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## ***GALATIANS CHAPTER 3***

**In Your Group Read Galatians chapter three (aloud) in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version (below). As a Group, Discuss the general content of the chapter.**

### **THE LETTER OF GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 King James Version**

**GALATIANS 3: [1]** O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? **[2]** This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? **[3]** Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? **[4]** Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. **[5]** He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? **[6]** ¶ Even as **ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. (GENESIS 15:6)** **[7]** Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. **[8]** And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, **IN THEE SHALL ALL NATIONS BE BLESSED. (GENESIS 12:3; 18:18; 22:18)** **[9]** So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. **[10]** For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, **CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT CONTINUETH NOT IN ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW TO DO THEM. (DEUTERONOMY 27:26)** **[11]** But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH. (HABAKKUK 2:4)** **[12]** And the law is not of faith: but, **THE MAN THAT DOETH THEM SHALL LIVE IN THEM. (LEVITICUS 18:5)** **[13]** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, **CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT HANGETH ON A TREE: (DEUTERONOMY 21:23)** **[14]** That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of

the Spirit through faith. **[15]** Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. **[16]** Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, **AND TO SEEDS**, as of many; but as of one, **AND TO THY SEED**, (**GENESIS 12:7; 13:15; 24:7**) which is Christ. **[17]** And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. **[18]** For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. **[19]** ¶ Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. **[20]** Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. **[21]** Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. **[22]** But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. **[23]** But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. **[24]** Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. **[25]** But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. **[26]** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. **[27]** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **[28]** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. **[29]** And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP: Read and Discuss** each verse and translation along with the "Additional Information" in each box provided.

**GALATIANS CHAPTER 3  
VERSES 1-4**

**Galatians 3: [1] O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? [2] This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? [3] Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? [4] Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. (King James Version)**

<sup>1</sup>Oh, foolish Galatians! What magician has cast an evil spell on you? For you used to see the meaning of Jesus Christ's death as clearly as though I had shown you a signboard with a picture of Christ dying on the cross. <sup>2</sup>Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by keeping the law? Of course not, for the Holy Spirit came upon you only after you believed the message you heard about Christ. <sup>3</sup>Have you lost your senses? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying

to become perfect by your own human effort? <sup>4</sup> You have suffered so much for the Good News. Surely it was not in vain, was it? Are you now going to just throw it all away?

**(New Living Translation)**

<sup>1</sup> You people in Galatia were told very clearly about the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. But you were foolish; you let someone trick you. <sup>2</sup> Tell me this one thing: How did you receive the Holy Spirit? Did you receive the Spirit by following the law? No, you received the Spirit because you heard the Good News and believed it. <sup>3</sup> You began your life in Christ by the Spirit. Now are you trying to make it complete by your own power? That is foolish. <sup>4</sup> Were all your experiences wasted? I hope not! **(New Century**

**Version)**

<sup>1</sup> You stupid Galatians! I told you exactly how Jesus Christ was nailed to a cross. Has someone now put an evil spell on you? <sup>2</sup> I want to know only one thing. How were you given God's Spirit? Was it by obeying the Law of Moses or by hearing about Christ and having faith in him? <sup>3</sup> How can you be so stupid? Do you think that by yourself you can complete what God's Spirit started in you? <sup>4</sup> Have you gone through all of this for nothing? Is it all really for nothing? **(Contemporary English Version)**

You crazy Galatians! Did someone put a hex on you? Have you taken leave of your senses? Something crazy has happened, for it's obvious that you no longer have the crucified Jesus in clear focus in your lives. His sacrifice on the Cross was certainly set before you clearly enough. Let me put this question to you: How did your new life begin? Was it by working your heads off to please God? Or was it by responding to God's Message to you? Are you going to continue this craziness? For only crazy people would think they could complete by their own efforts what was begun by God. If you weren't smart enough or strong enough to begin it, how do you suppose you could perfect it? Did you go through this whole painful learning process for nothing? It is not yet a total loss, but it certainly will be if you keep this up! (verses 1-4) **(The Message)**

**[1]** Are you people in Galatia mad? Has someone put a spell on you, in spite of the plain explanation you have had of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ? **[2]** Let me ask you one question: was it because you practiced the Law that you received the Spirit, or because you believed what was preached to you? **[3]** Are you foolish enough to end in outward observances what you began in the Spirit? **[4]** Have all the favor you received been wasted? And if this were so, they would most certainly have been wasted.

