

## Book of Galatians-Teaching #8

Last time we noticed a specific verse in **Galatians 3 and verse 10**; “For as many are of the works of the law are under the curse.”

Wow, those who chose to live under specific behavior rules, are living under a CURSE. Pretty heavy words Paul, are you certain about this? That does not seem to make sense to the natural mind, but remember beloved, the natural mind understands not the things of God.

Paul continues in this verse; “*CURSED is everyone who does not continue in all things written in the book of the law, to do them*”. You and I understand that when we set about to keep the law, if we break just one part of it, we have broken the entire law.

That is what Paul is saying here.

Well then, what was the purpose of the law in the first place? The law was added to give sin the character of transgressions

Again **Romans 5:13**: “*for until the law, sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed (charged to an individuals account), when there is no law.*”

The law when added, made the sin **personal**. It was me who did it. I must take responsibility now for my behavior. Again, if you read Romans carefully, the law was given so that we would sin the more.

**Romans 7:8 and 11-14** -“*For sin, taking occasion by the commandments, deceived me and by it killed me.*” **Vs 13**: *Has then what is good (the law) become death to me? No, Certainly not, but sin that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, (the commandment) so that sin, through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.*”

Paul then concluded in **verse 14** “*For we know that the law is **spiritual**, but I am **carnal** (fleshly) sold under sin*”

The problem is not with the commandment. It is holy just and good, the problem is with me. I am not. The law (any law) highlights man’s nature and failure.

Another way of saying this according to my teacher and mentor; Keith Lamb, “a guy is not a Horsethief because he steals a horse. That is the cart before the horse. A man is first a Horsethief and thus he steals a horse.

Results is **Romans 3: 19-20**- “*now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God, therefore by the deeds of the law, no flesh will be justified (made righteous) in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin....*”

Oh how I wish and pray we can grasp this truth – in our inner man. All are under sin – period.

The law was there until the SEED should come. Well, who is the SEED? Correct, Jesus Christ. **Galatians 3:16**

The law shut man up to faith, as the only avenue of escape – **Galatians 3:23**

Man gets **redeemed – without any credit** – period. It is God's gift to man – can't be earned

Now let's look at verse **20 of Galatians 3** – "*now a mediator does not mediate for one only. But God is one*

Let's take a look at the word **Mediator**. Webster describes the word as: *one who intervenes between two persons who are at variance (opposite or opposing views) with a view toward reconciling them.* You do not find the word in the Old Testament, but the idea it expresses in **Job 9:33**, in the word daysman or umpire

Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and Man **1<sup>st</sup> Tim 2:5, Hebrews 8:6, 9:15 and 12:24.**

Jesus makes reconciliation between man and God by His perfect sacrifice on the cross. In order to mediate between God and man, He must be both – All God and All man. As a human man, he can represent man to God. As God, represent God to man. Proving His deity as well as His humanity.

A mediator implies a covenant between two parties, both of whom have responsibilities and facts that are true of the Mosaic Covenant. Notice the last part of verse **19 Galatians 3**: "it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. **Verse 20** "God is one – ie. The promise was *unilateral*, that is it was without condition. And was given to man directly without a mediator, thus God alone was responsible to fulfill the covenant.

Remember the covenant God made with Abraham. **Genesis 15** In those days, they would split the sacrificial animals in two, then the two in covenant with one another would walk a figure 8 between the sacrifice pieces thereby indicating the covenant setting and sealing the covenant. However with Abraham, God put Abraham to sleep. . Because he was tired – no Because Abraham was to have no part in the covenant that God was making. That is the reason there was a smoking oven, and burning torch. One represented Father, the other Son of God and it was a covenant made between God and God, and man had no part in it accept to receive its benefits.

The scene in **Genesis 15** is a serious commitment. There was nothing that Abraham could contribute. It was a one-way deal –

Paul then goes on to ask the question in **Galatians 3:21**: "is the law then against the promises of God?"

