

## **Book of Galatians-Teaching #7**

Before we begin the teaching, I would like to complete a review of what we have learned so far.

As said previously, this book is not written to a specific church, rather there were several churches started in the province of Galatia, and Paul was addressing all of the churches in the area.

Paul had birthed these churches and as you will remember, they were not Jewish background folks. These were Gentiles who had given their lives to the Lord Jesus. Without the hangups of the Jews, without their laws and traditions, they were just free people who when hearing about Jesus, believed and were “born again”. Before they gave their lives to Jesus, they were “separated from the attributes of God, in this world “without hope” Quoting **Ephesians 2:12** Paul said; *“remember at one time you Gentiles, in the flesh, called the uncircumcised, by what is called the Circumcised (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands---remember that at this time **you** were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commandments of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, **having no hope**, and without God in this world.”*

In the book of Acts – **Chapter 15** – there were completed Jews (ie. Had given themselves to Jesus as Lord) but were telling these new believers at Galatia that in order to be “fully saved” they must submit to being circumcised and the Law of Moses.  
**Acts 15:1**

This incorrect teaching came to the ears of Paul, who went to the elders in Jerusalem for clarification concerning this matter. It was no small confrontation – it was extensive and bitter and an affront to the teachings of the Apostle Paul.

Paul would have none of it. That is the reason for such stern words from Paul in the book of Galatians.

The elders in Jerusalem agreed with Paul and sent them back to correct the situation.

The reason why this is so important today is we have the same exact stuff in the Church today telling the Saints that in order to be “fully saved and to stay fully saved” there are certain things that must be added to their lives on a daily basis. All of those “touch not, taste not, go here, don’t go there, wear this, not that, abstain from this and accept that, is rampant in the Church today.

Remember that the Gentiles were never given the 10 commandments to live by. Jesus said that at the new birth, these were written on our hearts and there was no need for them to be given as “ways to live as a set of outside rules”

Beloved, we love to live by rules to live by. Why? Because we use this as a measuring tool to determine our “spiritual growth” or “maturity” We tend to measure ourselves according to these “set standards” as well as judge others for their lack of keeping them.

We now live by relationship, not rules. How silly it would be for me to give Sally a (2 do) list daily in order for her to complete her responsibility as a “loving, obedient, submissive wife. Those of you who know Sally, know she wouldn’t put up with this for long. “Go fly a kite” would be her response, and I would need a “cup bearer” before every meal.

In church last week, the pastor touched on a verse that really got me to thinking. The verse was; **Romans 6:14** which states; *“for sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”*

Knowing what I know about the word “dominion”, it seemed to make no natural sense, no reasonable sense, to believe that if I keep a set of rules and live by, those rules, that it would keep me on track.. As long as I did what I was supposed to do, I would be alright and not be under the control of evil. I could measure how I was doing against these rules and thereby justify my perfect behavior. I’m doing alright, I’m not killing anyone and paying my bills and not beating my wife or kids etc.

The more I meditated on this scripture, I found it difficult to reason why I was not under bondage to sin because I was under grace. How could someone under grace (ie. Doing what ever is in my heart to do, and not walking according to a set standard of rules) keep me in the sphere of grace?

This is the same dilemma the Apostle Paul found himself in, in the Book of **Romans Chapter 7** – He states; The commandments that were given to me to live by actually produced in me, all manner of “stuff”. I did not even know that this stuff was in me until the commandments came. It is like the fellow that is walking down the street with his wife, and an attractive woman walks by and his wife says: “don’t even think about turning around for a further look at her” He knew better than to turn around before she said that, but now he really wants to turn around and look.

Paul said that when I fully understood what it meant to “covet” – that is to not even want this thing or that thing in my heart – I realized that even though I did not outwardly express a desire to have what this man has, I was guilty in my heart because I inwardly envied what he had.

Paul then said that when the commandment “thou shall not covet” really became clear to him as a heart matter as well as an outward matter, the sin in me revived (came really alive) and I died spiritually, and needed a savior.

Is there anything wrong with the commandment? Not in the least. The commandment is meant for us to see ourselves in the light of who we really are. The commandments or laws act as a mirror. The mirror has no ability to make me walk or think right, it only exposes to me what is really going on. The commandments are not there for us to keep, but for us to realize our need for help from Him.