**(Jerusalem Bible)**

**[1]** You foolish Galatians! Who has cast a spell on you? It was before your own eyes that Jesus Christ was so vividly portrayed as crucified. **[2]** I only want to learn this from you: did you receive the *Holy Spirit* by doing what the laws of Moses require, or was it by hearing *the Good News* with faith? **[3]** Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit are you now being perfected by your own efforts. **[4]** Was it all for nothing that you suffered so much? Was it really all in vain? **(The New Translation)**

**[1]** You foolish Galatians! What strange powers are trying to lead you from the way of faith in Christ? We made it plain for you to see that Jesus Christ was put on a cross to die. **[2]** There is one thing I want to know. Did you receive the Holy Spirit by keeping the Jewish Law? Or did you receive Him by hearing about Christ? **[3]** How foolish can you be? You started the Christian life by the Holy Spirit. Do you think you are going to become better Christians by your old way of worship? **[4]** You suffered so

much because of the Good News you received. Was this all of no use? **(The New Life Testament)**

**[1]** O you poor and silly and thoughtless and unreflecting and senseless Galatians! Who has fascinated or bewitched or cast a spell over you, unto whom – right before your very eyes – Jesus Christ (the Messiah) was openly and graphically set forth and portrayed as crucified? **[2]** Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the [Holy] Spirit as the result of obeying the Law and doing its works, or was it by hearing [the message of the Gospel] and believing [it]? [Was it from observing a law of rituals or from a message of faith?] **[3]** Are you so foolish and so senseless and so silly? Having begun [your new life spiritually] with the [Holy] Spirit, are you now reaching perfection [by dependence] on the flesh? **[4]** Have you suffered so many things and experienced so much all for nothing (to no purpose) – if it really is to no purpose and in vain? **(The Amplified New Testament)**

**Additional Information: (Verse 1)** – “Before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you.” The whole expression is metaphorical and describes the familiar practice of making public announcements by means of bills or posters. In this case the announcement is “the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.” “before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you.” The form of the Greek participle referring to the death of Jesus Christ is perfective; it indicates something which took place in the past but which has present implications. (USB Handbook, pgs. 53-54).

**(Verse 4)** – “suffered so many things.” The Galatians had suffered many things for the sake of the gospel (Acts 13:45, 50; 14:2, 5, 19, 22). Now they are ready to throw it all overboard by accepting a different message.

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 5-9

**Galatians 3: [5] He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? [6] ¶ Even as ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. (GENESIS 15:6) [7] Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. [8] And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, IN THEE SHALL ALL NATIONS BE BLESSED. (GENESIS 12:3; 18:18; 22:18) [9] So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. (King James Version)**

<sup>5</sup>I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law of Moses? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ. <sup>6</sup>In the same way, “Abraham believed God, so God declared him righteous because of his faith.” <sup>7</sup>The real children of Abraham, then, are all those who put their faith in God. <sup>8</sup>What’s more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would accept the Gentiles, too, on the basis of their faith. God promised this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, “All nations will be blessed through you.” <sup>9</sup>And so it is: All who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith. **(New Living Translation)**

**Additional Information: (Verse 6)** – Abraham is considered the father of the Jewish nation. An appeal to his experience would be an effective argument against those who insisted that conformance to

the Law was necessary for salvation. Abraham believing God indicates more than mental assent. It describes Abraham's willing and unreserved surrender to God, his humble and utter dependence on Him, and his confident trust in His Word. This meaning is frequently expressed in translations as "Abraham trusted God," or "Abraham put his confidence in God." In some languages trust is expressed idiomatically, for example, "Abraham leaned his weight upon God," or "Abraham hung onto God with his heart." (UBS Handbook, p.58).