The answer – certainly not. God forbid.

Look at the balance of the verse – *“but if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.*

Now think about this for a moment. What is Paul saying here? Standing before God holy and without blame, clean as can be, if that were to be achieved by something you do, then righteousness before Him would have come from keeping that law, or doing that thing.

However, you will remember the agony that Jesus went through before the cross, sweating blood through his forehead in the garden, prior to His going to the cross crying out to Father “if there is any other way to accomplish righteousness for man, than what is before Me now, let us do that.

If there was a law that could give life to man, other than His sacrifice on the cross, then the prayer of Jesus in the garden would not have been answered.

If you look at the occasion in Dr. Luke’s writings **chapter 22 vs 42**: “Father, if it be your will, take this cup from me.” Not just the pain He was about to endure, but the word “cup” describes fellowship. Jesus was about to go into fellowship with the devil. Separated from the life of God when He became sin on the cross – in fellowship with Satan, becoming actual sin of mankind (all of it) sweating blood through his forehead (**vs 44**) and if there had been another way to bring life to man, Jesus the man seemed open to it.

**HOWEVER, NOT MY WILL BUT THINE BE DONE Verse 42.** God (**Jesus Christ**) totally submitted to God (**the Father**) and His will over the matter. How wonderful is that?

Paul then asks the question in **verse 21**: Is the law then against the promises of God? Answer – Of course not, may it never be, certainly not. If there had been a law given that would give life to man then truly righteousness would have come by that law. But that was never the case and it could not have been. Life coming to man had to be at the expense of God Himself dying on the cross.

The promises of God have nothing to do with the law. They are only available by the believer’s faith in the Lord and His finished work on the cross. God gave both the law and the promises, but for different purposes, and it was not the purpose of the law to give life to anyone. The purpose of the law was to show us our need for a savior. The law manifests the need for the gospel. Without the law, we would see no need for saving. It is not until we see our inability to keep the law (any law) that we come to the hopelessness that the Apostle Paul came to when he cried out for a savior.

**Verse 22**; the scripture has confined ALL under sin, that the promises **by faith in Jesus Christ** may be given to those who believe. The part that the law played is to assure the entire world is under sin and its rightful outcome be placed upon all human beings. Death – separation from a Holy God – period. The law also shows man that he is a

prisoner to sin – period. As we learned in **Romans 3 9&23**– the whole world is trapped under the control and dominion of sin.

I need to say something here concerning these scriptures; As a people, when we finally come to the conclusion that trying to please God by anything we do – our own works – the way becomes paved for us to see that the way for us to receive the way of salvation and all of its benefits is only received by faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Heavy, heavy saying beloved, but none the less- true. That is what the end of **verse 22** is saying. Give up all attempts to please God and receive the promises by faith in Jesus Christ. The whole idea of “doing great things for God” and “God helps those who help themselves” are born in the pit of hell and have no place in the believer’s life.

**Verse 23** – “but before faith came” i.e.; before the advent of faith in Jesus Christ. Justifying faith was operating in the Old Testament but faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ did not come until He was revealed. Faith as a principal is throughout the scripture, but Paul is referring here to the advent of faith in Jesus Christ.

Before that (Christ being revealed) Israel was under the protective custody of the law God shielded His people from the rest of the world and their “stuff”

**Verse 24** “therefore the law was our “school master”- tutor, that was there to bring us to Jesus Christ that we could receive positional righteousness as we believe in Him. In those days, a son was responsible to a tutor, until the age of puberty in order to keep him out of trouble. They would rule the kid with a heavy hand. They kept him from the evils of society and give them moral training.

Paul likens the tutor to the law. It too was designed to work morality in the life Israelite.. The **commandments** express the righteous will of God to the person the **judgments** governing the social life of Israel, and the **ordinances** governing the religious life of Israel

However, the law was to bring us to Christ. A new thing in that it is a relationship, not a set of rules to live by.

Hope we get this.

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