Paul said in **verse 10 of Romans 7** *“the commandment which was to bring me life, I found actually brought me death”*

**Verse 11;** *“for sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me and by it killed me.*

The problem is not with the commandment, the problem is with me.

The commandment is to bring me to helplessness and to realize my need for a savior.

Ok, now back to the text in **Galatians**. Just a reminder that Abraham was saved by faith. We too are saved by that same method, by faith. Abraham was saved years before the commandments were given by God to Moses, proving that the law given by God to Moses, has nothing to do with our being saved. The law deals with your works, grace deals with your faith.

The Judaizers listed in the previous verses were keen on using Abraham as their father, Paul uses the same argument. How was Abraham saved? by faith, how are we saved? By faith – Not by what we have done (works) All who trust Christ are children of Abraham, the father of the believing.

God promised to bless the heathen (the Gentile) through Abraham through faith way back in **Genesis 12:3** *“and in you (Abraham), all the families on the earth will be blessed.* The Jews and the Gentiles are saved in the same manner. By Faith. By belief. And as a result, you have “one body”.

We would do well to understand that the blessings offered Abraham did not have to be understood by him. Even the Apostles did not understand the meaning of Christ’s death until it was explained to them. No one was ever saved by doing the law. The law given to the Jews did not save them. Their sins were covered by the animal sacrifices, not by keeping the law of Moses.

Again, the law puts man under a curse. Why? Because he is unable to keep it and thereby condemned by it. That is why Jesus became a curse for us. **Verse 13 Galatians 3**. His curse became our blessing. Thus **verse 14**. Also, if you note **Deuteronomy 22 verse 23** where the verse says – *“for He who hanged (Jesus) is accursed of God.”* The blessings promised to Abraham are now available to the Gentile by faith.

Now starting in **verse 15 of Chapter 3**, Paul begins his argument by revealing that a covenant is not annulled because of anything, and so the covenant God made with Abraham is unchangeable. Ie. Nothing changes this. It is forever established. The promises given to Abraham, and to his **seed** were not fulfilled before the giving of the law, in fact they found their fulfillment in Christ and are in effect forever.

Notice now in **verse 16** that the promise made were to Abraham and his SEED. Not to seeds, as though there were many, but to the singular seed – Christ. The blessings would eventually come through one individual – Jesus Christ.

Bunney Path, in **Matthew chapter 1** it begins with Jesus as the son of Abraham the result was that He was the true Heir of the covenant of promise. **Genesis 22:18** "in your seed (Christ) shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. In **John 8:56** Jesus said "*your father Abraham (Jews) rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.*"

Then again – Paul in **verse 17** says that the law in no way changed the promises given to Abraham.

Paul's argument is that the law was given 430 after the promises given to Abraham and his Seed Christ, and had no effect on the promises made to Abraham. It is not of anyone's works, not anyone's effort, just God that fulfills the promises.

His promises are: yea and amen. – period.

Stoop trying to earn them, it is foolishness. They are given by inheritance and all who believe are entitled to them. Relax beloved it is finished.

The Judaizers were teaching these new convert Gentiles that obedience to the law was necessary in order to obtain the inheritance. Paul is disputing this.

Well then – **verse 19** – when what then is the purpose of the law to begin with? It was given to REVEAL sin. Paul further states that the law could not give us the Holy Spirit, could not bring justification (positional righteousness) and could not alter a person's faith.

So to conclude here – verses **1-5** – the law could not give the Holy Spirit, verses **6-9** could not bring justification and could alter the permanence of faith vs **5-18**, but it will bring a curse vs **10-12**

Looking at **verse 19** – the law was added because of transgressions. What does that mean? It means that it gives us an idea of personal guilt. Measurable boundaries to our behavior. Provable character of our personal failures. It is interesting that before Moses and the law, man sinned, but it was not charged to their account. Not personally responsible for the sin until the law was given. The law made it personable to the individual. According to **Romans 5**, they were not charged with the sin until the law came. When you read Romans carefully, the law was given so that we would *sin all the more* and find ourselves needing help. Shocking, but true. Since man continued to sin after the law was given, but were provoked to transgress by the law which forbade it. The law conclusively proved the nastiness of man's nature.

A wretched bunch we are and so thankful for His grace.

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