

# ***GALATIANS CHAPTER 3***

In your group read Galatians chapter 3 aloud. As a group discuss the general content of the chapter.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP:** Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the “Additional Information.”

## **GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 1-4**

.....> **READ THE FOLLOWING:** 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 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)

[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! 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]** You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. **[2]** I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? **[3]** Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? **[4]** Have you suffered so much for nothing--if it really was for nothing? **[5]** Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? **(New International Version)**

**1** You foolish Galatians! Who put a spell on you? Before your very eyes you had a clear description of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross! **2**Tell me this one thing: did you receive God's Spirit by doing what the Law requires or by hearing the gospel and believing it? **3**How can you be so foolish! You began by God's Spirit; do you now want to finish by your own power? **4**Did all your experience mean nothing at all? Surely it meant something! **(Today's English Version)**

**Additional Information: (Verse 4) – “If it be yet in vain.”** See Luke 8:13; 1 Cor. 15:2; 2 Cor. 6:1. <::::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 5-9

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING:** 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)**

**5** Does God give you the Spirit and work miracles among you because you do what the Law requires or because you hear the gospel and believe it? **6** Consider the experience of Abraham; as the scripture says, “He believed God, and because of his faith God accepted him as righteous.” **7** You should realize then, that the real descendants of Abraham are the people who have faith. **8** The scripture predicted that God would put the Gentiles right with himself through faith. And so the scripture announced the Good News to Abraham: “Through you God will bless the whole human race.” **9** Abraham believed and was blessed; so all who believe are blessed as he was. **(Today’s English Version)**

**[5]** He gave you the Holy Spirit and did powerful works among you. Does He do it because you do what the Law says or because you hear and believe the truth? **[6]** It was the same with Abraham. He put his trust in God. This made Abraham right with God. **[7]** Be sure to remember that all men who put their trust in God are the sons of Abraham. **[8]** The Holy Writings said long ago that God would save the people who are not Jews from the punishment of sin also. Before this time the Holy Writings gave the Good News to Abraham in these words; “All nations will be happy because of you.” Genesis 12:3 **[9]** So then, all those who have faith will be happy, along with Abraham who had faith. **(The New Life Testament)**

<sup>5</sup> God gives you his Spirit and works miracles in you. But does he do this because you obey the Law of Moses or because you have heard about Christ and have faith in him? <sup>6</sup> The Scriptures say that God accepted Abraham because Abraham had faith. <sup>7</sup> And so, you should understand that everyone who has faith is a child of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> Long ago the Scriptures said that God would accept the Gentiles because of their faith. That’s why God told Abraham the good news that all nations would be blessed because of him. <sup>9</sup> This means that everyone who has faith will share in the blessings that were given to Abraham because of his faith. **(Contemporary English Version)**

**Additional Information: (Verses 6-9)** – The Jews regarded Abraham as their father and the source of their spiritual blessings. They believed that simple physical descent from Abraham made them righteous. Paul shows that Abraham pleased God by faith and not by doing works of the Law, since the Law did not exist in Abraham’s time. He further insists that the true children of Abraham, and thus heirs of the promised blessing, are those who live by the principle of faith (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1776).

**(Verse 6)** – As he does in Romans, Paul uses Abraham as proof that there has never been any other way of salvation than by grace through faith. Even the Old Testament teaches justification by faith (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1792).

**(Verse 8)** – “**The Scripture foreseeing.**” Personifying the Scripture was a common Jewish figure of speech (Gal. 4:30; Jn. 7:38, 42; 19:37; Rom. 9:17; 10:11; 11:2; 1 Tim. 5:18). Because Scripture is God’s Word, when it speaks, God speaks. **“Preached the gospel to Abraham.”** The “good news” to Abraham was the news of salvation for all the nations (quoted from Gen. 12:3; 18:18). See Gen. 22:18; John 8:56; Acts 26:22-23. Salvation has always, in every age, been by faith (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1792). <::::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 3  
**VERSES 10-12**

.....> **READ THE FOLLOWING:** 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)**

[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.” (Habbakkuk 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** Those who depend on obeying the Law live under a curse. For the scripture says, “Whoever does not always obey everything that is written in the book of the Law is under God’s curse!” **11** Now, it is clear that no one is put right with God by means of the Law, because the scripture says, “Only the person who is put right with God through faith shall live.” **12** But the Law has nothing to do with faith. Instead, as the scripture says, “Whoever does everything the Law requires will live.” **(Today’s English Version)**

<sup>10</sup> Anyone who tries to please God by obeying the Law is under a curse. The Scriptures say, “Everyone who doesn’t obey everything in the Law is under a curse.” <sup>11</sup> No one can please God by obeying the Law. The Scriptures also say, “The people God accepts because of their faith will live.” <sup>12</sup> The Law isn’t based on faith. It promises life only to people who obey its commands. **(Contemporary English Version)**

**Additional Information: (Verses 10-12)** – Paul presents the alternative of faith (v. 11) and law (v. 12) as the means of justification. However, rather than justifying, the Law curses (v. 10) because it makes demands that no one can keep. Obedience must not only be absolute in every detail, but it must be continuous (Gal. 3:10) (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1776).

