other, you shouldn’t be doing that, you should be part of that, because they are afraid they will be called legalistic. Be bold Christian, care enough love enough, to say it!

Galatians 4:17 They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.

Men Came In / Look at Courtship - they Date the Person

Men waited until Paul was out of town and then they came in and said hey we heard what Paul was teaching about Jesus Christ Him crucified, that is correct but there is more to it than just that. So they wait until Paul is gone and swoop in there upon the people to try to draw them to themselves, to get them to follow them. I like that word “court” for that is what these people do who try to draw people to themselves, it is like they are courting, dating, sending flowers and taking them to dinner and a movie to try to get them to join them. And see here their first method is to court (act like they have a deep interest in the person), and then they try to exclude (separate) the person from the others unto themselves, and then they want the person to think or feel that they need them, that the person will be better off by following them.

Always starts with a Little Gossip

These things are always stealthy, it always starts with a little comment, and then it grows. Gossip rarely starts full-blown, it starts subtly and gradually, but then it grows. It develops because it is given time to develop.

Jim Cymbala

(Jim Cymbala, Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, 160) - “One Sunday about twenty years ago, I said something impromptu while receiving new members into the church that has stuck with us ever since: ‘And now, I charge you, as pastor of this church, that if you ever hear another member speak an unkind word of criticism or slander against anyone – myself, another (staff member), an usher, a choir member, or anyone else – you have the authority to stop that person in mid-sentence and say, ‘Excuse me – who hurt you? Who ignored you? Who slighted you? Was it (the pastor)? Let’s go to his office right now . . . so God can restore peace to this body.’ But we will not let you talk critically about people who are not present to defend themselves. New members, please understand that I am entirely serious about this. I want you to help resolve this kind of thing immediately. And meanwhile, know this, if you are ever the one doing the loose talking, we will confront you.’ To this very day, every time we receive new members, I say much the same thing. It’s always a solemn moment. That’s because I know what most easily destroys churches. It’s not (drugs or alcohol). It’s not (politics). It’s not lack of funds. It is gossip and slander that grieves the Holy Spirit.” (Jim Cymbala, Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, 160)

Galatians 4:18 But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.
Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,
Galatians 4:20 I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.

Paul has Doubts

Paul has doubts about them. The context is they are turning away from the Gospel to another one (Galatians 1:6-7). If Paul believed in once saved always saved, if Paul believed say a prayer of salvation and it is a done deal regardless what happens thereafter, if Paul believed any of that he surely isn't letting us in on that here in this statement as he says "I have doubts about you".

Galatians 1:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Paul had a Tone / Writing with Zeal

Paul says he wants to change his tone, that means then that Paul is writing with an attitude, with a passion. Paul is writing with zealousness.

Definition of Zealous: to desire earnestly, pursue. 1B1 to desire one earnestly, to strive after, busy one's self about him. 1B2 to exert one's self for one (that he may not be torn from me).

Paul Labored for Them

Here is Paul's heart. Here they are, little children. They are not really well grounded in the faith. Paul wasn't there that long. And here Paul sees that these false teachers have come in. They are upsetting these babes. They are bringing in heresies. And Paul's heart goes out to them because they are little children in the faith. Paul says I'm travailing again until Christ is formed in you. It was Paul's desire to bring them into this full relationship to God through Jesus Christ. Christ in me, Paul said, the hope of glory. And he was desiring to see their lives transformed by the indwelling presence and power of Christ within. And thus in prayer, Paul was travailing to this end. Oh Lord, work in their lives and really work out through their lives, your love, your grace, your truth. He was deeply concerned that they come to this richness in Christ, that he himself had experienced the transformation by the indwelling power and presence within their lives.

We must Keep Going Back for them

Paul says that he labors in birth again for them. So too must we, we have to keep going back for the person who is falling behind, we have to give them a helping hand, we have to pick them back up, maybe even carry them, for as many times until they can stand on their own. Don't wonder where they went, go find out. If they moved on to another church then say great, just promise me that you will go every week, you will serve in a ministry, you will become connected to the body there. But if they aren't going somewhere else, aren't connect, then pursue them and labor for them until they return. Be like Paul.

Galatians 4:21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law?

Galatians 4:22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

Galatians 4:23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

Verse 21

Verse 21 Paul is saying do you even realize what you are saying! The Law is bondage, the Law brings death! Why would you want to go from freedom to prison!

Story of Abraham / 86-76 / Time Lapse between Promise and Fulfillment / Ishmael – Help God Out

To validate his argument, Paul appealed to Abraham, father of the Jewish race. God said to Abraham, "I'm going to bring you into a new land. I'm going to give you a new name. I'm going to make you great. And from you will come forth a people as innumerable as the stars in the heavens or the sand on the seashore." Abraham believed God. But when he was eighty-six years old, with the promise yet to be fulfilled, his wife said, "Honey, I realize God spoke to you, but let's be practical. You're eighty-six. I'm seventy-six. This promise isn't going to come to pass the way we

thought it would. Therefore, take my slave girl, Hagar, have relations with her, and the child you produce will be the promised seed from which will come the nation God promised you.” When God gives a promise, there is almost invariably a gap of time between the giving of the promise and the fulfillment of the promise. And it is in that gap of time that we get impatient. “Time is running out,” we say. “I’ve got to make something happen.” Abraham agreed to Sarah’s plan. The result was the conception and birth of a baby boy named Ishmael. Thirteen years went by. Then God spoke to Abraham again, saying, “I’m still going to give you a child.” “Let Ishmael live,” said Abraham. “He’ll do.” “No,” said God. “Ishmael is not the fulfillment of My promise. He’s only your fleshly attempt to help Me.”

My Life – the Ishmaels I have Made / What a Mess

As I look back over my life, I see that every time I got impatient and tried to help God, the result has always been trouble—Ishmael. Because God is so good, the promise still comes because He’s faithful to His Word. But the problem is, I have a bunch of Ishmaels to deal with. You see, to this day, blood is shed daily in the ongoing struggle between the children of Ishmael and the children of Israel. So, too, in my own life, whenever Ishmael is born as a result of my own fleshly efforts, strife, anxiety, and tension are also birthed in my life. Push God, rush God, help God out—and you’ll have an Ishmael on your hands. Abraham was a great man. Yet this friend of God, this father of faith, this incredible saint had a problem that God recorded as a lesson for each of us today: He was impatient. “Impatient?” you say. “He waited how many years for God to keep His promise?” It was at least twelve years between the time Abraham was given the promise and the time he went in to Hagar. But it could have been as many as eighteen years. Some of us think, I’ve been waiting eighteen days, eighteen weeks, eighteen months. When is God going to fulfill His promise to me? Abraham waited eighteen years before he said, “I better help God.” But it was a disaster, nonetheless.

Waiting for your Spouse

Maybe you say Lord I have been waiting a long time for that promised boyfriend/girlfriend, I am going to have to take things into my own hands and head out to the nightclubs to find my soulmate, or I will date an unbeliever and win do some evangelistic dating. Don’t do it, you will make a mess of it, and have an Ishmael of a relationship, a constant tension between the flesh and the spiritual things. You will want to go to church and they will want to go to the bars. The two can’t co-exist. Just wait on the Lord.

Galatians 4:24 which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—

Galatians 4:25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—

Galatians 4:26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Galatians 4:27 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.”

Galatians 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

Verse 27

Verse 27 is a direct quote from Isaiah 54:1, and that whole passage is about the promised perpetual covenant. It comes right after one of the greatest messianic prophetic passages in the Old Testament (chapter 53). It is the Promise is the promise for all (Jew and Gentile), and it will spread and expand to the whole world. I might add, then chapter 55 of Isaiah what a tremendous passage as it starts with “all who are thirsty, come to the waters”, and then of course verses 10-11, that God’s word will not return void. Your homework assignment tonight is to read Isaiah chapters 53-55.

Isaiah 53:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 55:1 (NKJV) ¹ “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.

Isaiah 55:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Praise Him

Take a close look at verse 27 and you see, it is a call to praise, a call to rejoice, for God is going to do a mighty work across the land, the invitation of salvation is for both Jew and Gentile, and here we sit receiving and thus should be rejoicing.

Symbolic

Now in verse 24 – Paul says here is some symbolism - The one covenant with Israel by the law. And the other, the covenant through grace, Jesus Christ, when He took the elements of communion, said, this is a New Covenant in My blood, shed for the remission of sins. The second covenant was through Jesus Christ.

We could Spend Hours Following the Parallels

We literally could spend hours following all this through, for there is so much symbolism through Mount Sinai and Jerusalem. But let me make a few points.

Mt Sinai – Fire and Judgment

As for Mt. Sinai all that is waiting there is judgment, fire, and trembling:

Exodus 19:16–25 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. ¹⁹ And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. ²⁰ Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. ²¹ And the LORD said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the LORD, and many of them perish. ²² Also let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them.” ²³ But Moses said to the LORD, “The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, ‘Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.’” ²⁴ Then the LORD said to him, “Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest He break out against them.” ²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

Living under Law – Judgment always Awaiting / No Peace – God Looking to Crush

Those living under the Law, those thinking they have to perform for God, they live in that place of continually fear, of no peace, that at any moment once they fail, the wrath and judgment if God is coming down upon them. The problem with this mentality of performing, of being accepted based on how we are doing, is that when something goes wrong in “this fallen world” we live in, we think it is because God is judging us, God is upset with us, and thus this bad thing happened because we failed God.

Toni Braxton

The Grammy winner musical artist Toni Braxton released her biography this week. In it she says that she believes that maybe the reason her son has autism is because God was judging her for having an abortion years earlier. She said she was raised in a Christian home, her father was a pastor, they read the bible and memorized scriptures as children, and she knew what she did was wrong, and thus God is punishing her. No Toni, autism is part of a fallen world, and abortion is part of a sinful world, and God doesn't punish us and judge us for our failures. But see when you live under the law, when your relationship to God is through keeping rules, then you will think that when a fallen world happens it is because God is upset with you.

Jerusalem – Place of Sacrifices at Temple

Now back to our passage, the word makes the parallel that the Jerusalem that was currently standing at that time of the writing was the place they had to go to have their guilt and shame covered by the sacrificing of the innocent animal there at the temple. The Law, the guilt, the penalty, always brought death.

Old Jerusalem – God’s Eyes Always Upon / The Final Lamb Sacrificed

But here is the good news, that there was a Promise that was made, that One would come to take the guilt and shame. Israel, then more specifically Jerusalem, then even more specifically the Temple, it says the Lord’s eyes are always upon it, from the beginning of the year until the end, the Lord’s eyes never turned away from that place, and it is because it is there where the final Lamb (Jesus) would come and take the sin of the world upon Himself. It is there where freedom would come, where the words would be spoken “It is done”, and where man would be justified by faith. It would be there that the cross would be the final conclusive definition of “grace” – God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense, all for me and all for you.

Deuteronomy 11:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, ¹² a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.

1 Kings 8:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place.

New Jerusalem – Jerusalem Above

There is a New Jerusalem, and eternal city that is from above is spoken of in Revelation, as the new city comes down makes a new earth. It is an eternal place and it is a picture of kingdom and a city, a heaven that will have no end. But there is only one way to that New Jerusalem, and that is through the Old Jerusalem, through the Cross of Christ that was lifted up on Mount Golgotha 2,000 years with God Himself on it.

Revelation 21:2–5 (NKJV) ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

Revelation 21:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

The Sacrifice

For a person who broke God’s Law (10 Commandments), pick any one of them, to cover their guilt they would lay their hand upon the head of the sacrifice, confess their sin, and it was a symbolic sign of transferring their guilt and the punishment to come, upon the innocent sacrifice. The animal would be killed by piercing its body and bleeding it out, and then the blood would be sprinkled upon the person as a sin they the blood covered their sin. It is picture perfect of Jesus Christ and He is the final sacrifice there in Jerusalem. Have you personally done that in your life, have you transferred your sin, your guilt, your shame unto Jesus and let him take your punishment so you may be forgiven? New life, the New Jerusalem, can only come through the cross at Old Jerusalem.

Hebrews wraps this Together

The writer of Hebrews wraps this parallel together:

Hebrews 12:18–24 (NKJV) ¹⁸ For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. ²⁰ (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” ²¹ And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

No Future in Mt Sinai

Mt Sinai will be dissolved along with the old earth, and the New Jerusalem will come down from above, and we see real clearly, there is not future for Mt Sinai and the Law. But life comes through Jerusalem, the place God’s eyes never rest from, the place that the promise would be fulfilled that God would Himself become the Lamb that would take away our sin.

Genesis 22:8 (NKJV) ⁸ And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

Galatians 4:29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

Religious will Persecute the Church in the End Days

And still today, the religious people will be the people that are coming against you the most. I believe should the Lord tarry the greatest resistance and the greatest coming against those who are truly born-again will come from the people who are religious, those who have a form of godliness but without God.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV) ¹ *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

Galatians 4:30 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."