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 10-12

**Galatians 3: . [10] For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT CONTINUETH NOT IN ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW TO DO THEM. (DEUTERONOMY 27:26) [11] But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH. (HABAKKUK 2:4) [12] And the law is not of faith: but, THE MAN THAT DOETH THEM SHALL LIVE IN THEM. (LEVITICUS 18:5) (King James Version)**

<sup>10</sup> But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all these commands that are written in God's Book of the Law." <sup>11</sup> Consequently, it is clear that no one can ever be right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." <sup>12</sup> How different from this way of faith is the way of law, which says, "If you wish to find life by obeying the law, you must obey all of its commands." **(New Living Translation)**

<sup>10</sup> Yes, and those who depend on the Jewish laws to save them are under God's curse, for the Scriptures point out very clearly, "Cursed is everyone who at any time breaks a single one of these laws that are written in God's Book of the Law."

<sup>11</sup> Consequently, it is clear that no one can ever win God's favor by trying to keep the Jewish laws because God has said that the only way we can be right in his sight is by faith. As the prophet Habakkuk says it, "The man who finds life will find it through trusting God." <sup>12</sup> How different from this way of faith is the way of law, which says that a man is saved by obeying every law of God, without one slip. **(The Living Bible)**

**[10]** All those who expect the Jewish Law to save them from the punishment of sin will be punished. Because it is written, "Everyone who does not keep on doing all the things written in the Book of the Law will be punished." (Deuteronomy 26:27) **[11]** No one is made right with God by doing what the Jewish Law says, For, "The man right with God will live by faith." (Habakkuk 2:4) **[12]** The Jewish Law does not use faith. It says, "You must obey all the Jewish Law or you will die." (Leviticus 18:5) **(The New Life Testament)**

**[10]** And all who depend on the Law [who are seeking to be justified by obedience to the Law of rituals] are under a curse and doomed to disappointment and destruction, for it is written in the Scriptures, Cursed (accursed, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment) be everyone who does not continue to abide (live and remain) by all the precepts and commands written in the Book of the Law and to

practice them. [Deut. 27:26.] **[11]** Now it is evident that no person is justified (declared righteous and brought into right standing with God) through the Law, for the Scripture says, The man in right standing with God [the just, the righteous] shall live by and out of faith and he who through and by faith is declared righteous and in right standing with God shall live. [Hab. 2:4] **[12]** But the Law does not rest on faith [does not require faith, has nothing to do with faith], for it itself says, He who does them [the things prescribed by the Law] shall live by them [not by faith]. [Lev. 18:5] **(The Amplified New Testament)**

**[10]** But all who *depend* on obeying the Law *for their salvation* are under a curse. For it is written in *the Scriptures*, “Cursed are all those who do not keep on doing everything required in the book of the Law.” **[11]** So it is clear that no one can be put right with God by *obeying* the Law. For the Scripture says, “*Only* the person who is put right with God by faith will live.” **[12]** But the Law has nothing to do with faith. On the contrary, *the Scripture says*, “*Only* the one who does *everything the Law requires* will live as a result.” **(The New Translation)**

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 13-14

**Galatians 3: [13] Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT HANGETH ON A TREE: (DEUTERONOMY 21:23) [14] That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (King James Version)**

<sup>13</sup> But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” <sup>14</sup> Through the work of Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, and we Christians receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith. **(New Living Translation)**

<sup>13</sup> Christ took away the curse the law put on us. He changed places with us and put himself under that curse. It is written in the Scriptures, “Anyone whose body is displayed on a tree is cursed.” <sup>14</sup> Christ did this so that God’s blessing promised to Abraham might come through Jesus Christ to those who are not Jews. Jesus died so that by our believing we could receive the Spirit that God promised. **(New Century Version)**

