

# Book of Galatians



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Chapters 3 and 4 Outline

1. Justification by faith — experience of Galatians, Chapter 3:1-5
2. Justification by faith — illustration of Abraham, Chapter 3:6 — 4:18
3. Justification by faith — allegory of Hagar and Sarai, Chapter 4:19-31

## Passage of Scripture for Tonight

### **Galatians Chapter 3 Faith or Works of the Law**

3 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup>I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? <sup>4</sup>Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? <sup>5</sup>So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? <sup>6</sup>So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

<sup>7</sup>Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. <sup>8</sup>Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” <sup>9</sup>So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

<sup>10</sup>For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” <sup>11</sup>Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” <sup>12</sup>The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” <sup>13</sup>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” <sup>14</sup>He redeemed

us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

#### The Law and the Promise

<sup>15</sup> Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. <sup>16</sup> The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. <sup>17</sup> What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

<sup>19</sup> Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. <sup>20</sup> A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.

<sup>21</sup> Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. <sup>22</sup> But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

#### Children of God

<sup>23</sup> Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

<sup>26</sup> So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

## Galatians Chapter 4

4 What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup> The heir is subject to guardians and

trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup> So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

#### Paul’s Concern for the Galatians

<sup>8</sup> Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup> But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? <sup>10</sup> You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup> I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

<sup>12</sup> I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You did me no wrong. <sup>13</sup> As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, <sup>14</sup> and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. <sup>15</sup> Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup> Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

<sup>17</sup> Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may have zeal for them. <sup>18</sup> It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. <sup>19</sup> My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, <sup>20</sup> how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

#### Hagar and Sarah

<sup>21</sup> Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? <sup>22</sup> For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. <sup>23</sup> His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

<sup>24</sup> These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. <sup>25</sup> Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the

present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup> But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup> For it is written:

“Be glad, barren woman,  
you who never bore a child;  
shout for joy and cry aloud,  
you who were never in labor;  
because more are the children of the desolate woman  
than of her who has a husband.”

<sup>28</sup> Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup> At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. <sup>30</sup> But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” <sup>31</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

## The Law and the Gospel

We abuse law by turning it into our gospel, by making law our good news instead of what Christ has done for us. In doing so, we lose both the law and the gospel. At the heart of this abuse is a legalistic heart that says, "Give me a law so that I can keep it, and feel righteous about it."

### **GOALS:**

- To understand the difference between living under the law and living under the gospel.
- To see how prone we are to live under law -- in subtle as well as obvious ways -- and how that overflows into an unloving approach towards others.
- To know in a greater way that Christ has set us free from bondage to the law and, through the gospel, empowers us to grow in fulfilling the law's intention.

“We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. – 1 Timothy 1:8

### **Telltale Signs that you might be living under the law:**

#1 Looking for credit for your good deeds.

#2 Defensiveness

#3 Comparing yourself with others

#4 Reputation fixation

Law is good because it:	Law is powerless because it cannot:
Shows us how our faith should express itself.	Maintain our relationship with God and others.
Shows us what Jesus is like.	Give us righteousness.
Reveals the character of God.	Justify those who break it.
Brings sanity, wisdom, and direction.	Free us from bondage, guilt, and corruption.
Drives us to Christ and his Spirit.	Give us power.
Restrains wickedness.	Give us life.
Convicts of sin.	Provide us with a substitute.
Is written on our hearts.	Give us the gift of the Spirit.
Is part of love.	Cleanse our conscience.

## Group Exercise

### **When living by unbelief and under the law -**

Underline all that apply

I live as though my actions will make God or other people approve of me.

I become preoccupied with myself.

I foster an independent spirit.

I become critical and judge-mental.

I develop a performance lifestyle for myself and others.

I tend to be dominated by fears and anxieties.

I require extra effort to complete a task - which reveals my unbelief.

I develop barriers to loving others.

I find it hard, if not impossible, to forgive.  
I become distant from the love of Christ, thus affecting my outreach to the lost.  
I destroy my confidence in Christ's ability to bridge the gap between God's holiness and people's sinfulness.  
I base my worth on the "success" of my efforts.  
I feed my self-righteousness, and have trouble seeing when I'm wrong.

**When living by faith and under grace -**

Underline all that apply

I run to the Father because I know he loves me. I receive his delight in me (Zephaniah 3:17) and respond by delighting in him.  
I believe that my sins are forgiven - enabling me, through the Spirit, to love and forgive others. I'm able to cultivate a lifestyle of forgiveness!  
I receive by faith my new position as a son/daughter, for whom there is now no condemnation.  
I understand the power of the sinful nature, the damage it can do, and the powerlessness of the law to control it.  
I know that only through the Spirit's power can I love my neighbor.  
I can break down barriers to loving others.  
I can experience peace and contentment as a dominant theme in my life.  
I can go to my Heavenly Father in prayer with all my struggles, problems, and needs.  
I experience an ever-increasing desire, given by the Holy Spirit, to see God glorified in all I do, say, or think. My worth is determined by the gospel.  
I have become preoccupied with Jesus, and have a desire to see his will and kingdom purposes accomplished.

Discuss at your tables why you underlined the ones you did and what was it about that particular statement that caused you to underline it.

In Christ, I am free from the law's condemnation. In Christ, my sins are paid for, and I have Jesus' perfect obedience. Law does not determine my acceptance with God. Now I know law cannot sanctify me. It cannot make me more kind, gentle, and loving. I am free from using law against others. Since I know law has no power to change my heart, I realize that this is true for other people as well.