Galatians 4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Next Week

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Be Holy

As we started to develop last week, this is Paul's first epistle and it is written about 53 AD. Peter will write his first letter approximately 63AD. The churches in Galatia will be one of the recipients. The church is dispersed and under persecution by the Jews at the time of this writing, and then in 64 AD Rome will begin its wave of persecution. God in His sovereignty is preparing the people, given them words to comfort and to prepare them. Before the wave ends, which is a few centuries long, some 6 million Christians will die for their faith. But here is what is amazing, both Peter and Paul have a main theme, a main point, and although they encourage them to stand in the faith, although they tell them how precious they are in the sight of God, those still are not the main point, the main point will be..... Holiness! Peter is writing just 1 year before the wave of persecution, and the main theme of the epistle is.....be Holy as God is Holy. Thus the call today, be holy! Be set apart wholly unto the Lord, living for Him, pouring your life out before Him and for Him, not a life of God make me happy, but God make me holy!

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NKJV) ¹³ *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*

Be Free / Bury It

The Holy Spirit is screaming out to us in these first 4 chapters, in this passage today, you are free! Holiness will only come through knowing this freedom we have studied in these 4 chapters. Christian therefore, be Free! The Power to be free has been given to you through this Promise, and the Promiser (God Himself) is living inside of you. If there is anything that is keeping you in bondage today, then bury it, and let it be put away with today. If you want to today write it on a card, say God I give it to you, I want to be free of it, I want to live wholly and holy unto You, will you take this, and then will you give me the power to walk away from it. Drop that card in the prayer box and we will pray for you to have victory over it.

Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.
And when I am dying, how happy I'll be,
If the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee."

End of Study

Galatians 5

Galatians 5:1-16

Green Pastures

Psalm 23:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

For us American's who reads this passage we think of green pastures as wide areas of unending soft green grass. But there in Israel the climate is so dry, that there's really no such thing. Long ago, the shepherds of Israel learned to find grass where most people wouldn't think to look. There, green pastures are created as the breeze from the Mediterranean Sea brings moisture into our arid climate. It is from this moisture that a kind of dew settles upon the sides of certain hills creating little tufts of grass -- just enough for one day's feeding for a flock of sheep. The shepherds would lead their flocks through the hot parched desert in search of these. It's no wonder those sheep would obey the shepherd's voice. They would easily die in the desert trying to survive on their own. The sheep learned to depend on the shepherd to daily lead them to their sustenance. How the Lord does the same for us, as He takes us through dry and thirsty times, and brings us to His Word, and gives us a time of refreshing from His Word, a fresh word that feeds us and nourishes us for the day. I am so thankful for His Word, that He left it for us, so we can read passages such as today, and know His heart for us, know His love, be led by Him from dry parched ground into a wonderful pasture, with rivers of living water flowing through it. What a gift we have been given, by being given this Word. Let's handle it today like a gift, a treasure, more precious than all the wealth of man, for this Word is the very breath of God.

The Why / The Theme

Paul is writing this letter, you can read the sense of urgency in it, and it is urgent because people are turning away from the one true gospel, and adding works on to the finished work of Christ on the cross. When Jesus said it was done, He meant it. The theme of the book, the message Paul is urgent about, is that the just shall live by faith, that it is all the grace of God and there is nothing man needs to do, has to do, to add on to "the good news".

Galatians 1:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

All Grace

It is all grace, nothing of ourselves, nothing we need to add. Man is justified through faith. When a person lives by faith, then God lives in them and through them, and all things become clear and thus God guides them on how to walk this walk as sons and daughters.

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Outline:

- In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.
- Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul's doctrinal instruction about grace.
- Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.

Galatians 5:1–16 (NKJV) ¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. ² Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. ³ And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. ⁴ You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. ⁵ For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. ⁷ You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion does not *come* from Him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. ¹² I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off! ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! ¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Stand Fast

Stand fast means to hold your ground, not to be moved from it. In military terms it means to hold the ground you have not allowing the enemy to take it, while at the same time advancing forward to expand your ground.

Things we are to Stand Fast to:

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NKJV) ¹³ Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV) ¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Philippians 1:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

Philippians 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

1 Thessalonians 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

It is Easy to Waiver – Because so Hard to Believe

In Galatians chapter 5, verse 1, Paul says, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty." It's easy for us to waiver on liberty; it's a hard thing to imagine it is a fact, but we do. We waiver in the liberty that God has given us, because there's something in us, we think we need to perform, we think we need to give God something to be accepted by Him, but Paul is saying, "Stand fast," don't waiver on this liberty. I know it's easy to waiver and to want to change this plan, because it is so hard to believe we are totally forgiven and accepted by the Lord, but we must stand fast to it. Stand fast in your liberty, or else you're going to end up back in bondage. He continues on with this theme here in this chapter.

Camden Lego Movie

So I bought Camden the Lego Movie. He loves it and he for some reason thought that it was only a rental for one week. He says to me, “So I guess in a couple days I won’t be able to watch the Lego Movie anymore.” I said, “No, I bought the movie for you. It is yours forever. You get to keep it and it can never be taken from you because I bought and I gave it to you as a gift.” The key words there are the “I bought it.” I have total possession and I can give it to whomever I give it to and once I do, it’s theirs to keep forever because I bought it. No one can come back and take it away and say that it wasn’t paid for. It is what Christ has done for us, what God has done for us. He has bought us. Salvation is a gift. It has been paid in full. It has been given to us a gift and it can never be revoked or

taken away from us. No one can come and say there's still a price to pay for it because it has been paid in full and Jesus on the cross said, "It is done." Literally paid in full.

Emancipation Proclamation

In the Emancipation Proclamation, it's interesting when you read some of the writings, historical writings, there are stories of slaves who were free, living in fear and when interviewed and questioned they would say, "I've been told that I'm free because of the Emancipation Proclamation, but my old master says that that's a lie. My old master says I still belong to him and I'm owned by him." It is with us, the old master, our old nature, the old flesh, Satan himself will say, "You're not free. That's a lie. You have been not paid for. You have been not freed. You are still a slave." So many people still wrestle with that, not believing that the Proclamation has been made from the cross 2,000 years ago and freedom is theirs and they are no longer under the bondage of the law. They are no longer a slave to the law. They have been set free by the new master Jesus Christ and the old master can only cast lies and doubt, but the old master cannot control any longer and has no authority. It's our free will to decide who's the rightful master of our life and who are we going to follow because if you follow Jesus Christ the new master and his proclamation then you are free, you are given and have new life, and you need not be under the bondage anymore of your sin, your flesh and the laws of the Old Testament.

Free to Move about the Country

When you make that decision, then you can live freely and you can move about the country as the commercial says, "You are now free to move about the country. You need not look over your shoulder like the slaves did who had doubts. You are free. Now go live like you're free."

Galatians 5:2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.

Galatians 5:3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.

Circumcision – As Well as Baptism

Paul is talking here in this chapter 5 first half. He's talking about circumcision and before this chapter he spoke of the Sabbath. You can fill in the blank. He's really making broad sweeps. He's using illustrations and examples but he's capturing the whole law. He's showing how the Sabbath, trying to keep the whole Sabbath is ridiculous and this circumcision is ridiculous but you can just fill in the blank today of the word here could be baptism. Who told you that baptism made you more spiritual? Who told you the worshiping on Saturday makes you more spiritual? Who told you that keeping the 7 Sacraments make you more spiritual? Where did you get these type of things? They add up and mean nothing.

If saved by Law – Keep all 613 / Or Cry Out for Help / Helpless – Just Guilty

Paul says that in verse 3. If this is how you're going to equate your spirituality then you have to equate your spirituality into keeping all of it not just circumcision, not just the Sabbath, not just the dietary law, the mosaic law, the 10 commandments, you have to keep everything and that equated to 613 laws, rules, regulations. Keep them all or keep none that's the choice before man. I can keep all 613 which none of us can we'll all fail or we can keep none of them and I say that I'm guilty, knowing that I'm not able to do it and knowing that I need help. The law doesn't help me. It just shows that I'm helpless. The law doesn't justify it. It just leaves me guilty and I know that I need help and I need someone to justify me and so hence this whole passage, this whole book is about justification through faith and that faith in Jesus Christ the finish work of Christ, Jesus Christ him crucified nothing more and nothing less. Paul's bringing us ... it's a liberty.

People Like to Camp on 1 Thing

One of the things I find with people who have a hard time admitting that they have a problem, admitting that their problem is sin and it separates them from God and it's an offense to God. What happens there is they do like to camp on one thing. Paul's thoughts have been going through this. First it was the Sabbath Law. Now he's very specifically talking about circumcision. Today people talk about baptism for salvation or they talk about witnessing for salvation, or whatever it may be. The thing that I see there is if people can just camp on one thing, let's say it would be baptism or in the time of Paul circumcision as he is writing, then see that's the only thing that they have

to focus on and say, “See, if you’re circumcised, you’re free.” Then they can ignore, not even discuss all the other things such as immorality such as transgressions and we’ll have a list of them later in Chapter 5 of Galatians as it talks about the work of flesh, but if they can just come and talk about this one thing and then they can be self-righteous about it because what they’re really doing is they’re trying to not think about the other things because they know they’re guilty of the other things and they know that they need help, but they don’t want to come and say that I’m a sinner. The law does not help us. It only leaves us helpless. The law does not justify us. It just leaves us guilty before the Holy God. When a man or woman comes to that place of understanding, then they see a need for a Savior and then they make a decision to follow or not to follow. To follow is the new life, to follow is total forgiveness.

Galatians 5:4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

Estranged – Fallen

Powerful words here,

- Estranged: means to be separated from one’s spouse, to become strangers, to terminate intimacy.
- Fallen: means to lose the state of.

So adding something to salvation separates one from the intimacy of Christ, and it takes them out of the state of grace into a legal state again. These should be sobering words to all those who say salvation is anything but.....Jesus Christ Him Crucified. Anyone who adds to “It is Finished”, and now start doing this (fill in the blank). *John 19:30 (NKJV)*³⁰ *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Hang in There / After Time – We Think there Must be More / There is – But First have to Settle “FREE”

Hang in there folks, keep your eyes fixed on “It is Done”. There is a danger of being saved for so long that a person can enter into apathy, oh hum I’m saved, check that off, my after life is secured, now what about my comfort and ease for today. And the other can be as dangerous as we walk with the Lord for some time, we start to think there has to be more to it than this, is salvation really “one and done?”, God must want more, so we look for something to prove out we are saved, like keeping some rules, or doing some service (that turns into a ritual, a works trip, no heart involved in it). That prompting in our heart saying there is more is true, and Paul is leading us to what that is in a few verses, but wants to establish soundly..... it is done, you are free, the Emancipation Proclamation is signed and sealed, you are free to move about the county!

Galatians 5:7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

Who Cut into Your Lane – You were Running so Strong / What a Kick

Galatians chapter 5 verse 7 Paul says “You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?” Literally what Paul is saying is “Who cut into your lane?” You started out so well. You were running the race so strong. You were out in front. You were heading for the prize. You were heading for the finish line. You had a strong kick. You were doing so well and you had the joy of the race. You had broken through that period of fatigue. You’re doing so well but then someone cut in to your lane and that’s what he saying someone tripped you up. Someone cut you off and they took you off of your path and now you’re out of your lane.

I take eyes off Finish / I Start to Equate Spirituality to Ministry – Serving – Reading / Exhaustion – Lost Joy

We can all do this. We can be running so well. I’ve noticed it continuing in my life. I have periods of running so well and I’m running so strong. I’m keeping my eyes on the prize. I’m keeping my eyes on the finish line but then something over here creeps in and I start looking at that and going, “There must be something wrong with me. I’m not as spiritual as I think I can be or think I should be.” I’ll start looking over and seeing what someone else is doing. They’re cutting into my lane or I’m drifting over into theirs however you would like to look at that. I start taking my eyes off of where I started. I take my eyes off of the freedom that I once had and I start equating

spirituality and the things that I'm doing whether that's in my reading and my sharing, my ministering, my serving or even just the perfect the thought life and the action life and all those things and I see other people and I find myself drifting. Then I find myself just getting exhausted. The energy is gone. The joy is gone. Frustration usually sets in, fatigue. Many times I just want to quit. I want to walk away. I want to quit the race. God allows me and allows you to get to that place. Then we look and say, "What are we doing? How did we get here?"

First Got Saved – I wasn't Doing Anything for Jesus / Just heard Gospel and Said I want It

When I first got saved, life was just so beautiful. I was happy to be saved. My sins were forgiven. I didn't know anything about anything else other than Jesus loves me this I know because the bible tells me so. So we can get to that point of fatigue and exhaustion and God allows it. We're on a vapor and then we turn back to him and we said, "Lord help me." The beauty of our passage is we go verse by verse because we probably wouldn't pick chapters and passages such as this. As we continue God reminds us, God speaks to us and God brings us back into that place to refresh us and revive us.

Galatians 5:8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you.

Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Not From Jesus

Verse 8, that loss of joy, that trip is not from Jesus. Might be from yourself, some pastor, some friend, some cult, but it is not from Jesus. And just a little bit of legalism, performing, measuring our spirituality on it being something to do with us, then creeps through and wipes out everything. Leaven, always a sign of sin and/or decay in the scriptures, and a little leaven decays all our joy, all are energy, all our spiritual life.