**(Verse 10)** – “As many as are of the works of the law.” Those attempting to earn salvation by keeping the law. “**Are under the curse.**” Quoted from Deut. 27:26 to show that failure to perfectly keep the law brings judgment and condemnation (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1792). Paul quoted Deuteronomy 27:26 to prove that, contrary to what the Judaizers claimed, the law cannot justify and save – it can only

condemn. Breaking even one commandment brings a person under condemnation. And because everyone has broken the commandments, everyone stands condemned. The law can do nothing to reverse the condemnation (Rom. 3:20-24). But Christ took the curse of the law upon himself when he hung on the cross. He did this so we wouldn't have to bear our own punishment (Life Application Bible, p. 2120). **"All things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."** No one can keep all the commands of the law – not even strict Pharisees like Saul of Tarsus (Rom. 7:7-12) (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1792).

**(Verse 11) – "But that no one is justified by the law"** (made righteous before God). Trying to be right with God ("justified") by our own effort doesn't work. Good intentions such as "I'll do better next time" or "I'll never do that again" usually end in failure. Paul points to Habakkuk's declaration (Habakkuk 2:4) that by trusting God – believing in his provision for our sins and living each day in his power – we can break this cycle of failure (Life Application Bible, p. 2120).

**(Verse 12) – "The Law is not of faith."** Justification by faith and justification by keeping the law are mutually exclusive, as Paul's Old Testament quote from Lev. 18:5 proves (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1793). <::::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 13-14

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING: 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)**

**13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by being cursed for our sake, since scripture says: *Cursed be everyone who is hanged on a tree.* **14** This was done so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might include the pagans, and so that through faith we might receive the promised Spirit. **(The Jerusalem Bible)**

**13** But by becoming a curse for us Christ has redeemed us from the curse that the Law brings; for the scripture says, "Anyone who is hanged on a tree is under God's curse." **14** Christ did this in order that the blessing which God promised to Abraham might be given to the Gentiles by means of Christ Jesus, so that through faith we might receive the Spirit promised by God. **(Today's English Version)**

**13** Christ bought us with His blood and made us free from the Law. In that way, the Law could not punish us. Christ did this by carrying the load and by being punished instead of us. It is written "Anyone who hangs on a cross is hated and punished."

Deuteronomy 21:23 **14** Because of the price Christ Jesus paid, the good things that came to Abraham might come to the people who are not Jews. And by putting our trust in Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit He has promised. **(The New Life Testament)**

<sup>13</sup> But Christ rescued us from the Law's curse, when he became a curse in our place. This is because the Scriptures say that anyone who is nailed to a tree is under a curse. <sup>14</sup> And because of what Jesus Christ has done, the blessing that was promised to Abraham was taken to the Gentiles. This happened so that by faith we would be given the promised Holy Spirit. **(Contemporary English Version)**

**Additional Information: (Verse 13) – “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law.”** The Greek word translated “redeemed” was often used to speak of buying a slave's or debtor's freedom. Christ's death, because it was a death of substitution for sin, satisfied God's justice and exhausted His wrath toward His elect, so that Christ actually purchased believers from slavery to sin and from the sentence of eternal death (Gal. 4:5; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:18; cf. Rom. 3:24; 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Heb. 9:12). **“Having become a curse for us.”** By bearing God's wrath for believers' sins on the cross (2 Cor. 5:21; cf. Heb. 9:28; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18), Christ took upon Himself the curse pronounced on those who violated the law. **“It is written.”** The common New Testament way (61 times) of introducing Old Testament quotes, Deut. 21:23 is quoted (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1793).

