

“Grace That Empowers Obedience — Not Replaces It”

A Chapter-by-Chapter Teaching Through Galatians

Today we walk through the book of Galatians — not to run from the law of Yahweh, but to understand how grace and law walk together when the Spirit leads.

Galatians is one of the most misunderstood books in Scripture. Many use it to justify lawlessness and a “do whatever you want” Christianity. But Paul wasn’t fighting the law — he was fighting legalism. He wasn’t rebuking obedience — he was rebuking the idea that rituals save you.

Paul’s message is simple:

- We are saved by grace, but grace produces obedience.
- We are justified by faith, but faith produces faithfulness.
- We are led by the Spirit, but the Spirit leads us into holiness.

Now let’s walk through Galatians chapter by chapter and let Yahweh speak.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1 — A FALSE GOSPEL, NOT A FALSE LAW

Paul opens with a warning:

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon... to a different gospel.” (Gal 1:6–7)

The false gospel was NOT:

- keeping Yahweh’s commandments
- honoring Torah
- walking in holiness

The false gospel was:

- adding rituals for salvation
- requiring circumcision for acceptance
- elevating manmade traditions

Paul is not rejecting the law. He is rejecting legalism.

Salvation is by grace. Obedience is the fruit of salvation.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 2 — PAUL REBUKES PETER (NOT THE LAW)

Paul says:

“I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed.” (Gal 2:11)

Why? Not because Peter kept or didn’t keep the law — but because he changed his behavior out of fear of men.

Before certain Jews arrived, Peter ate freely with Gentile believers. When they came, he withdrew:

“Fearing those of the circumcision.” (Gal 2:12)

This was tradition, not Torah.

Paul says:

“They were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel.” (Gal 2:14)

The issue was hypocrisy, not holiness.

Galatians 2:16 — “Not justified by works of the law”

This is about **justification**, not obedience.

- **Justification** = how you are declared righteous
- **Obedience** = how you live righteously

Paul says elsewhere:

“We establish the law.” (Rom 3:31)

Faith doesn’t cancel the law — it establishes it.

Galatians 2:19 — “I died to the law”

Paul died to the law **as a system of earning salvation**, not to Yahweh’s commandments.

You cannot “live to God” while breaking His law.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 3 — THE LAW, THE CURSE, AND THE SCHOOLMASTER

Galatians 3:10 — “Cursed is everyone who does not continue...”

People say: “If you try to keep the law, you’re cursed.”

No — the curse is **sin**, not the law.

Yeshua redeemed us from the penalty of breaking the law, not from the law itself.

Galatians 3:24–25 — “The law was our tutor”

The tutor (paidagōgos) was a guardian who led a child to maturity.

Before Messiah: the law shows us our sin. After Messiah: the law is written on our hearts.

The tutor didn’t die. **The student grew up.**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 4 — RETURNING TO PAGANISM, NOT TORAH

Paul says:

“When you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.” (Gal 4:8)

The Galatians were Gentiles — they never kept Torah before.

So when Paul says:

“You observe days and months and seasons and years.” (Gal 4:10)

He is rebuking:

- astrology
- Roman festival cycles
- pagan observances

Not Sabbath. Not Yahweh’s feasts.

You cannot “turn again” to Torah if you never kept it.

THE TWO COVENANTS (RIGHTLY UNDERSTOOD)

(Galatians 4:21–31)

One of the most misunderstood passages in the New Testament. People use it to claim the law is abolished — but Paul is teaching the opposite.

1. Abraham Had Two Sons — Two Approaches to Yahweh

Hagar — the covenant of the flesh Sarah — the covenant of the promise

This is not Old vs. New Testament. This is **flesh vs. Spirit**.

2. HAGAR — The Covenant of the Flesh

Ishmael represents:

- human effort
- legalism
- salvation by works
- trying to obey without the Spirit

This is what Paul is fighting — not Torah, but flesh-based obedience.

3. SARAH — The Covenant of Promise

Isaac represents:

- Yahweh’s power
- Yahweh’s promise
- righteousness by faith
- the law written on the heart

This is Spirit-empowered obedience.