Text Illustration – President Roosevelt

These readers of Paul's letter did not deny that faith was an essential part of salvation, but they added to it (works, circumcision, & other rituals). Many do the same thing today they believe salvation is by grace + ... Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., was ill with a staff infection of the throat. A new medicine called sulpha-nil-amide was tried with amazing success. The publicity of the case caused the drug to be in great demand. A pharmaceutical company in Tennessee conceived the idea of preparing the drug in a liquid instead of a powder form. They dissolved it in diethylamide glycol. It proved to a costly and fatal. 61 people died. A harmless lifesaving drug in one form became a poison in another form. It was not something that was taken away that made the drug deadly, but something that was added. Folks, we need not add anything to this good news, for the news is great exactly as it is, Jesus has done it all, and there is nothing left for us to do, praise the Lord.

Galatians 5:10 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.

Galatians 5:11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.

Paul being Persecuted for Preaching Pure Gospel

Paul is being persecuted for preaching a pure gospel. He is saying if I would just agree with them that it is Jesus Christ Him crucified and being circumcised, all would be well and I would be accepted by them. But because I won't, they come against me in great force. Paul won't water down the gospel for the sake of being accepted by fellow man, and precious saints, your day has now come like no other time in the history of this nation, you will have to decide whether to stand fast, or waiver and water it down. As for me and my house, we choose to serve the Lord.

Cross is an Offense / Sinner Generally – but not Specifically

Paul says the cross is an offense. It is an offense to people because many people just don't want to admit I need help, that I'm not okay, that I am an offense to God. People have a hard time saying I need help. People have a hard time saying I'm a sinner. Most people will say they're a sinner generically but you won't get them to say they are sinners specifically. You won't get them to say they're wretched sinner. Majority of people will say "Yeah I'm a

sinner.” but they won't go down into the depths of we truly are and the depths that caused Jesus to go to the cross.

Legalism is Offense to God

The cross is an offense to people but do you know what an offense to God is? Legalism. That somehow man thinks they could offer him something that could somehow justify and help smooth over their offense and minimize the prize that was paid. God's only begotten Son paid the price and then legalism to say that we're going to add to that and help out, that's an offense to God. That's an offense but it's done even by us when we think we can somehow please Him by our actions. Those who have received this and you know this is true, You're free and you're free to live and you're free to love, and that is what Paul is building up to.

Galatians 5:12 I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

All Scripture is Inspired

In verse 12 Paul says what he says and he said, “All scripture inspired by the spirit.” This isn't something that Paul said and we'll get to heaven and go, “Did you really mean to say that? They wished they would cut themselves off, hurt themselves like that?” It's inspired. This is the attitude that Paul has towards people that would lead Christians off the path, cut into their lane, try to disqualify him and knock him out of the race. He says what he says. He means what he means and I'm not going to apologize for it and I'm not going to say that it shouldn't be here. This is how serious God is about people causing others to stumble.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

But for today – He is Shouting You are Free

But the point for us today is God saying you are free, don't put yourself in bondage, now go out and live like you are free! Quit looking over your shoulder, quit looking in the mirror, quit disqualifying yourself from living life and that more abundant!

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Galatians 5:13 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.

Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Paul Slams on the Brakes / 4.5 Chapters to get Here – Set Free to Love

It seems like Paul is going a 100mph down the road then locks up the brakes and makes a hard right and starts to drive down some side street. He goes from saying I wish they would cut themselves, to hey don't forget to love your neighbor. But actually, we have read 4.5 chapters to get to this point, all of it forms here, you have been set free (don't put self back in bondage) for you have been set free to do this one thing..... love!

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV) ¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Man Created to be Vessel & Channel for God / 4.5 Chapters – All Him / 1 John 4:19

You have been created to be a vessel and then a channel for God to pour Himself into, and through. For 4.5 chapters the Holy Spirit has been making sure that we know God loves us, and we are reminded that we love Him because He first loved us. If we think God loves us, because we first loved Him, then we will always be wondering if He still loves us when we go dry or distracted. But when we settle we love Him because he first loved us, and thus it isn't about our love but His, then we know we can always come back to the love that is waiting for us, conditioned on Him, not us.

1 John 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

Called to Love One Another / Given Liberty to Love / Love released as Serve Others

We're called to love, to love one another, and Paul says, "You've been called to liberty; don't use that as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love, serve one another." What an amazing dynamic that liberty comes through serving one another; love is released as we serve one another. That's an amazing dynamic, and it's only a God dynamic, but it takes the focus off of ourselves and puts the focus onto others, and that's where the Lord's focus is, is on others and how they're doing, and to help them do well.

Luke 10:25–27 (NKJV) ²⁵ And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" ²⁷ So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "

DO YOU WANT LOVE OF GOD FLOWING THROUGH YOU

Do you want the love of God flowing through you, do you want a life of abundant living, serve one another, love your neighbor. God flows freely through you when you love others; hence how deceived people are who think God flows through them because of performing rules and rituals (regardless how well meaning they may be).

Law of Love

I call it the law of love, and a law is something that every time you repeat it, it will have the same outcome, that's when we talk about a physical law in the universe, in physics and whatnot. Of course, we have laws of the land, and regardless of why you broke the law, if you broke the law, here's the consequences of the law. Well, the law, when you look at it in terms of the physical law of the universe, I call it the law of love, and love can't be stopped. There is a result that happens when we love, as we love, through love, and there is an outcome that is guaranteed every time we love. It's a law, it can't be denied, and so when we're loving people, we're loving others, and we're serving others out of love, when we're loving the Lord, we're serving the Lord, there is a result that can't be stopped because it's a law, and that law of love just breaks open lives. The person's life who's being loved is blessed tremendously; but most of it breaks open in your life. You are releasing, catch this, 1 John 4:8, "God is love," and when we love another, when we love one another, when we love our spouse, when we love our children, we are releasing God in us, for God is love, and therefore God is just flowing through us. There is an outcome that happens through this law of love that will produce the same result every time, and it is goodness, and it is mercy, for the fruit of the spirit is love, and it comes from that joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, and we'll be getting into that next week.

1 John 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Find People to Love

Beloved of God, find people to love, love people you find, love the people that find you. You must be a vessel and a channel. You can't be one without the other.

Flesh Block Flow of God

The flesh will block the flow of God in your life, and we will talk about that next week in the second half of this chapter.

Galatians 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Devour – Destroys the Body

If a body isn't loving, then they will start to devour and destroy itself.

Luke 10:25-27

Paul talks about the law being fulfilled in 1 word even this you shall love yourself as your neighbor and it's an amazing thing as we look at this. Love, the fulfillment of love is loving others. That's the greatest law is loving others and its interesting people get it confused all the time. Buddha he says "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Buddha is doing it in a negative meaning. You don't want them to do that to you so don't do that to them. Jesus puts the different spin on that and Jesus says to love people as you would love yourself.

Jesus is saying what you would like done to you go do it. Buddha says, "Hey don't do that to that person because they might do it to you." Jesus is saying, "Hey go do that to that person the things that you would like to be done to you. The love, the graciousness, the kindness, the tenderness, the compassion, be those things, do those things and because those are the very things that you crave and you desire to have happen in your own life. Good stuff. Really good stuff.

Luke 10:25–27 (NKJV) ²⁵ And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" ²⁷ So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "

Done in Love – Not Performance / Don't Look Around

Everything we do must be in the motivation of love, not in the bounds of a work-performance onto God. Everything we do must be in love and we do it in love, when we're serving in love the other people that we serve ... You can serve all day and your heart will be lifted up by that and you'll be blessed by that. One of the problems that happens is that when we start to serve we start to serve out of love, then after some period of time we start to look around and see who else is serving. Then we notice that they're not and we start questioning why they're not. Then a person starts to become judgmental of that, they become critical of that, they start to hold resentment towards people who are not serving. Then they themselves now become soiled by that, because they're not thinking about the serving part anymore, more in this. They're thinking about who's not serving. You see they lose their heart of joy in serving.

Nanny versus Mommy

I could have a child and hire a nanny, and pay her \$50 an hour, imagine that, time and a half after 4 hours, double time after 12, and double time on Saturdays and Sundays. I could give her a health package, a travel allowance. I could give her a meal allowance. I could give her all these type of things, and I'm sure I could find an awesome nanny to come and take care of my little 8 year old. But I will tell you this, nobody but nobody will do a better job of loving and raising my son than my wife, because my wife doesn't take it as a job, it's not something she has to do; it's something that she wants to do. It's something that she considers a blessing, a gift from God, the son that has been given to her. She does it out of love, and as great as the nanny may be, and all the nanny may be doing because it's the wonderful career for that person and the great provisions, that nanny still will never come close to my wife, because my wife does it out of love. So, too, it is with us as we just do and serve because we love the Lord; not because we're being required to do it. Not because we feel we have to do it. Not because it's a job, and it's sad when people get into ministry, especially pastors, and it goes from love into a career, and they're doing it now because it's the paycheck and it's the provisions for the income. We can do the same when we enter into a Sunday school class, or sharing Christ. But oh, when we do it just out of love, nothing can stop that. I call it the law of love.

Little Girl – Shouldn't God Show Through

When we serve the Lord it's just him reflecting out through us. A little girl made this pondering point which I think is so powerful is that she asked her mother in Sunday school, "They said that God is bigger than us. He's huge. Is that true mom?" The mother says, "Why you ask? Yes it is. He's a mighty God. Huge God." She says, "Then they said that for all who asking into their heart God comes into their heart and lives inside them. Is that true mommy?" She says, "Why, yes that's true." The daughter pieces the long big trail together and says, "If he's bigger than us but living in us then should he not show through us? Should we not be able to see him?"

Pray for the People who Don't Serve – Not be Critical

What a good point and the people that don't serve you don't need to worry about them. God is working on them. God will call them into service. They begin to be moved by his prompt deans calling. If anything, don't be critical, be sad for them. Be desiring that they had the same relationship that you had, and they have the same joy of being blessed. Say to the lord, "You'd given me so much I just want to ... I just want to give back to you and not to earn my way, but in order to keep my way because I love you. My love is just overflowing I need to pour it down upon someone, something." Don't be critical, be sad for them. Of course don't be judgmental, because it will crush your joy and your love that you have.

Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

It's a Spiritual Thing / Walking is Intimacy / Walking and Oneness releases Galatians 5:

It says, "I say then, walk in the spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts," so this is a spiritual thing. God wants us to walk in the spirit, and so the walk is to walk in the spirit; it would just be as if you and I went for a walk together, we're just walking together. We're being together, and as we're together, we're talking, there is an intimacy, a communion, a oneness. Maybe we see something, we go and do something. Maybe we stop and we have a bite to eat, but that is the walking together; we're together. There's a continuation together, and that's what the Lord's calling us ... Walk together in the spirit with Him, and as you walk in the spirit, these things are going to be released from you, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Oh, and it says, "Against such there is no law." No, none of our failings, none of the commandments that we failed and all those things, none of those things can condemn us and be held against us, because love is the ultimate fulfillment of a law, as we have seen. What a beautiful passage there.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV) ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ²³ *gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Liberty to Live Life as an Adventure

The liberty is the freedom to live life as an adventure. A life that's exciting. Life that's something as exciting about waking up not knowing what the day brings but knowing that Jesus Christ is here an exciting life. Not a life of "Don't go here. Stay off the grass. Don't touch the wet paint." but a life of just living in the freedom that no matter what God loves me. I get to wake in the morning for the freedom God loves me each day is a new day and with him saying and me saying, "What do you want to do today Lord? Where do you want to go today? What will you speak to me today Lord? How will you direct me?" It's an exciting life. It's an adventurous life but boy how we can allow ourselves to find ourselves back into a grueling life, a crushing life, an exhausting life because we're always worried of how we're doing.

Spirit affirming You are Fine – I Died for You - You are Free to Live / Jonathan & Armor bearer / Apostles

God, the Holy Spirit, is continually speaking. "You're fine. I love you. I died for you. You're free. You're free to live. You're free to have that new life." I think as something exciting stories in the bible of people with new life. I think of Jonathan and his armor bearer. "Hey let's go over that life and see what the Lord might do." They go over the hill and God gives them a great victory and a mighty victory. I think of a life like that. I think of what it must have been like to wake up everyday with Jesus, his apostles and go "I wonder what today is going to bring. I wonder what's going to happen. Yesterday was an amazing day as he broke the loaves and the fish and fed 5000 men. What an amazing day that was. What will he do today? Maybe today he's going to heal somebody. Maybe today he's going to speak a word that changes a life." Can you imagine the excitement of everyday waking up with Jesus, knowing that he loves them, knowing that they're walking with him, knowing that they're going to end the day with him and start the next day with him. Hey that's what we get. That's what we get. We get to wake up knowing that we're with him, knowing that he's with us, knowing that it's done and we're going to walk with him. He's not going to stop in the middle of the day and go, "Enough. You just need to leave me. You're bugging me." Everyday we get to wake and he says, "Come on, I want to show you something new. Come on, I want to do something new with you. I want to give you a fresh life, a new life, an exciting life." and that's everyday. What an exciting time it must have been with them.