**(Verse 14) – “The blessing of Abraham.”** Faith in God's promise of salvation. **“The promise of the Spirit.”** From God the Father. Cf. Isa. 32:15; 44:3; 59:19-21; Ezek. 36:26-27; 37:14; 39:29; Joel 2:28-29; Luke 11:13; 24:29; Jn. 7:37-39; 14:16, 26 (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1793). <::::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 15-18

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING:** 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> 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)**

**15** Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is *only* a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. **16** Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. **17** What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. **18** For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. **(New American Standard Version)**

**15** My brothers and sisters, I am going to use an everyday example: when two people agree on a matter and sign an agreement, no one can break it or add anything to it. **16** Now, God made his promises to Abraham and to his descendant. The scripture does not use the plural "descendants", meaning many people, but the singular "descendant", meaning one person only, namely, Christ. **17** What I mean is that God made a covenant with Abraham and promised to keep it. The Law, which was given 430 years later, cannot break that covenant and cancel God's promise. **18** For if God's gift depends on the Law, then it no longer depends on his promise. However, it was because of his promise that God gave that gift to Abraham. **(Today's English Version)**

<sup>15</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, here's an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case. <sup>16</sup> God gave the promise to Abraham and his child. And notice that it doesn't say the promise was to his children, as if it meant many descendants. But the promise was to his child—and that, of course, means Christ. <sup>17</sup> This is what I am trying to say: The agreement God made with Abraham could not be canceled 430 years later when God gave the law to Moses. God would be breaking his promise. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance could be received only by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise. But God gave it to Abraham as a promise. **(New Living Translation)**

**15** Christian brothers, let me show you what this means. If two men agree to something and sign their names on a paper promising to stay true to what they agree, it cannot be changed. **16** Now the promise was made to Abraham and to his son. He does not say: "And to sons," speaking of many. But instead: "And to your Son," which means Christ. **17** This is what I am saying: The Law which came 430 years later could not change the promise. The promise had already been made by God. The law could not put that promise aside. **18** If it had been possible to be saved from the punishment of sin by obeying the Law, the promise God gave Abraham would be worth nothing. But since it is not possible to be saved by obeying the Law, the promise God gave Abraham is worth everything. **(The New Life Testament)**

**15** Compare this, brothers, with what happens in ordinary life. If a will has been drawn up in due form, no one is allowed to disregard it or add to it. **16** Now the promises were addressed to Abraham *and to his descendants* – notice, in passing, that scripture does not use a plural word as if there were several descendants, it uses the singular: to his posterity, which is Christ. **17** But my point is this: once God had expressed his will in due form, no law that came four hundred and thirty years later could cancel that and make the promise meaningless. **18** If you inherit something as a

legal right, it does not come to you as the result of a promise, and it was precisely in the form of a promise that God made his gift to Abraham. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

**Additional Information: (Verses 15-18)** – In defending the gospel Paul describes the character of the covenant with Abraham, proving that the promise is fulfilled in Christ, not in the Law. **No one annuls** a human agreement (v. 15). How much more is this true of a divine agreement (v. 17). The basis of the covenant with Abraham was faith, and the Law, which came **four hundred and thirty years** after Abraham, cannot possibly set aside this earlier agreement (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1776),

**(Verse 16) – Seed ... seeds:** The promise was not to all descendants of Abraham. It found its fulfillment in Christ and thus in those who are united with Him (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1776),

**(Verse 17)** – God kept his promise to Abraham (Genesis 17:7-8) – he has not revoked it, though thousands of years have passed. He saved Abraham through his faith, and he blessed the world through Abraham by sending the Messiah as one of Abraham’s descendants. Circumstances may change, but God remains constant and does not break his promises. He has promised to forgive our sins through Jesus Christ, and we can be sure that he will do so (Life Application Bible, p. 2120).

**(Verse 18)** – Paul again emphasized that there is no middle ground between law (works) and promise (grace); the two principles are mutually exclusive ways of salvation (cf. Rom. 4:14). An “inheritance” by definition is something granted, not worked for, as proven in the case of Abraham (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1793).

**(Verses 18-19)** – The law has two functions. On the positive side, it reveals the nature and will of God and shows people how to live. On the negative side, it points out people’s sins and shows them that it is impossible to please God by trying to obey all his laws completely. God’s promise to Abraham dealt with Abraham’s faith; the law focuses on actions. The covenant with Abraham show that faith is the only way to be saved; the law shows how to obey God in grateful response. Faith does not annul the law; but the more we know God, the more we see how sinful we are. Then we are driven to depend of our faith in Christ alone for our salvation (Life Application Bible, p. 2120). <:.....: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 19-20

.....> **READ THE FOLLOWING:** 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)**

**19** Then why do we have the Law? It was given because of sin. It was to be used until Christ came. The promise had been made looking toward Christ. The Law was given by angels through Moses who stood between God and man. **20** But when



the promise was given to Abraham, God gave it without anyone standing between them. **(The New Life Testament)**

**19** What, then, was the purpose of the Law? It was added in order to show what wrongdoing is, and it was meant to last until the coming of Abraham's descendant, to whom the promise was made. The Law was handed down by angels, with a man acting as a go-between. **20** But a go-between is not needed when only one person is involved; and God is one. **(Today's English Version)**

<sup>19</sup> Well then, why was the law given? It was given to show people how guilty they are. But this system of law was to last only until the coming of 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 was the mediator between God and the people. <sup>20</sup> Now a mediator is needed if two people enter into an agreement, but God acted on his own when he made his promise to Abraham. **(New Living Translation)**

**Additional Information: (Verses 19-20)** – First, the Law was intended to reveal sin, not to secure righteousness (Rom. 4:15; 5:20). It was a temporary measure, introduced to convince people of their need of justification and of their inability to save themselves, thus leading them to Christ. Second, the Law is inferior to the promise, having come through angels and Moses (Dt. 33:2; Ps. 68:17; Acts 7:53; Heb. 2:2) in contrast to the promise, which came direct from God to Abraham (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1776).