**[13]** The law put us under condemnation, but Christ took that condemnation away. He changed places with us; he put himself under that condemnation. It is written, “When a person’s body is hung on a tree, *it shows that* the person has been condemned.” Deuteronomy 21:23 **[14]** Christ did this, so that God’s *promised* blessing to Abraham could be given to all people. This blessing comes through Christ Jesus. God wanted us to receive the promise of the Holy Spirit through believing. **(The Simple English Bible)**

**[13]** The law put a curse on us. But Christ took away that curse. He changed places with us. Christ put himself under that curse. It is written in the Scriptures, “When a person’s body is put (*hung*) on a tree, that person is under a curse.” **[14]** Christ did

this so that God's blessing could be given to all people. God promised this blessing to Abraham. The blessing comes through Jesus Christ. Jesus died so that we could have the Holy Spirit that God promised. We receive this promise by believing. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

**[13]** But Christ saved us from the curse that came upon us for not perfectly obeying the Law. He did it by taking upon Himself the curse that was upon us. Because the Scriptures also state, *Anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse.*

**[14]** So because of what Christ Jesus suffered for us on the cross, the blessing God promised Abraham is now available to everyone else as well. All of us may now receive the many blessings God has promised us thru His Holy Spirit, if we will faithfully believe God. **(The Last Days Bible)**

**Additional Information: (Verse 13) – “redeemed”** (Gk. *exagorazo*), as a verb, is a strengthened form of *agorazo* (to buy), and denotes “to buy out,” especially of purchasing a slave with a view to his freedom. It is used in Gal.3:13 and 4:5, of the deliverance by Christ of Christians from the Law and its curse. *Exagorazo* means to purchase out implying the receiving of a new master and he will not be sold again. (Vine's Lexicon).

**“From the curse of the law.”** Out from (Gk. *ek*) the curse of a violated law, that is, from its condemnation. The curse was the effect of sin in separating us from God. We were sentenced to die (Rom. 6:23), but Christ took our place (Liberty Bible Commentary, Vol. 2, p.519)

**(Verse 14) – “blessing”** (Gk. *eulogia*) is used of a blessing, a benefit bestowed (Vine's Lexicon)

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 15-18

**Galatians 3: [15] Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.**

**[16] Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, AND TO SEEDS, as of many; but as of one, AND TO THY SEED, (GENESIS 12:7; 13:15; 24:7) which is Christ. [17] And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. [18] For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. (King James Version)**

<sup>15</sup> Brothers and sisters, let us think in human terms: Even an agreement made between two persons is firm. After that agreement is accepted by both people, no one can stop it or add anything to it. <sup>16</sup> God made promises both to Abraham and to his descendant. God did not say, “and to your descendants.” That would mean many people. But God said, “and to your descendant.” That means only one person; that person is Christ. <sup>17</sup> This is what I mean: God had an agreement with Abraham and promised to keep it. The law, which came four hundred thirty years later, cannot change that agreement and so destroy God's promise to Abraham. <sup>18</sup> If the law could give us Abraham's blessing, then the promise would not be necessary. But that is not possible,

because God freely gave his blessings to Abraham through the promise he had made.  
**(New Century Version)**

<sup>15</sup> My friends, I will use an everyday example to explain what I mean. Once someone agrees to something, no one else can change or cancel the agreement. <sup>16</sup> That is how it is with the promises God made to Abraham and his descendant. The promises were not made to many descendants, but only to one, and that one is Christ. <sup>17</sup> What I am saying is that the Law cannot change or cancel God's promise that was made 430 years before the Law was given. <sup>18</sup> If we have to obey the Law in order to receive God's blessings, those blessings don't really come to us because of God's promise. But God was kind to Abraham and made him a promise. **(Contemporary English Version)**

Friends, let me give you an example from everyday affairs of the free life I am talking about. Once a person's will has been ratified, no one else can annul it or add to it. Now, the promises were made to Abraham and his descendant. You will observe that Scripture, in the careful language of a legal document, does not say "to descendants," referring to everybody in general, but "to your descendant" (the noun, note, is singular), referring to Christ. This is the way I interpret this: A will, earlier ratified by God, is not annulled by an addendum attached 430 years later, thereby negating the promise of the will. No, this addendum, with its instructions and regulations, has nothing to do with the promised inheritance in the will. (verses 15-18)  
**(The Message)**