Jesus lived to do Will of Father / Knew He was Accepted

Jesus is our ultimate example of life of being led by the spirit not by the flesh. A life of knowing that he's accepted by the Father and not based on performance. His freedom was to do the will of the father and you'll never be freer than doing the will of the Father. Just saying Lord, "What's your will for me today? Where would you have me go? What would you have me to do?" I'm not talking about knocking on doors. I'm not talking about reading or memorizing. Those things may be what I'm talking about is wake up tomorrow and find out what it is and look forward to it.

Run Well – Don't let anyone Cut you Off

Prepare your evening so that you can prepare your morning. Prepare your today so you can have your tomorrow. I mean resting and not getting distracted. Stay in your lane. Run well. Don't let somebody hinder you and don't let the things of the world distract you. Stand fast there for the liberty by which Christ has made us free. Don't be entangled again with the yoke of bondage. That bondage doesn't have to just be legalism. It can be worldly things. It can be all the things that distract us. God is just so good to us.

End of Study

Galatians 5:16-26

Recap Why Paul Wrote

We are at verse 16 of our study. Paul is writing to the churches in Galatia because men have come in behind him and added unto the gospel that for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whomsoever shall believe in Him shall have everlasting life. They have added to “for by grace you have been saved by faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. That is the gospel, do you believe that? These men came in and said yes it is Jesus Christ Him crucified, but you also have to keep rituals and traditions. You have to obey the Sabbath, you have to be circumcised, you have to observe religious holidays to be saved. This is Paul’s first epistle that he writes, and it is timely for that day, and still timely for our day today. Men still today tell people that yes it is Jesus Him crucified for your sins, but also you have to be baptized to be saved, or you have to keep these sacraments, or you have to speak in tongues, or you have to belong to this particular church, to be saved. What they are saying is you have to do your part, you have to do some works, it can’t be grace alone. Well beloved, it is grace alone, it is all Jesus, the cross, and we believe that by faith. Our sin separated us from a Holy God, the Holy God Himself came down and took the punishment for sin, and anyone who believes that by faith will have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

What is the Gospel?

What is the gospel? In the Old Testament, God gave the 10 Commandments (you shall not lie, steal, you shall honor your mother and father) and when a person broke one of those commandments, any one, and each time you did, they would go to the Temple with a lamb (or other sacrifice) and they would lay their hand on the head of the innocent lamb and confess their sin. The laying on of the hand upon the head was symbolic of transferring their guilt and offense unto the animal. The priest would then cut the throat of the lamb, catch the blood in a bowl, and then sprinkle the blood on the person. The picture was that the animal took the punishment for breaking God’s Holy Law. It was all a foreshadow of the day that God Himself would come and be the once and for all sacrifice, the Lamb of God, who would take away the sins of the world (anybody in the world that wanted to be forgiven). Jesus, God in the Flesh, 2,000 years ago came down from heaven and became the innocent sacrifice. That is the gospel, I would say nothing more and nothing less, but that almost seems to be a cheap statement when we look at the price of sin and the redemption for it. God’s only Son, traded for me, and for you.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Today’s Passage / Context is Hold your Ground /

So we pick up in verse 16 of chapter 5, and for context we started the chapter last week with Paul saying in verse 1, “stand fast”, hold your ground, don’t let anyone deceive you and put you into bondage by saying there is more to the gospel than Jesus Christ trading places with you. I mean, just saying that out loud right now sounds ludicrous, to think that God on the cross wouldn’t be enough for salvation. Last week we saw that this liberty gives us the freedom to love God and to love one another. We never need to worry and be looking over our shoulders wondering if God is coming to spank us because we didn’t perform and keep all the rules and rituals. We saw that we have that freedom because God we love God because He first loved us, not the other way around that would be dreadful, and that would be that God loves us because we first loved Him, which thus means God is loving us because we did something to make us loveable. So we are free to love God, to love one another. We can do all this because the Spirit of God is in us and ready to flow through us, for man was created to be a vessel of God (which God Himself would reside), and a channel for God to flow through, so through us God can love the people around us that He loves and created, and cries out to come to Him. And, to be God’s hands and feet to love people.

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV) ¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

1 John 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

But Not Liberty to Live in the Flesh

But not to live a life of sin with no regards, but the life of the Spirit. Oh the life of the Spirit, so free, so exciting, so loving, so powerfully. God has made us to live abundant lives, lives without fear, bondage, but a life of “walking” with Him, God the Creator, the lover of your soul, desiring and providing an intimate and personal relationship with Him today..... not upon death. Let’s get into the passage and see what the Lord has for us.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Legalist View vs God’s View

Galatians Chapter 5, Verse 16. The Apostle Paul says, “I say then walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Now, a legalist reads that, “Don’t fulfill the lust of the flesh and then you will walk in the Spirit, and the Spirit will be in you and flowing in you.” But that’s not what the Spirit is saying to us today. That is not what the passage in its context is saying. What it is saying is walk in the Spirit, enjoy the fellowship of the Spirit, the communion with the Spirit, with God, oneness with God and then you’ll find you will not be fulfilling the lust, the desires, and the wishes of the flesh.

Huge – We Want to Focus on God – Not what not to Do

Again, it’s a huge different because when we think about not fulfilling the lust of the flesh then that’s all we’ll be thinking about is not fulfilling the lust of the flesh. Our eyes and our mind will constantly be focused on the what not to do rather than putting our eyes on where the power is, where the love is and where the goodness is, that’s God himself. When we’re looking at God, when we’re talking with God, considering the things of God then our mind aren’t on the things of the flesh and therefore, we’re not drawn away.

Flesh is a Quick Impulse

Many a times, the flesh is a quick impulse and it’s this quick decision that has to be made to obey the flesh or to deny the flesh and how important it is for us then to be walking with the Spirit, focused on the Spirit, oneness and communion with the Spirit of the living God because when that flash of impulse comes, we’re already leaning towards the Spiritual things, but if we’re leaning towards the fleshly things of what not to do and we’re considering them and trying to battle against them in our mind continually, when that flash and that impulse comes we can find that we’ve already prepared our minds to respond to the impulse because we’ve been thinking about it so much.

Galatians 5:17 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.

Contrary – Entrenched / Military Term

Contrary is a military term, and it means “to be entrenched”. The flesh and the Spirit are entrenched against each other, and there is a war, a turf battle going on.

Good News – Dead Men Don’t Wrestle / Drop 300 Pounds on Chest

Verse 17 says that flesh lust against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. Here’s the good news for you today and that is that you wrestle, that there is a wrestling match going on in your life, in your mind, in your body, in your soul because as Charles Spurgeon said, “Dead men don’t wrestle, dead men have no conscious, dead men have no response”. Take a 300-pound dumbbell and put it on the chest of a dead man and he won’t even be moved or phased by it because he’s dead. Put that same pressure on a man who is living and he will wrestle and scream out for air and for help.

Not Condemnation – Excitement if you Wrestle / Wrestle = Thanks, Not Wrestle = Seek

“Dead men don’t wrestle.” Don’t take this as condemnation. Take it as an excitement. Take it as a joy that you are saved because if you weren’t saved, you wouldn’t be wrestling with these things. If you had no conscience of these things, if you could do them carelessly and callously then you would have to sit here and wonder and worry, “What is my true state of salvation?” *If you wrestle, thank God! If you don’t wrestle, then seek God.* But if you’re wrestling and that’s where your heart is, don’t take and fall for the condemnation of the enemy. Receive the conviction of the Holy Spirit drawing you away from those lusts of the flesh, but not the condemnation of the Satan, the evil one, trying to say, “Give it up. It’s hopeless. You’ll never overcome. You’ll never have victory.” Wrestling is proof that you are alive in Christ and that the battle is on, so embrace the battle. Be thankful for the battle.

Romans 8:1 (NKJV) ¹ 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.

Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Again the Continual Emphasis on Spiritual

Again, the continual emphasis that it is a spiritual thing, not a fleshly thing, are lives are to not flesh and bone, but the Spirit in us. Being led by the Spirit makes for a boundless life, exciting, freeing, and joyous!

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, Galatians 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

Galatians 5:21 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.

Grace does not Endorse

List is not All Inclusive

Verse 21 – and the likes – meaning this list is all inclusive, but it lists enough that you get the idea of what the works of the flesh are.

Cross-Reference

1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Grace Does not Endorse

Verse 21, “Grace does not endorse these things.” God is being clear that His grace is not so man can go and do whatever he pleases. Very clearly says, will not inherit the kingdom of God, meaning they are not saved regardless of what they say and believe.

Quick Definitions

Some definitions for clarity on a couple of these, as most are pretty straight-forward of what they mean:

- Fornication – sex outside of marriage between a man and a woman. The root of the word is “porneia” in the original language, it is where we get the word pornography.
- Uncleanness – refers to sexual immorality; dirty talk, pornography, in thought or actions.
- Lewdness – refers to sexual immorality, and it means unbridled, shameless, without care of what others think (and that would include God). So they are open about their immorality, and not only not shamed by it, they brag about it.
- Idolatry – is worshipping anything above God. Good gauge on that is how much free time or thought-time you spend on something pretty much shows what is most important in your life.
- Sorcery – and that word in the original language is “pharmakeia”, where we get our word pharmacy, which we refer to as “drugs”. The reason they use the word drugs here is because people would do drugs

as an entry way into the occultic things. Still the same today, just people don't realize that their drug use opens themselves up to the things of darkness and evil.

- Revelries – are drinking, drugging, ending in sex parties. I went to college in Daytona Beach, and I could write a book and all that I seen in these revelries. I watched people literally turn into another person during Spring Break, do things and be things they would never be back in their hometown or college.

Grace Does not Endorse

Verse 21, "Grace does not endorse these things." God is being clear that His grace is not so man can go and do whatever he pleases. Very clearly says, will not inherit the kingdom of God, meaning they are not saved regardless of what they say and believe.

Protect & Provide

People call it Legalism / God knows what Best for You – He Created You / Abundant Life

Just to make a point, this is where we have to understand that God knows what's best. When the list is reviewed and we read those things and people can challenge and say, "I think that's legalism, God saying don't do this, don't do that." Listen, God created you and God knows what's best for you. He knows that these things will not take you to your highest and fullest potential. He has so much more for you. He has so much more for your marriage. He has so much for your life. John 10:10 says, "I come to give you life and that more abundant but the evil one, the thief, he comes to rob, steal and kill," and that's what Satan wants to do. He wants to rob your life and he wants to take away from your life. He wants to bring death in the things of life in your life such as your marriage, your child rearing and the ministries and the relationships that you have.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Protect – Pain

These things God says, and these works of the flesh, these things will separate you. They will decay. They will bring decay. They will bring death. They will bring division in your life. God knows and the two reasons He call sin-sin. One is to protect us and one is to provide for us. He wants to protect us from things that can harm us, adultery, fornication, they ruin marriages, sexually transmitted diseases, they ruin your life. They ruin your intimacy. Drunkenness may put your car around the telephone pole and your life will never be the same. Outbursts of wrath, jealousy, these things destroy relationships, murder, what more do we have to say? He wants to provide for us. He wants you to have a piece, pick any of these works of the flesh and there's a piece that my marriage will be whole, wholesome when I know that I'm faithful to my wife.

Provide - Peace

There is a peace of waking up and not wondering, "Did I hurt somebody with my car in a drunken state last night? Did I do something foolish?" I can have this piece and that's what God provides. I don't think anybody would disagree. These things, any one of the works of the flesh, they will destroy and ruin your marriage. I like how God likens our relationship with Him as a marriage. We're the bride. He's the groom and he's literally saying for our relationship with Him, that vertical relationship, these types of things on these works of the flesh will ruin our intimacy with Him. It will ruin our marriage relationship with Him, the communion and the oneness and it will because it will drive us away. It will take our mind off of Him and put it on the other things.

Horizontal & Vertical Planes

It's the same for the horizontal plane of the relationship between men because God told us, "Love thy neighbor as yourself." These things are never fruits of love to a neighbor if outbursts or wraths or taking another man's wife or just using someone for an immediate gratification with no intent of a future, these things I think we all agree they do not produce a wholesome relationship either on the vertical with God or the horizontal. God knows and that's why he calls it sin because he knows how it hurts us and destroys us.

Camping on Big Stuff

Let's Get to Gay Agenda – so Get off this Backend of List / We Like to Camp on Big Stuff

Now this list is where everybody wants to hurry up and get to- Let's get on the subject about the gay agendas, so we can just talk about that and hang on that and bash on that. It is a masterful ploy by Satan because immediately what it does is it doesn't allow men to go and look at the other things that are mentioned here such as hatred and contention and jealousies and outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, and envy. We like to camp out on the big stuff, and thus we can think we got it all together.