When God gave his promise to Abraham, he did it by himself alone, without angels or Moses as mediators. Although it is not mentioned in Exodus, Jews believed that the Ten Commandments had been given to Moses by angels (Stephen referred to this in his speech, see Acts 7:38, 53). Paul was showing the superiority of salvation and growth by faith over trying to be saved by keeping the Jewish laws. Christ is the only way given by God for us to come to him (1 Tim. 2:5) (Life Application Bible, p. 2120).

<::::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 21-22

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING:** 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)**

**21** Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. **22** But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. **(New American Standard Version)**

**21** Does this mean that there is opposition between the Law and the promises of God? Of course not. We could have been justified by the Law if the Law we were given had been capable of giving life, **22** but it is not: scripture makes no exceptions when it says that sin is master everywhere. In this way the promise can only be given through

faith in Jesus Christ and can only be given to those who have this faith. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

**21** Does this mean that the Law is against God's promises? No, not at all! For if human beings had received a law that could bring life, then everyone could be put right with God by obeying it. **22** But the scripture says that the whole world is under the power of sin; and so the gift which is promised on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ is given to those who believe. **(Today's English Translation)**

<sup>21</sup> Does the Law disagree with God's promises? No, it doesn't! If any law could give life to us, we could become acceptable to God by obeying that law. <sup>22</sup> But the Scriptures say that sin controls everyone, so that God's promises will be for anyone who has faith in Jesus Christ. **(Contemporary English Version)**

**21** Is the Law against the promise of God? No! Never! If it had been possible to be saved from the punishment of sin by obeying the Law, then being right with God would have come by obeying the Law. **22** But the Holy Writings say that all men are guilty of sin. Then that which was promised might be given to those who put their trust in Christ. It will be because their faith is in Him. **(The New Life Testament)**

<sup>21</sup> Well then, is there a conflict between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could have given us new life, we could have been made right with God by obeying it. <sup>22</sup> But the Scriptures have declared that we are all prisoners of sin, so the only way to receive God's promise is to believe in Jesus Christ. **(New Living Translation)**

**Additional Information: (Verses 21-22)** – The Law is not contrary to the promise; rather, the two are complementary. The Law demanded righteousness but was powerless to provide it. Its function was to prepare for the gospel by making people conscious of their sin and their need of a Savior (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1777).

**(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. If the law could have provided righteousness and eternal life, there would be no gracious promise (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1794).

**(Verse 22)** – **“Confined all under sin.”** The Greek verb translated “confined” means “to enclose on all sides.” Paul portrays all mankind as hopelessly trapped in sin, like a school of fish caught in a net. That all people are sinners is the express teaching of Scripture (See 1 Kings 8:46; Psa. 143:2; Prov. 20:9; Eccl. 7:20; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:9-19, 23; 11:32) (MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1794). <::::::::::: **STOP AND DISCUSS.**

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 23-25

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING:** 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)**

**[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: (Verses 23-24)** – “The supervision of the law” is like the supervision given by a tutor to a young child. We no longer need that kind of supervision. The law teaches us the *need* for salvation; God’s grace *gives* us that salvation. The Old Testament still applies today. In it, God reveals his nature, his will for humanity, his moral laws and his guidelines for living. But we cannot be saved by keeping that law; we must trust in Christ (Life Application Bible, p. 2120). <:::::::::::  
**STOP AND DISCUSS.**

### GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 VERSES 26-29

::::::::::> **READ THE FOLLOWING:** 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)**

**Additional Information: (Verses 26-27)** – In Roman society, a youth coming of age laid aside the robe of childhood and put on a new toga. This represented his move into adult citizenship with full rights and responsibilities. Paul combined this cultural understanding with the concept of baptism. By becoming Christians and being baptized, the Galatian believers were becoming spiritually grown up and ready to take on the privileges and responsibilities of the more mature. Paul was saying that they had laid aside the old clothes of the law, and were putting on Christ's new robe of righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 4:23-24) (Life Application Bible, p. 2121). <:::::::::::  
**STOP AND DISCUSS.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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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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