**[15]** My dear brothers and sisters, I'm going to use an illustration from everyday life. When a man makes a will and has it witnessed and notarized to make it a binding contract, no one breaks that will or changes it in any way, even though it's only a human contract. **[16]** But God made these promises to Abraham, and to his Descendant. But He didn't say, "and to your descendants", talking about many people. He said, "and to your Descendant", talking about one Descendant, and that one Descendant was Christ. **[17]** And what I'm saying is that when God makes an agreement and witnesses and notarizes it Himself, no law is going to come along 430 years later and break that agreement so as to break God's promise! **[18]** You see, if the things we're going to receive from our Father come to us through the Law, then they can't come to us any longer through His promise. But God gave Abraham his inheritance as a free gift through His promise. **(New Testament in Everyday American English)**

**[15]** My brothers and sisters, let me illustrate my point. Even when men sign an agreement, none of those who sign can later add to or take from the obligations of that agreement. **[16]** Now God made an agreement with Abraham and with his Descendant. God didn't say, "...and to your descendants," referring to many people, but He uses the singular, "...and to your Descendant," referring to one person – to Christ. **[17]** What I'm saying is this: God made an agreement with Abraham about Christ; and the Law, which God gave thru Moses 430 years later, doesn't set aside and cancel God's promise. **[18]** Because if the inheritance God promised Abraham was to be obtained by obeying the Laws of Moses, then God's promise means nothing. But God gave the inheritance as a free gift to Abraham by promise! **(The Last Days Bible)**

<sup>15</sup> Dear brothers, even in everyday life a promise made by one man to another, if it is written down and signed, cannot be changed. He cannot decide afterward to do something else instead. <sup>16</sup> Now, God gave some promises to Abraham and his Child.



And notice that it doesn't say the promises were to his *children*, as it would if all his sons—all the Jews—were being spoken of, but to his *Child*—and that, of course, means Christ. <sup>17</sup>Here's what I am trying to say: God's promise to save through faith—and God wrote this promise down and signed it—could not be canceled or changed four hundred and thirty years later when God gave the Ten Commandments. <sup>18</sup>If *obeying those laws* could save us, then it is obvious that this would be a different way of gaining God's favor than Abraham's way, for he simply accepted God's promise. **(The Living Bible)**

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 19-20

**Galatians 3: [19] ¶ Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. [20] Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. (King James Version)**

<sup>19</sup> So what was the law for? It was given to show that the wrong things people do are against God's will. And it continued until the special descendant, who had been promised, came. The law was given through angels who used Moses for a mediator to give the law to people. <sup>20</sup> But a mediator is not needed when there is only one side, and God is only one. **(New Century Version)**

What is the point, then, of the law, the attached addendum? It was a thoughtful addition to the original covenant promises made to Abraham. The purpose of the law was to keep a sinful people in the way of salvation until Christ (the descendant) came, inheriting the promises and distributing them to us. Obviously this law was not a firsthand encounter with God. It was arranged by angelic messengers through a middleman, Moses. But if there is a middleman as there was at Sinai, then the people are not dealing directly with God, are they? But the original promise is the direct blessing of God, received by faith. (verses 19-20) **(The Message)**

<sup>19</sup> Well then, why were the laws given? They were added after the promise was given, to show men how guilty they are of breaking God's laws. But this system of law was to last only until the coming of Christ, the Child to whom God's promise was made. (And there is this further difference. God gave his laws to angels to give to Moses, who then gave them to the people; <sup>20</sup> but when God gave his promise to Abraham, he did it by himself alone, without angels or Moses as go-betweens.) **(The Living Bible)**

Where then lies the point of the Law? It was an addition made to underline the existence and extent of sin but only until the arrival of the "seed" to whom the promise referred. The law was appointed by means of angels, by the hand of an intermediary. The very fact that there was an intermediary is enough to show that this was not the

fulfilling of the promise. For the promise of God needs neither angelic witness nor any intermediary but depends on him alone. (verses 19-20) **(Phillips Translation)**