Little Boy Snapping Fingers

I'm reminded of a little boy (about 4 or 5), who came walking into the house and the little boy was whistling and snapping his fingers. Dad goes, "What you doing, son?" He goes, "Oh, well, I've learned how to tie my shoes and so now I'm going to learn how to whistle and snap my fingers because I figured once I get tying my shoes down, whistling and snapping my fingers then I got all the big stuff down and the rest of life is going to be easy." I think that so many times that's how we feel. Hey, I'm just going to get this big stuff down. I'm not cruising these sites anymore and I'm not cussing and I'm not getting drunk, I think life's good. Paul gives us a whole other list here, a lengthy list of things that are all equal, they are not listed in order of magnitude. So the selfish ambition, dissension, heresy, envy and all the likes of those things are equally offensive and damaging as "the big stuff". We think once over the big stuff, we're good to go, but here God puts His fingers and says, "Oh, I want to take you way further than you ever thought you could go. I want to turn you from these things. I want to make you into a picture, a model if you would, of my Son. I want to turn you into this beautiful vessel that I can be shown to the world and I'm going to say, 'Look what My power can do for those who will submit and allow Me to do this work.'"

Again – Not Order of Magnitude / We Think we doing Well – But God wants More!

Paul, through the Holy Spirit, is not listing this in order of magnitude, in order of severity. They're all one and the same. God considers the work of the flesh, He considers adultery and fornication no more wretched, no more offensive to Him than drunkenness and revelry, no more offensive to Him than jealousy and selfish ambitions and so we'd like to jump on these things, these agendas if you would and make them our pulpits to preach from and say, "Look at what they're doing and then what it really does," whether we realize it or not. It releases us from looking at these things that are inside of every man and God says, "Flush them out. Get rid of them."

Same as Camping on Baptism

We mentioned last study, just like people like to camp out on baptism so then they don't have to deal with the specific things that they know or they're trying to not deny, they need to repent of and turn from. People like to camp on the five points of Calvinism or five points of Armenianism so they don't have to come to God's putting your finger on this in your life asking you to change from it, telling you that it's not of His heart that it's going to cause division in your life, your marriage, your ministry. People like to camp on the Seven Sacraments. Some people like to camp on hey, we study verse by verse, aren't we so knowledgeable of the word of God? Other people like to talk about their Church that they go to. People love to camp on certain issues and today's certain issues, the gay issue and the reason is because they don't want to have to face the backend of this list and have to be honest with themselves and say, "I need some help. I need to make some changes on this."

I will say This – Laws Made to Cover All

Now I will say this, if anyone wants to say the things in this list are the way a person is made, and laws are made to appease that, then laws should be made to cover all this list. There should be no law against drunk driving, no law against murder, no law against stealing, and the likes.

G-R-A-C-E

Hey where is GRACE / God's – Riches – At – Christ's – Expense / Look at Price and Say Liberty to Sin

It says "will not inherit the kingdom of God." Immediately people can go hey man, I thought this was all about grace. Let's define what grace is. We have a little acronym that we like to use. Grace is God's riches at Christ's

expense. Again, GRACE God's riches at Christ's expense. When a person will look at that, what are the riches that I received, eternal life, inherited kingdom of God. I get to have a personal communion with God himself. The war is over between me and God all because of one act and not any act that I did, but everything that God did. He gave his only begotten son, Jesus Christ. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever should believe in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Grace Came from the Cross / Grace should Point Us Heavenward – not towards the Flesh

This is what grace is. When we look at grace, grace should always lead us to one place because grace came from one place, the cross. It could only be established in one place and that's the cross. It's the cross where Jesus Christ would cry out, "My God, My God. Why has thou forsaken me?" God would forsake his only begotten son for those six hours on the cross so that we might have a means to, a way, an avenue to come before God and be forgiven of our sins and come into His presence and have a personal relationship with Him. It is all about grace and grace is meant to turn us heavenward, not earthward, not towards the things of the earth. The things of the Spirit, not the things of the flesh. The grace of God is not given and provided and paid for in full so that man can go out and fulfill this list here in Verses 19 through 21 and do whatever he may because Paul starts it off in Verse 16 to say, "I say then, walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill of the lust of the flesh."

Matthew 27:46 (NKJV) ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Practice - Habitual

Practice – Habitual, Lifestyle

Verse 21 - that those who practice such things..... - a key word there is practice. Catch on to that. Paul says, "Those who practice such things ..." When I was in high school and I played high school football, we did something starting in July, shortly after the 4th of July thereabouts, and we did it five days a week and it was called practice. We practiced every day football. We practiced details about football. One day we practiced offense; the next day we practiced defense. One day we practiced tackle; the next day we practiced receiving. We practiced, we practiced and we practiced. It was something, and here's the key to Paul saying, it's something that we did continually, repeatedly. Paul saying, "Those who do these things repeatedly, continually," it's their life, it's their lifestyle, that's who he says will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Inherit – Keep Walking

If You Fallen – Questioning – Keep "Walking" / Grace Covers / Spirit Empowers

For you today, maybe you've fallen. Maybe you went further than you should have. Maybe you had an outburst of wrath. Maybe you found yourself with selfish ambitions, envy, and the likes, and you're wondering saying, "Am I even saved? Is God mad at me? Is God separated from me?" Grace covers that. God's riches is Christ's expense so He can give you the Spirit to overcome these things, but the blood to be forgiven of these things, the blood covers the falling and the transgression and the Spirit will then empower and give us the ability to overcome these things. Again, don't be beating yourself up. Don't quit. Don't walk away. Don't say it's hopeless and useless. Keep walking the walk out. Keep walking with Christ.

Inherit – Roman Law of Adoption

Verse 21 - will not inherit the kingdom of God, notice the word "inherit". It takes us back to some past studies where we talked about our inheritance comes from being adopted sons and daughters and we're adopted into the family based on the blood of Jesus Christ, based on the cross and he would give us the ability now to become sons and daughters and with Him. By the way, Roman law, if you were adopted you could never be excommunicated. You could never be kicked out of the family. When you were adopted under Roman law and that is the law at the time of this writing, when you were adopted you could not lose your inheritance, ever. Interesting enough the sons, the daughters of natural born could. They could be kicked out of the family. They could be excommunicated from the family. They could be denied their inheritance, but once a family adopted a child, Roman law says it was

for life and it was eternal, perpetual. If you would not eternal, but perpetual covenant that they could never break. That's what God wants you to know. It's eternal. It's perpetual and He will never break the covenant with you even if you do fall, but He doesn't want you to live in that place. He wants you to live in strength and that's why Verse 22, 23 would get in the fruit of the Spirit. It gives us these lists of nine beautiful, wonderful things and at the end of Verse 23 he says, "There is no law. No law can pound against you. No law can hold you. Nothing at this world can hold you against these things be against you when you are walking in the Spirit and producing these fruits that come from these things."

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, Galatians 5:23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Not a List – But God in You

Not a List of Rules to Read / But God in You – Walking with You

God in this covenant says He isn't going to give us a list of rules to read and keep. Study the rules so you know what to do and what not to do; but God says I am going to live inside you, walk with you, and speak to you moment-by-moment, leading you and guiding you. Not a program, but a person, a person so intimate and in love with you that he would take up residence and live within you. His leading will always look like the Word, and thus the Word of God is His leading. The Spirit will not only prompt me, lead me, but will provide me the ability and power to do God's will. No law could do that.

John 14:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

How did you Get Rich

Without the Holy Spirit the church could not exist. It is He who inspired the writers of Scripture, and He who dwells in every Christian, giving us life in Christ. All our efforts are dust and ashes apart from Him. A young man asked an old rich man how he made his money. The old guy fingered his worsted wool vest and said, "Well, son, it was 1932, the depth of the Great Depression. I was down to my last nickel. I invested that nickel in an apple. I spent the entire day polishing the apple and, at the end of the day, I sold the apple for ten cents. The next morning, I invested those ten cents in two apples. I spent the entire day polishing them and sold them at 5:00 PM for 20 cents. I continued this system for a month, by the end of which I'd accumulated a fortune of \$3.50. (pause) Then my wife's father died and left us ten million dollars." When Jesus died for us He sent us the Holy Spirit, enriching us with all we need to live in Him.

Fruit – Not Meat or Bread / Healthy – Sweet - Living

Why are these character traits called fruit of the Spirit? Why not other food groups: like meat of the spirit or bread of the spirit or dairy of the spirit? There are four reasons why it's called fruit of the Spirit: because fruit is healthy, sweet, living and whole. Fruit is healthy to eat. Everyone agrees with that. If you love eating fruit, you are probably a healthy person. It has vitamins, fibers, and no fat or cholesterol. It is very healthy. And all fruit are sweet – naturally sweet. Do you know of a fruit that does not at least have some sweetness to it? Fruit is also living. What I mean by that is it is produced by living trees and plants. And when it comes to you in the grocery section of a supermarket, it still contains seeds that can be planted to yield even more fruit. It is living. Meat comes to you dead and cut up. You cannot produce more meat from the meat in the store. And the same with bread, you cannot make more bread from the bread you buy in the store. Fruit is also whole (slide of nice looking and delicious fruits). Sure, you can get diced fruit or fresh fruit cups. But most of the time you get fruit in whole pieces, as they were grown. A whole banana, a whole orange, a whole apple – it is not cut up, it is not chopped up, it comes to you the way it grows on the tree. Other foods to be eaten don't come like that. You don't want to eat a whole pig or a whole cow (slides of whole live pig and whole cow). These are the four distinctive traits of fruit compared to other food.

Fruit has to be Picked / Not a Gift but a Fruit

It's a fruit. There's only one way to get fruit off of a tree. You have to pick it. The fruit of the Spirit, you have to pick it and that's a beautiful thing. Jesus says, Matthew 7:7, "Ask and it will be given. Seek and you will find. Knock and

it will be open.” Ask for this fruit and God will give it. He says how much more you being good or God being good will give you the Holy Spirit and the fruit that comes, the fruit of the Spirit is a gift yes, but a gift God wants us to have, and thus all we have to do it pick it to have it, it’s a fruit and a fruit can just be picked. It can be gleaned. It can be taken and you can take the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. You pick it and it’s your choice, “Am I going to pick that fruit? Is this the fruit that I pick?” Here’s where we get our choice of what we’re going to pick and choose in our life.

Matthew 7:7 (NKJV) ⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Luke 11:13 (NKJV) ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Abide – Produced over Time

Abide / Fruit not Produced Overnight – but over Time

Fruit is produced over time, not overnight. We are attached to the Vine (Jesus Christ) and then over time we start to take on His nature, because the sap (if you will) is flowing from Him into us.

John 15:1–11 (NKJV) ¹ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. ⁹ “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

Proof of Salvation

It must be noted, that when Paul listed the works of the flesh he ended by saying “will not inherit the kingdom of God”. He then immediately starts with a “but” and then lists the “fruit of the Spirit”. The comparison, makes clear that the fruit of the Spirit is the natural outcome of salvation. So for those who do not demonstrate any of these traits, should examine themselves closely to see if there are in the faith. But remember, all those who are in Christ, fruit is not produce overnight, but over time, so you keep tapped to the Vine, and fruit will bloom.

Spirit Released – Through Submission

We Wrestle / Submission brings Power – So Opposite of World Mentality

We wrestle. We started with that in the beginning of our study. The flesh is entrenched against the Spirit and the Spirit is entrenched against the flesh. . We wrestle. When you just submit, these fruits will be natural outcomes of the submission. We wrestle. Any time you see God put on His wrestling suit, you’re just better to put yourself in the pin position. It’s an amazing thing. Submission brings victory. Submission brings power. It’s so opposite of the world. Submission is never viewed as power. Submission is never viewed as a place of victory. It’s always viewed as place of defeat and the place of lost. It’s in our mindset. It’s in our nature that we don’t want to submit, but when you submit, when you wrestle and you submit and say, “I submit this to you Lord. I give it to you,” and you’ll find yourself picking, gleaming this fruit that comes.

My Story / I was Wrestling / Didn’t Trust God knew what was Best

I can remember early, six months maybe after I had given my life to the Lord, I was in my prime of life as the world would view it. I was young. I was living the beach life. I was living everything that came with the beach life. I remember these things as they would challenge, these works of the flesh and I would go I think that’s outdated. I don’t think God means them anymore. Those things don’t make sense anymore. What’s the harm in some of these things? It’s two consenting adults that were having a good time or whatever it might be, but I was wrestling with it because the Spirit was wrestling against me and the Spirit was telling me, “This isn’t what I have for you.” I was struggling with that, protect and provide. I wasn’t fully trusting that God knew what was best for me and that God was protecting- I felt that God was keeping me from things that I really wanted, but I can remember that night wrestling with the Lord over it. I remember coming to that pin position where I just submitted and I said you know

what Lord, I don't understand these things, but I trust you. I saw the cross. I see your love for me. I know that you're for me and so I'm just going to submit myself and trust and believe that these things are what's best for me. It was a moment of submission in my life and all that I can tell you and describe, there was a peace that came over me in that room as I laid there in the darkness in my bed and there was a peace that just flooded me. I can only describe, it was like waves of liquid love flowing through me. It's the best I could describe it. Such a peace, such a joy, just a love and I just knew, "God, you love me and you're for me." If you heard what I just said, *what washed over me was love, joy and peace*. I partook of the fruit of the Spirit. It was there and it just flowed through me. That is your first step to the releasing of the Spirit in your life and it's a submission, God you know what's best for me. Now have your way with me and how beautiful it was and how beautiful it'll be for you when you just submit and you partake and pick that fruit and enjoy that fruit, bite into it and let it nourish you and it will do what it's designed to do. It'll bring you love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The Love of God was Greater than my Fleshly Desire

Here's the key regarding these waves of love that I was talking about. The love of God was greater than my fleshly desire. The love of God washing over me, made the lust of the flesh pale in comparison to His love for me. The love of God was greater than the fleshly desire and it was His love for me, not my love for Him, but His love for me is what turned everything for me. 1 John 4:19 says, "We love Him because he first loved us and the freedom is in knowing that he loves us." It's not based on our response to Him and again, how horrible it would be if that verse says, "He loves us because we first loved Him," because everything would always be dependent on our obedience and our performance and when we did everything right then He would go okay I love you, but He demonstrated His love for us Romans 5:8, "While we were still yet sinners, Christ died for us." Therefore, we see that we love Him because He first loved us." Now, I could sit in the love of God, the love that flowed through me was greater than anything I could ever experience in this world and it was always that reminder to me, these things are bobbins and trinkets compared to the precious gold and silver that God would give onto me.