4. The Two Covenants Are About Approach — Not About Torah

Paul does NOT say:

- the law is bondage
- Torah is Hagar
- commandments are slavery

He says **law without the Spirit** produces bondage — because the flesh cannot obey Yahweh.

5. Children of Promise Still Obey Yahweh

Paul says:

“As Isaac was, we are children of promise.” (Gal 4:28)

Children of promise:

- walk by the Spirit
- obey from the heart
- fulfill the law through love

The promise does not remove obedience — it empowers it.

6. “Cast Out the Bondwoman” — What It Really Means

Paul is saying:

- cast out self-righteousness
- cast out legalism
- cast out salvation by works

He is NOT saying:

- cast out Yahweh’s commandments
- cast out holiness
- cast out obedience

The bondwoman is the flesh. The freewoman is the Spirit.

7. Summary

HAGAR (Flesh)

- Legalism
- Human effort
- Rituals for salvation
- Bondage

SARAH (Promise)

- Spirit-empowered obedience
- Faith that produces faithfulness
- Grace that leads to holiness
- Freedom

This is the message of Galatians.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5 — LIBERTY, THE SPIRIT, AND TRUE OBEDIENCE

Galatians 5:1 — “Do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage”

People say: “The law is bondage.”

But Scripture says:

“I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts.” (Ps 119:45)

Torah = liberty Sin = bondage Legalism = bondage

Paul is rebuking legalism, not obedience.

Galatians 5:4 — “You have fallen from grace”

Paul is not rebuking obedience. He is rebuking people who try to be **justified** by the law.

There is a massive difference between:

1. Keeping Yahweh’s commandments out of love
2. Trying to earn salvation by keeping commandments

Paul is attacking #2.

Galatians 5:5 — “The hope of righteousness by faith”

We are:

- justified by faith
- empowered by the Spirit
- obedient from the heart

Faith is the root. Obedience is the fruit.

Galatians 5:16–18 — “Led by the Spirit... not under the law”

“Not under the law” means:

- not under condemnation
- not under the penalty of sin

The Spirit doesn’t lead you away from the law — He empowers you to keep it.

Galatians 5:19–21 — The Works of the Flesh

Paul gives a clear list of sins and warns:

“Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Gal 5:21)

If Paul believed obedience didn’t matter, he wouldn’t give a list of sins.

Galatians 5:22–23 — The Fruit of the Spirit

There is no law against these things because these things **fulfill** the law.

Love fulfills the entire Torah.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 6 — THE LAW OF MESSIAH IS THE LAW OF GOD

Paul says:

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Messiah.” (Gal 6:2)

Yeshua said:

“I have kept My Father’s commandments.” (John 15:10)

The law of Messiah is the law of God lived out perfectly.

Paul warns:

“Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” (Gal 6:7)

Grace is not permission. Grace is empowerment.

CONCLUSION — WHAT GALATIANS REALLY TEACHES

1. Paul never attacks Yahweh's law — he attacks legalism.
2. The law is fulfilled in love — not abolished.
3. The Spirit empowers obedience — He does not replace it.
4. The flesh cannot obey Yahweh — but the Spirit can.
5. Grace is not permission — grace is power.
6. Faith does not cancel obedience — faith produces obedience.
7. Galatians is a book of Spirit-filled obedience, not lawlessness.

FINAL CHARGE TO THE CHURCH

Family, Galatians calls us to:

- reject legalism
- reject hypocrisy
- reject flesh-based righteousness
- reject manmade religion

And at the same time, Galatians calls us to:

- embrace Spirit-empowered obedience
- embrace holiness
- embrace love
- embrace Yahweh's commandments
- embrace the life of Messiah within us

This is the true gospel: **Grace that saves us. Grace that transforms us. Grace that empowers us to obey.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Yahweh, thank You for the clarity of Your Word. Thank You for showing us through Galatians that Your grace is not an escape from obedience but the power to walk in it. Thank You for Yeshua, who fulfilled the law perfectly and writes it on our hearts through the Spirit. Teach us to reject the flesh, reject legalism, and reject every false gospel. Fill us with Your Spirit so we can walk in love, holiness, and truth. Let our lives reflect the character of Yeshua in every step we take. Strengthen us to sow righteousness and reap eternal life in Your Kingdom. In the mighty name of Yeshua, Amen.