**[19]** Well, why then did God give the Law? It was given later to show mankind what was sinful, and that there is an awful price to pay for sinning. But the Law was in force only temporarily, only until Abraham's Descendant, to whom the promise referred, had come. And God gave the Law to angels to give to Moses, the mediator. **[20]** But a mediator is not needed when a person is alone and speaking for himself, and God was alone and spoke for Himself when He made the promise to Abraham. **(The Last Days Bible)**

**[19]** Therefore, what was the purpose of the law? The law was given *to show people* the difference between right and wrong. It continued until the *special descendant of Abraham* came. God's promise was about this descendant. The law was given through angels. The angels used *Moses* as a go-between *to give the law to men*. **[20]** (A go-between is not needed when there is only one side; God is only one side.) **(The Simple English Bible)**

**[19]** Then what was the purpose of the law? It was added because of human sin. And it was supposed to control us until the promised Seed had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a go-between. **[20]** A go-between does not take sides. God didn't use a go-between when he made his promise to Abraham. But the same God was at work in both the Law and the promise. **(New International Reader's Version)**

**Additional Information: (Verse 19)** – That the angels played a part in the giving of the Law is part of Jewish tradition, and recorded in Scripture (Deut. 33:2 [LXX]; Heb. 2:2; Acts 7:38, 52) (UBS Handbook, p.75).

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 21-22

**Galatians 3: [21] Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. [22] But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. (King James Version)**

<sup>21</sup> Does this mean that the law is against God's promises? Never! That would be true only if the law could make us right. But God did not give a law that can bring life. <sup>22</sup> Instead, the Scriptures showed that the whole world is bound by sin. This was so the promise would be given through faith to people who believe in Jesus Christ. **(New Century Version)**

<sup>21-22</sup> Well then, are God's laws and God's promises against each other? Of course not! If we could be saved by his laws, then God would not have had to give us a different way to get out of the grip of sin—for the Scriptures insist we are all its

prisoners. The only way out is through faith in Jesus Christ; the way of escape is open to all who believe him. **(The Living Bible)**

**[21]** So is the Law in conflict with God's promises? Of course not! For if the Law had been able to give life, then being good in God's sight could indeed come from obeying the Laws of Moses. **[22]** But Scripture declares that the whole world is imprisoned under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. **(The New Translation)**

**[21]** Does this mean that the Law works against God's promises? No, that could never be! After all, if God had given a law that could give us Life, then keeping the Law would certainly be the way for us to become perfectly holy in God's sight. **[22]** But the Bible says that everything in the whole world is under the power of sin, so that God's promise can be given to those who believe, as the result of their faith in Jesus Christ. **(New Testament in Everyday American English)**

**[21]** Is the Law of Moses, then, in conflict with the promises of God? Not at all! Because if a law had been given that was able to give life, then certainly peace with God would have been attainable by obeying that law. **[22]** But the Scriptures clearly declare that all people in the whole world are under God's judgment because of their sin. The Law serves as a means of making this very clear, so that we will put our trust in God's promise that right standing with Him will be given those who are believing in Jesus Christ. **(The Last Days Bible)**

**Additional Information: (Verse 21)** – Paul uses the strongest Greek negative to disdain the idea that the law and the promise are at opposite purposes. Since God gave them both and does not work against Himself, law and promise work in harmony; the law reveals man's sinfulness and need for the salvation freely offered in the promise. (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p.1667).