1 John 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

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

Spirit Released – by Walking

Walk – It isn't Complicated / No Headlocks – Just Walking

Along with submission, how do I partake of the fruit of the Spirit? I walk. I walk with Him. Verse 16 says, "Then walk in the Spirit." That's not hard. I think sometimes people want to make it more complicated than it is. I think it's in our nature. We want to complicate it. We think we have to wrestle and scream, get God in a chokehold and say, "You're going to bless me and if you don't bless me then I'm going to squeeze even harder and choke you out." Just walk. Can you walk? Can you grab a brother? Can you grab a sister? Can you grab your spouse and just go for a walk? We do it every day. Just go for a walk. Let's just talk. God makes it that simple. We just walk with Him or living with Him or enjoying Him.

Like Grabbing a Piece of Fruit

Walking in the Spirit is as easy as picking a piece of fruit, just reach up and grab it.

Where Jesus Walked

Where did Jesus walk? As we look at where Jesus walked, we can see where the Spirit led Him, and thus was, and thus will be for us too.

- Feeding the Hungry (Mark 6)
- Preaching to the Lost (Matthew 5)
- Reaching out to the one (Mark 10)
- Coming to the Hurting (John 11)
- Reaching out to the Sick (Luke 6)
- The Temple (John 5)
- Prayer with the Father (Mark 1)

Get involved in the feeding ministry, and there the Spirit will be released through you. Find the lost, tell them the Good News of God's Love, and God's love will flow through you, and the cross will always be fresh and relevant to you. Find that one person who is hurting (like Jesus and the lame man, blind man, man with withered hand) and spend time with them like Jesus did, and Jesus will be there with you because He so deeply loves that person. Find the hurting, find the sick, and just hold their hand through it, let them know they are not alone, and that God knows their pain. Get to the Temple (church) like Jesus did, and fellowship among the brethren, a coal outside the fire will flame out. And, we see Jesus had a lifestyle of seeking the Father in prayer, where they would have sweet communion, worship, prayer, and intercession. All these things where Jesus walked, we saw the Spirit of God move, and so is a simple model for our lives. Picking and gleaning this fruit is not complicated, it is as easy as walking.

Galatians 5:24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Keep it a Spirit Thing

It is a Spirit thing beloved, don't make it a flesh thing. Be free, enjoy your liberty.

Crucified the Flesh

Nail it the flesh to the cross, and allow the Lord to consume it with His holiness. Look to Jesus on the cross, and see how serious God is about these things. Not because He is a kill-joy, but because these things will kill joy, as the works of the flesh rob and decay us, but the fruit of the Spirit brings health, sweetness, and life.

Legalist Conceited / No Love – Joy - Peace

The legalist is all conceited because they are all about the rules, and thus measuring everyone else, or envying wishing they were as great keeping the rules as others. They have no joy, nor peace, because always worried about their performance.

Walk in Spirit – Free / Because He 1st Loved Us

But he/she who walks and lives in the Spirit, they are free, because they know that they love God because He first loved them, not that He loves them because they first loved Him.

1 John 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

End of Study

Galatians 6

Galatians 6:1-18

The Why / The Theme

Paul is writing this letter, you can read the sense of urgency in it, and it is urgent because people are turning away from the one true gospel, and adding works on to the finished work of Christ on the cross. When Jesus said it was done, He meant it. The theme of the book, the message Paul is urgent about, is that the just shall live by faith, that it is all the grace of God and there is nothing man needs to do, has to do, to add on to “the good news”.

Galatians 1:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

All Grace

It is all grace, nothing of ourselves, nothing we need to add. Man is justified through faith. When a person lives by faith, then God lives in them and through them, and all things become clear and thus God guides them on how to walk this walk as sons and daughters.

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Outline:

- In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.
- Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul’s doctrinal instruction about grace.
- Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.

All Because of Jesus / Because He 1st Loved Us / Free to Move about the County / Vessels & Channels

We come to this point in Galatians chapter six and a summation up to this point if you would, this is all because of Jesus, and it’s all because of what He has done. We love God because he first loved us and because what we have studied for 12 weeks now is that we are free. It’s nothing to do with our performing. We don’t have to perform to stay in God’s grace. We don’t have to perform to keep our salvation. It is one and done, Jesus Christ has done it all for us and now we are free. As I say we are free to move around the country as that commercial would say, “God has set us free that we might become first vessels of love that he can fill himself into us. Live and reside in us and take up residency within us and then with the intent to flow through us to become channels of God.”

1 John 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

Love One Another / Stand Fast / Men Came Behind Paul adding to Gospel

It was chapter five verse 13 and 14 Paul is leading up to that verse that we are free and therefore as vessels of God now he wants to be channels for Him to flow out and to love one another, to serve one another and then to love our neighbor as ourselves. It started there in verse one of chapter five says, “Stand fast in the liberty.” Hold your ground, don’t be moved by people who come along, and say, “Yeah that’s great, Jesus Christ then crucified but you have to keep these seven sacraments or you have to worship on Saturday or you have to knock on so many doors or you have to go through to this special religious ceremony or you have to believe these five points of this or the five points of that.” It is just total freedom.

Galatians 5:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV) ¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

V16 – Walk in the Spirit / Abide – Produce Fruit

Then verse 16 of chapter five it says, “So then walk in the spirit”. We have the liberty to just walk with him. Not to fulfill the flesh but the freedom to walk with him, to love and that’s what God summarize all these. It’s all about love, he wants to bring us to the depths of love and then that’s where he brings us. As we walk with him we abide in him as we studied last week in John chapter 15, we just abide. The branches abide to divine Jesus Christ is divine and branches that are attached to divine will naturally just produce fruit.

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

John 15:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Fruit of Spirit

That fruit as we studied in verse 22 and 23 is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, against which there is no law, for nothing can bind love. It is beyond anything that could ever be bound because love is boundless and so that’s what he wants to give to us.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Today Study – God is Building a Body

Our theme today is as we get into chapter six, we’re going to see that Paul’s going to finish out this letter with the fact, the picture, that God’s building the body. The church is a place for unity and love. He’s going to give us some practical applications on how to love one another, how to be there for one another and how mature Christians are to be. Let’s just take a look at verse one.

Galatians 6:1 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.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Look at String of Words (7 Point Sermon)

As we read verse one, it’s interesting just look at that string of words. There is a seven point sermon right there and we could literally just have this one verse today for our passage, our study but we’re going to do the whole chapter, we’re going to take it in its whole context. Look at those seven words that jump out; overtaken, trespass, spiritual, restore, gentleness, consider, tempted. Paul says, “Hey, if you see a brother, a sister who have been overtaken? Here’s what you are to do.” It overtaken that’s just what we’ve studied and then that we can see in the contexts. It’s not a habitual sin, it’s overtaken it was, “Man you are running so well,” if you can remember that study from chapter 5. “Man, you are doing so well. Who cut in to your lane and cuts you off? You are running so well,” but then they trespass and that is to come outside of your lane that God had you. Trespass, we all see the signs, it means don’t go out of bounds.

They ran so Well – then went out of Bounds / Spiritual = Mature

Don’t leave the bounds that you’re in because once you crossover you’re out of bounds. It’s a picture of sin, it’s a picture of fall. Paul say, “Man we see somebody who is running so well and then they stumbled out of their lane, you who are spiritual” and that word means is mature, and thus this is what mature Christians do, you go to them to restore and minister to them. Do you want to be a mature Christian? Here is what Paul says mature Christians will do, they will go seek that brother and sister out and they will restore them. We studied about that in past studies of how we are to never give up on somebody but to keep going after them.

Seek them Out when they go AWOL

We are to seek out brothers and sisters, never let them just drift away, when you see that their missing, AWOL. You go and say, “Hey, give him a call, how are you doing? I haven’t seen you, I miss you.” Or when you clearly see a

brother who's been in fellowship, a sister who's been in fellowship and they've told you or you've seen it that they've trespass, they have stumbled out of their lane we are to seek them out, restore them.

Restore – to set a Broken Bone / In Gentleness

That's an interesting word there, restore it was used in and it's in time to set a bone. A broken to set it and to begin the healing process and what we see there is healing takes time and so we're going to have spend time with that brother and that sister who's falling. We're going to have go to them and to follow up because broken bones take time to heal. Here we see how do we restore them when we come to them? It's not with heavy double barrel shotguns of God's wrath but we come with a gentleness and that's a fruit of the spirit. When we come to restore a brother and we come to minister to that person who's out of bounds, who has trespassed, they've been overtaken, we are to come in the fruit of the spirit and let the spirit do the ministering to them through us, vessels and channels. We come with a gentleness, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV) ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ²³ *gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Gentleness – Picture of Jesus / A Bruised Reed

That gentleness is a picture of Jesus as we read in the scripture's. A bruised reed he shall not break a smoldering flax, he shall not extinguish. Jesus comes even the weakest and the picture of that bruised reed it's bend over, it's ready to break off. Jesus doesn't come and break it off, he gently restores it upright unless the healing process begin. Jesus so gentle and kind, that's how he's been with us. Has he not? He says, "That's how you go minister. Be gentle, be kind to the person." Because he says, "Consider it, it could have been you. You could have been tempted," that where means to be drawn away.

Matthew 12:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ *A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory;*

Tempted – None of Us are Immune / Except by Grace of God / Verse 2 – Bear Burdens / Blindsided

None of us are immune to these things and we say, "There go I accept by the grace of God". Then in verse two he says, "Bare one another's burden and fulfill the law of Christ". That word burden and bare as used lends the meaning of a body blow, somebody who is just like blindsided if you would and totally hit. If you have ever been blindsided whether in a car wreck or playing a sport or just in the middle of the night walking in to the bedpost, it's a blow you're like where in the world did this come from. The Lord saying, "Man, that person who's been overtaken man, go to them and help bare, carry their burden with them until they're able to carry it themselves." Fulfill the law of Christ and what's the law of Christ? Back to what we studied in chapter five is to love one another, to serve another and to love our neighbors as ourselves because we have to look and go, "Man there go I accept by the grace of God".

Illustration

In 1960, Israeli undercover agents orchestrated the daring kidnapping of one of the worst of the Holocaust's masterminds, Adolf Eichmann. After capturing him in his South American hideout, they transported him to Israel to stand trial. There, prosecutors called a string of former concentration camp prisoners as witnesses. One was a small haggard man named Yehiel Dinur, who had miraculously escaped death in Auschwitz.

On his day to testify, Dinur entered the courtroom and stared at the man in the bulletproof glass booth – the man who had murdered Dinur's friends, personally executed a number of Jews, and presided over the slaughter of millions more. As the eyes of the two men met – victim and murderous tyrant – the courtroom fell silent, filled with the tension of the confrontation. But no one was prepared for what happened next.

Yehiel Dinur began to shout and sob, collapsing to the floor. Was he overcome by hatred? By the horrifying memories? By the evil incarnate in Eichmann's face? No. As he later explained in a riveting 60 Minutes interview, it was because Eichmann was not the demonic personification of evil that Dinur had expected. Rather, he was an ordinary man, just like anyone else. And in that one instant, Dinur came to a stunning realization that sin and evil are the human condition. "I was afraid about myself," Dinur said. "I saw that I am capable to do this ... exactly like he." Dinur's remarkable statements caused Mike Wallace to turn to the camera and ask the audience the most painful of all questions: "How was it possible for a man to act as

Eichmann acted? Was he a monster? A madman? Or was he perhaps something even more terrifying? Was he normal? Yehiel Dinur's shocking conclusion? "Eichmann is in all of us."

God is Building a Body

There go I, except by the grace of God. God is building a body, and He wants a unified body that ministers to one another in love, just as He said in chapter 5.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV) ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ²³ *gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Galatians 6:3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Galatians 6:4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

Galatians 6:5 For each one shall bear his own load.

