

STUDYING THE BOOK OF GALATIANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 5 - Faith or Observance of the Law - [Galatians 3:1-14](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

We Are Justified by Faith!

3 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you and convinced you to no longer obey the truth? Don't you remember how visibly and vividly I pictured Jesus being nailed to the cross for you?

2 Tell me just one thing: Did you receive God's Holy Spirit* by obeying Jewish laws or by believing the truth you heard?

Gal. 3:2 – "Receive God's Holy Spirit." He no doubt refers here to all the manifestations of the Holy Spirit that had been made to them: (1) In renewing them when they were converted, (2) indwelling them, (Jn. 14:17, 23), (3) affirming His presence with them (Rom. 8:16), (4) giving them power by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit (Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-21; 1Cor. 12:1-11).

3 How can you now be so stupid? After God has done so much for you through His Spirit, do you think you are now being made perfect by obeying Jewish laws?

4 Did you suffer* so many things for nothing—if indeed it turns out now that it was for nothing?

Gal. 3:4 – "Did you suffer so many things for nothing." The Galatians 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 gospel.

5 When God blesses you with His Holy Spirit and performs miracles among you, does He do all this for you because you perform certain Jewish ceremonies, or is it because you believe what He has promised you?

6 Consider what the Scripture says about Abraham in regard to this,

‘Abraham believed what God promised, and because he believed what God said He would do for him, he was given right standing with God.’ (*Genesis 15:6*)

7 So continue to realize this: Only those who exercise genuine faith are true children of Abraham.

8 In fact, the Scriptures even foretold that God would give right standing to people everywhere, by means of their faith in Him. God gave this Great News to Abraham in advance by telling him,

“People in every nation on earth will be blessed through you.” (*Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18*)

⁹So then, all who believe, as Abraham believed, are blessed together with Abraham the man of faith.

¹⁰But all who rely on their obedience to Jewish laws and ceremonies to save them are under a curse. Because the Scripture says,

“Everyone who fails to continually obey every single command that is written in God’s Book of the Law is under God’s curse.” (*Deuteronomy 27:26*)

¹¹And the fact that no one is made right with God by obeying Jewish laws is also clear in the Scripture that says,

“The people who God accepts will live (have life) by trusting in Him.” (*Habakkuk 2:4*)

¹²But the Law has nothing to do with believing. As another Scripture says, “A man is promised life, who obeys God’s commands, without one slip.” (*Leviticus 18:5*)

¹³But 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.” (*Deuteronomy 21:23*)

¹⁴So 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 promised Holy Spirit through faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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55. Why did Paul scold the Galatians? ([3:1](#))
56. What rhetorical question did Paul ask? ([3:2](#))
57. How did Paul expect the Galatians to answer his question? ([3:2](#))
58. Based on Paul’s second question to the Christians, how did he think the Galatians felt the Law could help them? ([3:3](#))
59. Why did Paul ask the Galatians if their suffering had been for nothing? ([3:4](#))
60. On what basis did the Holy Spirit perform miracles? ([3:5](#))

61. How did Paul's use of Abraham as an example of faith strike a blow to the champions of the Law? ([3:6-8](#))
62. How did Paul link the past with the present? ([3:9](#))
63. What is the curse of the law? ([3:10](#))
64. How does a person become justified before God? ([3:11](#))
65. Why is combining faith and Law impossible? ([3:11-12](#))
66. How does Christ save people from the curse of the Law? ([3:13](#))
67. Why is Christ's redemptive work effective for both Jews and Gentiles? ([3:14](#))
68. If you were to write a two-line summary of the doctrine of justification, what would you say?
69. In your view, what is the biggest difference between Law and faith?

Lesson 6 - The Law and the Promise - [Galatians 3:15-29](#)

The Law and the Promise

¹⁵My 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.

¹⁶Now 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.

¹⁷What I'm saying is this: God made an agreement with Abraham about Christ; and the Law, which God gave through Moses 430 years later, doesn't set aside and cancel God's promise.

¹⁸Because 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!*

**Gal. 3:17, 18 – The Living Bible paraphrases verses 17-18 in the following way: “¹⁷Here'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. ¹⁸If 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.”*

19Well, 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.*

*Gal. 3:19 – “Mediator” ... *representing the people before God*.

20But 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 Purpose of the Law of Moses

21Is 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 righteousness with God would have been attainable by obeying that law.

22But the Scriptures clearly declare that all people in the whole world are prisoners of 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.

23But 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.

24So the Law acted as a guardian-teacher to bring us to Christ, so that we would be made right with God through faith in Him.

25But now that faith in Christ has come, we are no longer under the guardianship of the Laws of Moses.*

*Gal. 3:25 – “We are no longer under the guardianship of the Laws of Moses.” but under Christ Himself.

26Because all of you are now children of God by means of your faith in Christ Jesus.

27Because all of you who were truly immersed into Christ have put on Christ (*taken upon you His feelings and concerns, His opinions and nature*).

28And 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. You are all one in Christ Jesus.

29And 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*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 6 - The Law and the Promise - [Galatians 3:15-29](#)

70. What spiritual truth did Paul explain by using an everyday example? ([3:15-16](#))
71. Through whom were the promises of Abraham fulfilled? ([3:16](#))
72. How long after the promises to Abraham was the Law given? ([3:17](#))
73. What was the relationship of the Law to the covenant? ([3:17](#))
74. What was the promised inheritance? ([3:18](#))
75. What was the purpose of the Law? ([3:19](#))
76. How was the Law put into effect? ([3:19](#))
77. The Law required a mediator; how was the promise given to humanity without a mediator? ([3:20](#))
78. Why did God give both the Law and promises? ([3:21-22](#))
79. How did the Law pave the way for the gospel? ([3:22-23](#))
80. What freedom did faith in Christ bring? ([3:23-25](#))
81. How did Christ's coming change the role of the Law? ([3:24-25](#))
82. What was the family status of the Galatian believers? ([3:26](#))
83. How are Christians joined to Christ? ([3:27](#))
84. What new garments did the Galatians put on? ([3:27](#))
85. How does God cut across cultural and human distinctions in the family of faith? ([3:28](#))
86. How were the Galatians heirs of the promise to Abraham? ([3:29](#))