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 23-25

**Galatians 3: [23] But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. [24] Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. [25] But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. (King James Version)**

<sup>23</sup> Until faith in Christ was shown to us as the way of becoming right with God, we were guarded by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until we could put our faith in the coming Savior. <sup>24</sup> Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian and teacher to lead us until Christ came. So now, through faith in Christ, we are made right with God. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith in Christ has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian. **(New Living Translation)**

<sup>23</sup> The Law controlled us and kept us under its power until the time came when we would have faith. <sup>24</sup> In fact, the Law was our teacher. It was supposed to teach us until we had faith and were acceptable to God. <sup>25</sup> But once a person has learned to have

faith, there is no more need to have the Law as a teacher. **(Contemporary English Version)**

Until the time when we were mature enough to respond freely in faith to the living God, we were carefully surrounded and protected by the Mosaic law. The law was like those Greek tutors, with which you are familiar, who escort children to school and protect them from danger or distraction, making sure the children will really get to the place they set out for. But now you have arrived at your destination: By faith in Christ you are in direct relationship with God. **(The Message)**

**[23]** But before it was revealed that we could be saved by faith in Jesus Christ, we were guarded by the Law. We were kept in protective custody by it until it would later be revealed that we could be saved by faith in Him. **[24]** So the Law acted as our guardian-teacher until Christ came, when we would be made right with God thru faith in Him. **[25]** But now that faith in Christ has come, we are no longer under the guardianship of the Laws of Moses. **(The Last Days Bible)**

**[23]** Before it was possible to be saved from the punishment of sin by putting our trust in Christ, we were held under the Jewish Law. It was as if we were being kept in prison. We were kept this way until Christ came. **[24]** The Jewish Law was used to lead us to Christ. It was our teacher, and so we were made right with God by putting our trust in Christ. **[25]** Now that our faith is in Christ, we do not need the Jewish Law to lead us. **(The New Life Testament)**

**Additional Information: (Verse 23-25)** – “but before faith came,” is not speaking of faith in general, such as the faith Abraham exercised 430 years before the law. This is faith described in verse 22 as “faith in Jesus Christ.” Verse 25 reveals that “faith is come,” that is, the understanding of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation has come.

**(Verse 25)** – We are no longer under the law, we are under the Savior, Christ Himself (1 Cor. 9:21).

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 26-29

**Galatians 3: [26] For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. [27] For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (King James Version)**

<sup>26</sup> So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him. <sup>28</sup> There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians—you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and now all the promises God gave to him belong to you. **(New Living Translation)**

<sup>26</sup> All of you are God's children because of your faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> And when you were baptized, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on

new clothes. <sup>28</sup> Faith in Christ Jesus is what makes each of you equal with each other, whether you are a Jew or a Greek, a slave or a free person, a man or a woman. <sup>29</sup> So if you belong to Christ, you are now part of Abraham's family, and you will be given what God has promised. **(Contemporary English Version)**

**[26]** You are now children of God because you have put your trust in Christ Jesus. **[27]** All of you who have been baptized to show you belong to Christ have become like Christ. **[28]** God does not see you as a Jew or as a Greek. He does not see you as a person sold to work or as a person free to work. He does not see you as a man or as a woman. You are all one in Christ. **[29]** If you belong to Christ, then you have become the true children of Abraham. What God promised to him is now yours. **(The New Life Testament)**

**[26-27]** You were all immersed into Christ. So, you were all clothed with Christ. You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **[28]** Now, in Christ, there is no difference between Jew and non-Jew, between slave and free, between male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus. **[29]** You belong to Christ. Therefore, you are Abraham's descendants. You receive all of God's blessings because of the promise *which God made to Abraham*. **(The Simple English Bible)**

**[26]** Because all of you are now children of God by means of your faith in Christ Jesus. **[27]** Because all of you who were truly immersed into Christ have now taken upon you his feelings and concerns, His opinions and nature. **[28]** And those of us who belong to Christ Jesus are all on the same level, saved in the same way, whether we're Jew or Greek, slave or free, man or woman. **[29]** And if you belong to Christ, then you are, in a special sense, true descendants of Abraham. And you are heirs of God, because you now believe and share in the promise God made to Abraham. **(The Last Days Bible)**

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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### *(Galatians Chapter 3)*

**Instructions for Group Leader:** Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. **Discuss and answer (as a group) the questions correctly by using the Scripture(s). Turn to Galatians Chapter 3.**