Not a Conditional Clause / Why Think Yourself Something

When we look at someone else and we look at their situation, we could be just like them, we could be tempted and drawn away. There go I accept by the grace of God and so God just showed me you need to be gentle and kind with the person that is falling, the person that has found themselves in that place such as this passage that we read here right now. God is so good. Now verse three it says that anyone thinks himself to be something when he's nothing he deceives himself. Now Paul is not making a conditional clause here, Paul isn't saying "When you are something then you can think of yourself as something but when you're not something don't think of yourself that something". No it's not a conditional clause, Paul is making a statement of "Why do you think yourself something when you're nothing". Paul is saying "You all are nothing" (oh by the way, a happy Father's Day hahaha - I hope that encourages you dads, you're nothing). Paul is saying "We're all nothing", and don't deceive ourselves to think we are something because then that is when we misuse and abuse and we don't minister appropriately in the heart of God at the fruit of the spirit because then I'm saying we start putting these conditions on how could you where, how did you allow yourself to get in to these things, I can't believe you did that.

Examine Yourself / Don't look at Others – But Self / Then see Only thing Good is God

In verse four as we continue on in that path, Paul is saying "Let each one examine his own work", and so we're called to look at ourselves and then he goes on and then we'll have rejoicing in himself alone and not in another. See we can rejoice when we look over here at Chris, it is easy to compare ourselves to Chris and feel superior, just kidding Chris but we can easily look at other people who are stumbling and bumbling through their walk and go oh look at me how great I am doing, but the Lord says "Look at yourself because I want you to see that there is nothing in you that is good except Me and so you always have to be looking at Me"

Examine – Scrutinize (every Detail) / Look at Self – See how Good God Is

Examine gives us that idea of a medical examination. This word here for examine literally means to scrutinize, it means to look critically or in my new detail whether something is genuine or not. Paul said "Man look at your ... Examine yourself, scrutinize yourself. Don't be looking at the guy next to you, but yourself" and what a valuable encouragement that is, maybe it doesn't sound encouraging but when we look at ourselves and we just really honest with ourselves we'll say "Man I'm nothing". God you're amazing that you would save me and touch me and love me and we will then to have, it's a release of the fruit of the spirit when we bring ourselves to "Man, I am just under grace of God and that I'm just going to just give grace because he's been so gracious to me.

Doctor Examine gets under the Skin

When we examine, when we go to the doctors, usually we go the hospital when there's something outwardly that's obvious. The bone is broken, that's obvious I go to the hospital but you know I find myself going to the doctors when I can't see what's going on underneath the skin and there is where we need to examine because we can actually be doing good outwardly but God wants us to look inwardly to depths of heart and when we go to the doctors for an exam, they're always looking for what's going on, mostly underneath the skin. They'll look at the surface and we can see a lot in our lives from the surface, but it's that X-Ray that sees through the outside and we can see what's going on underneath the skin. Maybe it's the cardio test on the treadmill to see how strong our

heart really is, can we carry a burden but almost all exams end and come with blood work and that blood work is to determine the state of the body. There's ranges that we can examine the blood to indicate possibilities of disease or an organ that's not functioning correctly. That's the minute detail that God wants us to go to and I think the greatest blood work is "Am I allowing the blood of Jesus to have full course in my life? To move freely in my life and not just cleanse me but to empower and to change me", so Paul says "Examine ourselves, not someone else" and then he says "For each one shall bare his own load".

Examine self / Help Carry Another's Load

We need this examination so we can carry our load and our burden and that when we can carry our load and burden and then we can go and help carry someone's load and burden, we can come along side of them and so we'll go through our times where someone helps carry our load and then we go through other times when we help carry someone's load. I think it's important that we're not always the one that someone has to help carry our load. God wants to grow us and mature us and Paul is teaching us through this passage of scriptures on how to grow strong and how to become mighty in the Lord and become mature Christians.

I thought I was Something / Man has to be Broken before he Can Minister to the Broken

I can remember a time I was so full of myself I went to Bible College and to believe my own press that I was going to become this great preacher, and great man used by God because I was something. I thought it was because I was something. Well the Lord has knocked that out of you before he's going to ever use you. Because anybody who thinks they're something and then goes and stands in the pulpit, he's just going to make a mess of people's lives. Man has to be broken, a woman has to be broken before they can teach on the brokenness of God, the humility of God. I graduated, had a couple opportunities, felt the Lord lead me to come back to the East Coast. Ministry didn't open up immediately. Neither did employment, I knew that God wanted me to get a job and supply for myself. I couldn't get a job for nothing. I mean jobs as I was more than qualified for, I would get denied or people just wouldn't even respond. I couldn't even get a job at the grocery store, that's the point that I had reached. There I am, I'm unemployed, and I'm living at my parents, staying in their spare bedroom. Day after day, at first I was like "God's doing a work, he's breaking me of this and that", and it was okay for week one, two, three, four. Then I'm into month three and four and then one day I had just come to the end of myself. I could take no more, I couldn't take not having a job, I couldn't take being nobody if you would. I remember shaking my fist and cursing at God, I didn't swear but I was cursing at him in an arrogance. I just said, "Forget it, I quit. I don't want this anymore." Forget the ministry, forget the serving. I just want a job and I just want to go on and have a job and live life like everybody else. The cursing part and shaking my fist and it was right there, that moment the Lord spoke to me and said, "See, given the right set of circumstances, even you will curse me." It totally crashed me. I went from thinking I was something, and that I was this great man of God, and I was going to be used greatly by God but God showed me, given the right circumstances. Even I would curse him and so I, we take those things and we see man we got to consider ourselves, and say given the right circumstances I could fall just like him/her. There go I except by the grace of God. Now God let me go and minister to that person, let me minister with the whole bounty of the harvest of the fruit of the Spirit, until they are restored and can walk on their own.

Galatians 6:6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

Seems out of Context / But Men attacking Paul & True Gospel / Dividing the Church

This seems out of context, kind of like Paul is jumping all over the place as he is closing out the letter. But I think he is still in context, and this isn't as random as we may think. Now remind you, Paul planted churches, he established elders and pastors and then he moved on and did it again. Here Paul planted churches in Galatia. He established elders and pastors but then man have come in behind Paul and they started a whispering campaign against Paul. Saying, yeah that's great he says Jesus Christ came crucified but Paul was missing this, Paul is lacking, Paul didn't teach the whole gospel therefore they're attacking Paul's ministry, Paul's teaching. They're attacking Paul's leadership therefore they're attacking the people that Paul appointed and established to run the church, the leadership, the elders and the pastor so what's happening is these men are whispering, they're saying "We have a deeper but they by the way and we'll read as we get down there, they're going to be like", so you going to need to send some of your money our way so we can keep doing our mission. So people diverting money from the church

and it's causing a hardship no doubt on the church but really more so because where your treasures are your heart will be.

Matthew 6:21 (NKJV) ²¹ *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

People become Critical of Leadership

People are becoming critical against that leadership and the pastors at these churches in Galatia and now the body starting to be divided. There's not a oneness in the body and Paul sees the threat here that's happening and it's just a spiritual dynamic where your treasures there your heart will be and Paul wants people to be investing in their home church. I'm not going on a fundraising kick here I'm just making a spiritual statement that's coming right from heart of God and we studied that back in our study in Second Corinthians about the spiritual dividends of giving and God surely doesn't need our money but God wants to release us from the grips of the world and he wants us to trust in him.

Provide for Leadership so they can Focus on Leading

The pastor teacher isn't just a speaker but he has fellowship with the people and Paul is confirming that the worker is worthy of his wages and so that the pastor teacher should be taking care of by the congregation so he can invest his time in the study of the word and in prayer but see what God is doing isn't just for physical reasons, it's a spiritual one, he wants a oneness and a unity. God is building a unity here and he is trying to make a oneness in this church and that's why he says "Man sharing all things, the Lord wants to build a body and where your treasures are is where your heart will be" and what's happening in this church we can tell from the contexts because we just know the heart of man.

Acts 6:3-4 (NKJV) ³ *Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;* ⁴ *but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

God Wants to Build a Body / What to Look for in A Church

God wants to build a church body, He wants a oneness and a unity. Last week I was asked and I get asked this often. What should I look for in a church? And I'd taken the acts to 42 and speaking on focusing on Jesus Christ and the breaking which is the breaking of bread in the doctrine of the apostles which is the study of God's word, look for church that is strong and to teach another word. A church that's has strong in prayer that takes prayer serious and in fellowship to find fellowship but what I find so many times in those questions is that people are asking "What can I get out of the church? What can the church give to me?" It's almost like a consumer approach, and the church is a commodity and I'm going to come and I'm going to evaluate you, just like someone goes "I went to Outback Restaurant, I went to Ruby Tuesday's, and I went to cheesecake factory and here is why I like each of these restaurants and why I go here one week and here another week" and it's almost like they approach the church as a commodity. God wants us to serve, that's where the summation that head all build up for four and a half chapters to get us the chapter five verse 13 and 14 about loving one another, serving one another and loving our neighbors.

Acts 2:42 (NKJV) ⁴² *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

God wants us to Come to be Served and to Serve

God doesn't want us to always be served even though there's times for that but he wants us to serve others, to bare others love and so that is what we should look for. Also in church that's part of the fellowship part of Acts 2:42 is what can I get? How can I serve? How can I invest in this church to make it stronger and greater? Not just for myself but for other peoples also.

The Importance of the Pastor/ Teacher in the Church

Paul is making point here that the teacher of the word should be taken care of financially, but let me make another point before moving on about the pastor teacher here and that is in Titus chapter one. It says that God makes his word manifest, made known, made clear, through the teaching of the word which would be whosoever the teacher. Now see I believe everyone can learn the bible the same. Now God gives a gift to pastors as a gift to be able to communicate what they've learned to make understandable, to make it applicable to the person who's listening but here is a huge part in this. See the pastor doesn't just breakdown the word and says here is what it means but he is to seek the Lord on "Lord how do I make this applicable today this particular study to the people who are

here?" and that's so crucial. The pastor doesn't just teach globally of this is what it means but he's seeking Lord's heart of what is that you want me to say to that people on this Sunday, on this hour and those who are here and they seek the application and what you find so many times is that we can be studying the word individually but we're so focused on our little things that we're into whether whatever they might be, I'm into evangelism and so they see every word they study in light of evangelism, or people who say I'm in to studying on Eternal Salvation, so every passage they study they look at how it applies to eternal salvation. Whatever it is, we can just read the scriptures for what that says about our "thing", but then we can come into the church and a pastor can be teaching the exact same passage that we were studying and come with an application that we would never have seen in our little, our own vacuum and then he gives a word and it just becomes fruit to us and it moves our heart it becomes manifest that makes a great change.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.* ¹⁸ *For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."*

Titus 1:3 (NKJV) ³ *but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;*

Now Moving on to Reaping and Sowing

Now we move to verse seven and eight but probably one of the most known passages of all the Book of Galatians one we go so often and even when we might not know it but Paul is going to use an illustration here and he's going to use a farm in illustration.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Galatians 6:8 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.

Interesting how God Uses Illustration / We can Understanding Farming Illustration

Now reaping the sowing, whatever seed you plant, that is the crop it will produce. Wheat seed produces wheat, and apple seeds produces apple trees. I find it interesting how God through the teaching of his word, and we see Jesus was the master at it, he was using the illustration because we can relate to illustrations. Jesus used many types of illustration and Paul is using an illustration here that would be familiar obviously with the people that day of planting in crops, and even everyone here today, we don't even have to be farmers but we can immediately relate and understand to growing and planting seed and growth

God uses Illustrations Today / Emily Rose M&M

God will still do that today and I think we can see so many illustrations in our daily lives that God will speak to us in ever day life and give us illustrations in our everyday life. I warn against over spiritualizing things that we see but God will just show me something and it's just a clear illustration. I can remember years ago little Emily Rose, she's three years old maybe four and she went and got a pack of M&M's and she comes walking by me and she shook the bag and she looked up to me with those beautiful blue eyes, she shook the bag of M&M's like a treasure and she goes, "God wants me to have these M&M's" and so I told her dad who is a pastor, teacher and I told him the story with the chuckle and he says to me "You know, I wish more of God's people would have that same attitude and belief. God wants to give them good things", and so many things if they just believed they would enjoy it, but they won't enjoy all the good things that God has because they won't believe God wants to give them good things and that story that I just told you is 20 years old and it stuck with me for 20 years and I know I told it dozens of times.

Rose Bush - Unique

God uses illustrations and one that I can think of is just a few days ago was when Renee planted this new rosebush. It's different from any rosebush that I ever seen because every day every bloom is different. No bloom on the tree, looks like the other, it's totally unique and so every day is this different color and when I was little every time I walk by I look for the different bloom and it just reminds me Lamentations 3:22-23 the Lord's mercies and compassions they're new every morning, God has something new and exciting for us every morning. I can look at a rosebush and see the uniqueness from one rose to another and everyone here is a rose for God, a flower in a

bloom of God himself and there some beauty in a difference in everyone and so, hey but sometimes I walk by that rosebush and all the blooms are dry. It's a dry season and I can say to myself that sometimes that's what life feels like but I know a bloom is going to come. I know little rain or little water or little sun, a new bloom is going to come. I just see so many beautiful things in that illustration and that's an illustration for you. Maybe you're going through a hard time in the season it's dry, you knew bloom will come and you're beautiful, you're beautiful in the side of the Lord and you're beautiful to me as a brother and as a sister.

