

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“The Curse of the Law”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 3:10-14

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-8**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) Today we continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #21. **SLIDE 9**. I have titled today’s message *“The Curse of the Law.”*
-) Today’s text is coming off the heels of what we discussed last week (6-9)—that it was the faith of Abraham that was reckoned to him as his righteousness. His faith, his belief, would have him inherit eternal life. And last week we talked about how the Jews thought their ethnicity *“We have father Abraham”* would be reckoned to them as their righteousness.
-) Paul’s case for preaching that righteousness is by faith only continues in these five verses. And for many of those people (2000 years ago and today), to believe we are justified by faith alone is a huge barrier to overcome. Why? Because most people believe that there must be something one must do to contribute to one’s salvation.
-) Here are two more examples in the gospels where the Jews believed works must contribute to their eternal life. **SLIDE 10**.
-) You can see where both these individuals were believing that they must perform some task to inherit eternal life. And since they were both Jewish, that task or tasks would involve their obedience to the Law.
-) Now here in verses 10-14 Paul wants to show that obedience to the Law not only contributes nothing to earning one’s righteousness but is impossible to do.

-) In today's text, we see the apostle Paul quoting four Scripture texts: once in v10, v11, v12, and v13. Let's look at those first, and then dig into the lesson we need to learn from this text.
-) **SLIDE 11.** V10 – DEUT 27.26.
-) **SLIDE 12.** V11 – HAB 2:4.
-) **SLIDE 13.** V12 – LEV 18:5.
-) **SLIDE 14.** V13 – DEUT 21.23.
-) What is all this about the law and a curse? Let's connect those dots here this morning by investigating why Paul would quote these four Scripture texts in this letter—in the context of comparing faith and the Law.
-) What is a curse? **SLIDE 15.** Webster definitions. Explain.
-) So, what is Paul saying about the curse of the Law? What is the evil retribution the Law can bring? Let's look at these four verses and unpack these truths here this morning. And some of these will overlap somewhat.
-) **SLIDE 16.** GALATIANS 3:10. This gets back to those people who were basing their eternity on their obedience to the Law. How much of the law do I need to obey to earn eternity? Answer. All of it. Every last jot and tittle.
-) God's Word tells us this in JAMES 2:10. **SLIDE 17.** One cannot pick and choose what laws they feel are more important than others and just keep those. No. One must keep the entire law.
-) And once you break the law, you have committed a sin. And what is the punishment for sin? **SLIDE 18.** ROMANS 6:23.
-) That's the curse. Failure to keep any part of the law brings the curse of death. Spiritual death. (GENESIS reference)
-) **SLIDE 19.** To be righteous by the law means one must keep the **ENTIRE** law.

-) Let's look at GALATIANS 3:11. **SLIDE 20**. Paul is saying that the law will never make one righteous. And there are two reasons behind this. **SLIDE 21**. 1) You cannot **KEEP** the entire law. You will fail at some point. And 2) righteousness is not by law. It is by **FAITH**. HABAKKUK 2:4.
-) Let's move on to v12. **SLIDE 22**. This verse is similar to v10. But it also adds this truth. **SLIDE 23**. The Law says **NOTHING** about faith. The Law is merely a means of letting one know the ordinances of God. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 24**. If interested, you can hear more on this point in a message I delivered on 2/5/2017.
-) Let's look at GALATIANS 3:13-14. **SLIDE 25**. Folks, this is where the theology gets really deep. Hang on. I'll try to explain these two verses as simply as possible. If I can understand it, I know you can too.
-) **SLIDE 26**. Is it possible to keep the entire law of God? No.
-) **SLIDE 27**. When we break the law of God, we do what? Sin.
-) **SLIDE 28**. What are the wages of sin? Death. Curse. That is why Paul says those under the law are under a curse.
-) **SLIDE 29**. Let's look at v13-14 again.
-) **SLIDE 30**. How did Christ become a curse for us? Christ bore our sins on the cross.
-) **SLIDE 31**. 1 PETER 2:23b-24. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 32**. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21. This does not say that Christ sinned. He did not sin.
-) Christ never once broke the law or any part of it. He kept the law for us because we cannot. This is what is called the Doctrine of Substitution. Christ died in our place. (courtroom)
-) **SLIDE 33**. ISAIAH 53:5-6. The curse of the law that was meant for us has fallen on Jesus Christ.

-) That, my friends, is the theology behind the law and the curse and the Doctrine of Substitution—how Jesus bore our sins on the cross. He kept the law perfectly because we could never do that. He became the curse of the law. What we could never do for ourselves, He did for us.
-) **SLIDE 34.** Where does faith come into this picture? Back to GALATIANS 3:13-14. We trust everything that the Word of God just told us. We place our faith in His sacrifice. We trust He was a substitute for us. We trust our debt was paid in full.
-) We have faith in the promises of God that everything we read and know about Jesus the Christ is true. And because we do, we receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
-) The salvation equation begins with faith and faith alone. But that equation is not complete. There's more to it. Do we truly have this faith that saves? We'll get to those answers in chapter five.
-) But for now, we need to understand that salvation never begins with obedience to the law or relying on the law solely for our righteousness. Why? Because the law only brings a curse.
-) Next week, we'll move on to verses 15-18.

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