1. **Read Galatians 3:1.** At one time the Galatians saw clearly the meaning of Jesus Christ death on the cross for them. True or False.
2. **Read Galatians 3:2.** The Galatians received the Holy Spirit by: a. keeping the law. b. attending church regularly. c. believing the message they heard about Christ.
3. **Read Galatians 3:3.** The Galatians started their Christian lives in the Spirit but then tried to become perfect by: a. their own human effort. b. by giving to the poor. c. by church attendance.
4. **Read Galatians 3:5.** God gave the Holy Spirit and worked miracles among the Galatians because: a. they obeyed the law of Moses. b. they believed the message they heard about Christ. c. they did evangelism door to door.
5. **Read Galatians 3:6.** Abraham believed God and: a. God declared him righteous, that is, put him in a right relationship with Himself. b. God made him rich. c. God increased his flocks.
6. **Read Galatians 3:7.** The real children of Abraham are: a. those born through the lineage of Isaac. b. those born through the lineage of Ishmael. c. all those who have put their faith in God and Christ.
7. **Read Galatians 3:9.** All who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received. True or False.
8. **Read Galatians 3:10.** Those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under a: a. blessing. b. safe covering. c. curse.
9. **Read Galatians 3:11.** It is clear that no one can ever be right with God by: a. going to church. b. paying tithes. c. trying to keep the law.
10. **Read Galatians 3:12.** The Living Bible states, How different from this way of faith is the way of law, which says that a man is saved by obeying every law of God: a. and paying tithes. b. without one slip. c. and praying daily.

11. **Read Galatians 3:13.** Christ took away the curse the law put on us. He took that condemnation away when he: a. taught the sermon on the mount. b. hung on the cross and took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. c. healed people.
12. **Read Galatians 3:14.** Through Jesus death on the cross, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to: a. Abraham. b. Moses. c. Elijah.
13. **Read Galatians 3:14.** Jesus died so that by believing we could receive: a. more money. b. the Holy Spirit and His many blessings. c. more of the material things of life.
14. **Read Galatians 3:16.** God made promises to Abraham and to: a. the apostle John. b. Moses. c. his Descendant referring to Christ.
15. **Read Galatians 3:17.** The Law, which came 430 years later, cannot change the agreement made to Abraham and Christ. True or False.
16. **Read Galatians 3:17.** God's promise to save through faith, could not be canceled or changed 430 years later when God gave the Ten Commandments. True or False.
17. **Read Galatians 3:18.** If obeying the Law of Moses could save us, it would be a different way of gaining God's favor than Abraham's way, for he simply accepted God's promise. True or False.
18. **Read Galatians 3:19.** Why did God give the Law? a. to show mankind what was sinful. b. to show people the difference between right and wrong. c. all of the above.
19. **Read Galatians 3:21.** Are God's laws and God's promises against each other? Yes or No.
20. **Read Galatians 3:22.** The Scriptures clearly declare that all people are imprisoned under the power of sin. The law makes this clear, so that we can put our trust in God's promise that right standing with Him will be given to those who believe in: a. going to church and paying tithes. b. doing the best they can. c. Jesus Christ.
21. **Read Galatians 3:23.** Before it was revealed that we could be saved by faith in Jesus Christ, we were under and controlled by the Law. True or False.
22. **Read Galatians 3:24.** The Law acted as a guardian-teacher until Christ came and made us right with God through faith in Him. True or False.
23. **Read Galatians 3:25.** Believers are no longer under the Law, but under the Savior, Christ Himself. True or False.
24. **Read Galatians 3:26.** We are all the children of God: a. by faith in Christ Jesus. b. by doing the best we can. c. by our good works.



25. **Read Galatians 3:27.** As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have: a. joined the local church. b. put on Christ. c. none of the above.

26. **Read Galatians 3:29.** Now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of : a. Abraham. b. Moses. c. Elijah.

27. **Read Galatians 3:29.** All the promises God gave Abraham belong to you (as a believer in Jesus Christ). True or False.

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