Lamentations 3:22–23 (NKJV) ²² *Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.* ²³ *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

Reap Corn not Apples / Mock – to Turn up Nose

So Paul uses an illustration and here he is going to get in to you reap what you sow and here is a fact, if you plant corn, you'll get corn. You plant corn you're not going to get apples, just as simple as that, there's nothing to argue about and Paul is making the point right here in the scriptures whatever you plant, is what you're going to reap. You're going to reap and that's going to become your life and he'll say "God is not mocked". Whatever a man sows that shall he reap. Anybody can feel that it might be no big deal, that word 'mock' means to turn off their nose, it's like put your head back, turn up your nose. It means "I know better than you"

Reap Verses 19-21 / That is what You Get / Forgiveness & Consequences

You can go back to the verses 19 through 21 in chapter five and he says "You reap those things to the flesh, you're going to get the consequences of them. Reap the things to the spirit, you'll get the consequences of those." Whatever you sow, that's what you'll reap. And let me tell you, hey listen, if you've sown to the flesh and now you're reaping the consequences, separate this now Christian, grace covers your sin, forgiveness is given, but there is a reaping part now of the sin that was sowed. People reaping a sin often say "I can't believe this is happening and God is punishing me", you know what God might be teaching a lesson but it's probably more so if this is what you've invested in, then there comes a consequence and now you're living out the action and you need to separate the sin (and remember it is forgiven) from the reaping which is the consequences. Don't confuse that it is God's judgment and condemnation for there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Your flesh or Satan may say God hates you, he's judging you, he's punishing you, but just know it's just a reaping and sowing. I met so many people, they can be angry, they can be disappointed, they think God's failed, they go I can't believe he's allowing this and it's as hard place as a brother in the Lord, to say "Hey look", you went to that bar, you drank that alcohol, you went to that place, it's just a natural outcome of what you're doing. You dated this unbeliever, you married this unbeliever, you took the choice and you did what you chose to do and now this is the situation that you're in.

Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,* ²⁰ *idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,* ²¹ *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.*

All Sin has a History / Thought – Habit – Character – Destiny / Parents be On Guard

All sin has a history. Look at any sin and failing and falling in your life, and you'll see there's a history to it. There was some beginning that brought it to this point, and as it has been said, "Sow a thought, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny." The law of sowing and reaping. Whatever we sow, that's what we shall reap; so, you know parents, a word to you with your children, it's not just a movie. At some point that thought will develop, it will grow. It's sowing and reaping, it's a law, and that movie can then become that thought, then it becomes the habit, which develops the character and then a destiny. People can call that legalism, and they can challenge that that's suffocating, but it's a law and God says it's a law.

We Dwell on Negative – But law of Sowing Applies to Spiritual Things (AMEN)

But Paul so we can dwell on the negative but I think what we needed well on because it takes us back to that place, walking the spirit you will not fulfill the law of the flesh you know when you're just walking in the spirit abiding in Christ. He says "He who sows to the spirit, of the spirit reap everlasting life", will reap a state of life and it's a beautiful life, it's a wonderful life, it's a great life and so listen.

Greater Law of the Spirit / Always Reap More than Sow

He's calling us to a greater law and that's the law of the spirit. When we invest in that, those fruits that will be produced will be the spiritual fruit, not the fleshly fruit ... Here's the beauty of that ... You always reap more than you sow. One seed planted reaps a whole tree. A whole tree produces whole branches full of fruit. One handful of seed thrown in the ground produces baskets of produce, so we as Christians sowing to the things of the spirit, the things of the Lord, we will reap more than we sow because you always reap more than you sow. We can be comforted with that and we can find joy in that. It's a scary thing though if what you are sowing is to the flesh because you always reap more than you sow. That little thought will always become more than you think it, but for those who are sowing to the things of the spirit, you'll always reap more than you so.

You Can Have All God you Want – Not one Drop More / All Fruit of Spirit is Yours to be Had

You can have all of God that you want but not one drop more as to degree that will invest your life and plant the seeds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control the state and degree that you invest in those things is the state and degree that will produce the fruit of the spirit and ultimately it ends in everlasting life but everlasting life begins now. You don't have to wait until heaven for everlasting life, you have eternal life and it's a quality of life and you can live that quality of heavenly life today. You can have all of Jesus Christ you want but not one drop more, how much do you want?

It Comes Down to Sowing

It all comes down to sowing, being good farmers, spending our time in the field of God, sowing the Word of God (remember the parable of the sower and the seed). It all comes down to which field we spend the most time in, and that field will produce crop, it is a law of God, and that is good news. That means we can have all of God we want, and every bit more!

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Don't Grow Weary / 5 years of Prayer – Still waiting

Listen verse nine, it says "Don't grow weary". I know it can be hard the way you can say "Man I've been doing this for year after year, week after week, month after month and I don't see any change" and he say "You just keep hanging in there", listen we've been praying for five years on Tuesday nights. That's how long our prayer meetings have been now, five years and I can tell you this there's still five years of prayer request that have been unanswered for me but I'm not going to grow weary in doing good.

Always too Early to Quit

I can tell you this, regardless of what it is that you are sowing to the things of the Lord, should they have yet to come and be fulfilled, know this, it is always too early to quit. Keep plowing for in due season it shall come.

God is Not Mocked – They not Getting Away with Anything

I'm not going to grow weary of that because in due season I'm going to reap and I'm not to lose heart over that and it's the same in the ministry, it's the same in your life and you can say "Man, I've been faithful, I've been serving the Lord, I've been doing good and I don't see any fruit in fact it seems like the other people, they're getting all the good stuff and they're sowing the flesh". Listen, God is not mocked, it could appear that they're getting away with something that it will bring its corruption and judgment upon them. You just keep doing what God's called you to do and in do season we shall reap, don't lose heart, don't quit.

Harvest takes Time / Fruit not Born Overnight – but Over Time / Flesh comes Immediately

The apostle, Paul, he says the reaping of the spiritual things is eternal life, and he wants us to put our eyes. What we're sowing and what we're plowing and what we're laboring so steadfastly and can seem so long and such a long time waiting for the harvest. Remember, our harvest is eternal. It's upwards, it's heavenly, and remember our ultimate reaping then is heaven, and so people looking for the reaping of the everyday life, we have to wait ... It doesn't produce overnight. Remember, fruit is not born overnight, it is born over time. Now the things of the flesh, they're quick, they're impulse. They can come quickly and immediately, but the things of the spirit and the

things of the Lord, they're eternal and they'll last forever, and that's what we are looking forward to in our developing.

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Take Opportunity to do Good / Walk where Jesus Walked

Now verse 10 speaks to the, therefore as we have the opportunity let's do good to all. Hey man, take the opportunity, go look for the opportunity. Last week study where we ended, walk where Jesus walked, that's your greatest opportunity. Where did Jesus walk? Jesus walks to the people that were hurting, go walk where people are hurting. Jesus walk to where people are dying, go to where people are dying, administer there. Jesus walks to the hungry man, go and feed people. Jesus walked in fellowship with the apostles, find Christians to walk in fellowship and as you have the opportunity, do good and he says "Especially to those house of theft, so reach to those of the house of theft" and let me tell you this about ministry.

Can't make Ministry Happen – But must be in Place where it can Happen

You can't make ministry happen, you can work it up and force it up. God brings the ministry and the opportunity but you have to put yourself in a place that ministry can happen so ministry is not going to happen, talk to way in the house. Ministry is not going to happen of just doing your routine of line, I go to work, I come home and watch television I cross the internet. Ministry is going to happen when you open yourself to place like "Here I am Lord, use me".

God Warmed as We Serve & Love One Another / We don't have to Do this Alone

God's blessed, God is warmed, and God is so joyous when we take care of one another. That's how he developed us, that we take care of one another. We don't have to do this alone. We get to do it together as one, and that's a beautiful thing and I love doing it together with you, this Christianity, this church, our lives together. It's just a blessing. I'm glad that's how God designed it, that we get to do this together. So let's continue together and hang together because ... In due season, we will reap eternal things, everlasting things, and they're going to be beautiful and they're going to be wonderful.

Galatians 6:11 See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

3,300 Words – Paul has an Urgent Burden

Now verse 11 as we're closing out this chapter, we're literally coming back all the way to where we began back in chapter one. Paul saying "Look at what large letters I've written" so Paul I believe he sat down and he started to write this out, I think it's about 3,300 words. He started to write, he had a burden on his heart, he could not stop, he had to get this all out and it's taking us 12 weeks to read this book that they would read this letter out loud in the church assembly probably in 30 minutes and Paul sat and wrote this and if you've ever written a letter you start off real neat, untidy but by the end of the letter you got this large, your hands aching, you got large words because it is becomes burden something but Paul man he had to get this out.

Don't get Entangled with Them / Work is Done – Free to Move Around the Country / Because 1st Loves us

He has a burden and he's writing to this people and he's saying to them all the way from the beginning of his book and he's bringing it back to wrap it up as don't get entangled with these legalizers, don't get entangled with adding anything to Jesus Christ him crucified, you're free now and go live it. Don't get in to this work trip in performance and looking at how you're doing, keep your eyes on Jesus. We love him because he first loved us that that was we, he loves us because we first loved him and then we would always be wondering does he still love us because are we doing good but when we can just go back to we love him because he first loved us.

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

John 15:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Not of Us – All of Him

We know it was nothing and as he loved us in our ugliness and yuckiness and yet he still loves me, he would still go to the cross for me and so listen, you're free to love, you're free to live, everlasting life doesn't happen at beginning of heaven, it happens now and you can enjoy the state and the fruit of the everlasting life.

Galatians 6:12 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.

Galatians 6:13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

Galatians 6:14 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.

Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

Galatians 6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

Galatians 6:17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Notches on Belt – Closing out the Deal

In verse 12 and 13, Paul says "Hey these guys that are coming in with their stuff, trying to put you under the strip man, they just want notches on their belt. Verse 12 that word for constrain, it was a term for sales. It's closing the deal and that's, hey these guys they just want to close the deal. They want to put a notch on their bounds, say "Hey, we save 20 people, we got 50 converts" but they're not willing to suffer as Paul is pointing out. They're not willing to go to the extent and actually suffer when the hard times come they're gone and we talked about. They followed Paul where there was peace. Paul, before Galatia he went to a town and he got stoned and those guys sit and go to that same place. They came to where Paul had already gone, where they knew there was peace and there was believers. They wouldn't go where there was a chance to be persecuted. Then verse 14 Paul says "Man I'm just boasting Jesus", that's my boast and that's what we should be boasting in, the cross.

Last Stab at Judaizers

In verse 16, the Israel of God, Paul's taken the final poke in the eye of these Judaizers who are trying to say the true faith and the true believer is the one whose circumcised and keeps all the rules of Judaism, whereas Paul's saying the true Israel of God, the apple of God's eye are those who are born again through the blood of Jesus Christ, and he keeps it all grace.

New Creations / John 3:3 / Born – Don't Join

In verse 15, he says a new creation ... You must be born again, Jesus says, John 3:3. It's new life. It's a new beginning. See, we're born into the family of God, we don't join it. Just like any church, you don't join it, you're born into it through the blood of Jesus Christ because the true church is the body of Christ as we have studied. *John 3:3 (NKJV)* ³ *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

It is All About Jesus / Paul Living all Out for Jesus

It's Jesus Christ, it's all about Jesus and Paul's like "And I've been crucified with them, I'm not living for this world, I'm living for Jesus and that's where the freedom and the life is." Then he makes that statement in verse 15 and 16, it's neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything but a new creation and then new creations in Christ. He's made us new, he's made us free. The cross settles it all, the cross says it all. The cross says, "This is how much I love you, you're precious to me. My blood given for you."

Billy Graham – the Blood of Jesus

Billy Graham was asked if you could do it over again, would you preach more on one thing than another. Think of this, the greatest evangelist of our time, he said, "I would preach more on the blood of Jesus Christ because. It is the blood that cleanses us, it's the blood that sets us free. It's the cross that says it all." Paul, man we are free because of what he's done for us.

It is Done – He Loves You – Go Live Like it is Done

He's done it all, you're free. Christian go out and live it today like you're free. Know that you're loved, know that it's an unconditional love and that he loves you greatly, deeply, passionately. Now he wants to float through you, he loves you. You love him because he first loved you. It's not you and your performing, it's all of his work and it was done there on the cross and go out and live in that freedom, go and love with one another. Build a unity and a oneness and a bond together in our church. In the church of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen. God bless you.

Galatians 6:18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

G-R-A-C-E

He closes in verse 18, rather in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit Amen. He ends where he began, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, it's all grace, it's all him. It's all the grace of God. G-R-A-C-E, God's richest at Christ's expense.

Sheep tended to be Sacrifices

Now what? Israel's sheep were reared, fed, tended, retrieved, healed and restored, for the sacrifice on the altar of God. The life of the sheep of the Great Shepherd is to offer themselves up to Him in total devotion of worship and service.

John 10:27–29 (NKJV) ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

End of Study