

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Sept Galatians 1:1-24 True Gospel
- 2) 09 Sept Galatians 2:1-21 True Grace
- 3) 16 Sept **Galatians 3:1-22** **True Life**
- 4) 23 Sept Galatians 3:23-29 True Heirs
- 5) 30 Sept Galatians 4:1-31 True Freedom
- 6) 07 Oct Galatians 5:1-26 True Fruit
- 7) 14 Oct Galatians 6:1-18 True Compassion
- 8) 21 Oct James 1:1-18 With Perseverance
- 9) 28 Oct James 1:19-27 With Obedience
- 10) 04 Nov James 2:1-26 With Works
- 11) 11 Nov James 3:1-18 With Control
- 12) 18 Nov James 4:1-17 With Submission
- 13) 25 Nov James 5:1-20 With Anticipation

INTRODUCTION

- Paul went ballistic to grab their attention (“You foolish Galatians”)
- Then he goes technical on them substantiating his claim that Faith does not need the Law

Passage	Comments
3:1-4	<p>“YOU BUNCH OF FOOLS!”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More name calling and provocative accusations to wake the Galatians up • When is it proper to take drastic action & call the baby ugly? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Nehemiah threw Tobia’s belongings out of the temple ◆ Nehemiah pulled the beards off the faces of the leaders to get them to stop their immoral behavior ◆ Jesus called the Scribes & Pharisees vipers & hypocrites
3:5	<p>Jesus Worked Miracles Among You!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The law may be GOOD, but it is not of FAITH • v5. Even miracles were by Faith, not by Works. IOW, it was not the magical words one might utter or the righteous deeds one did to have God work a miracle – it was simply trusting Him to be Faithful to His Word during the time He was working supernaturally
Miracles in the Epistles	<p>Miracles recorded in the Epistles are either in the Past Tense or they were notably performed by the Apostles and Early Disciples – EXCEPT as noted in 1Corinthians, Galatians, & 1Thes, which were some of the earliest Epistles to be written:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1Corinthians 14:39 <i>Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The gifts were apparently still active at this time (~55 AD) • Galatians 3:5 <i>So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Galatians was written possibly between 51-53 AD, so supernatural miracles and wonders were probably active at this time – and the text does not preclude miracles being worked only by “those who heard Him” Heb 2:3-4 • 1Thessalonians 5:20-21 <i>Do not despise prophecies, but prove everything</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ This letter was also written relatively early (~51 AD), so supernatural miraculous gifts were still active <p style="background-color: #92d050; padding: 2px;">Note: Though the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the working of supernatural miracles were probably still prevalent when Paul wrote to the Corinthians and Galatians, these believers were the most immature group Paul had to contend with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So, being able to work miracles and having all the gifts of the Holy Spirit (the Corinthians came behind no gift (1Cor 1:7)), does not provide or promote spiritual maturity or guarantee doctrinal purity or even guarantee one’s salvation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1Corinthians 3:1-3 <i>And I could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you</i> ◆ Galatians 3:1-3 <i>You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you...Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?</i>

Passage	Comments
3:6-12	<p>Legalists Are Under a Curse & the Righteous Live by Faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith is mentioned 5x in these 7 verses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ v7. Those who have Faith are the sons of Abraham ◆ v8. God justifies Gentiles by their faith ◆ v9. Those who have Faith are blessed with Abraham ◆ v11. The Righteous live by Faith ◆ v12. The Law is not of Faith • Conclusion. Without Faith we are cursed from God, and unable to please Him. So use your Faith to willfully accept Him
3:13-14	<p>Jesus Frees Us from the Curse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv13-14. We receive the promise of the Spirit through Faith (in Christ, who became a curse in our place). IOW, we chose to believe in His substitutionary sacrifice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Recall that God gives each of us a measure of faith so we can even believe in the first place Rom 12:3 ◆ Our salvation is ALL God’s doing, and He does it without turning us into robots or violating our free will – PTL
3:13-18	<p>Paul Gets Technical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v15. Speaking after the manner of men. IOW, looking at God’s plan by use of an earthly analogy – legal covenants • The Jews understood all too well how a covenant works. Two parties agree on contractual terms to accomplish a task. For a win-win situation, both parties had to fulfill their tasks. • v18. BUT, the Jews missed the concept of God blessing ALL nations through a One-Way covenant or promise established with Abraham that would eventually culminate in Jesus
3:19-22	<p>The Purpose of the Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v19. Why the Law, then? Because of sin. If man did not sin, then we would not need laws. “...through the law we become conscious of sin” Romans 3:20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ If we didn’t need laws, we would automatically look after the welfare of others and seek to honor God in all things ◆ If ALL drivers would drive courteously and safely, would we even need a speed limit? • v22. Scripture (i.e., God) has “shut up” or “enclosed” or “jailed” everyone (elect & non-elect) under sin – so that God may show mercy to ALL (Rom 11:32). IOW, make salvation available to ALL since Christ died for ALL, 2Cor 5:15. BUT the promise by FAITH in Jesus Christ is given to those who choose to believe willfully and intentionally, not by coercion, or by a guilt trip or by trickery

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Christ, indeed, died for ALL humans (elect and non-elect). The elect willfully choose to accept God’s remedy for salvation – Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved **Acts 16:31**
 - ◆ The non-elect, however, willfully choose not to accept Christ. Not because they were destined to go to Hell, but as Jesus essentially said to the non-elect Jews, “I am willing to give you eternal life, but you are unwilling to come to me” **John 5:40**

NEXT WEEK: Gal 3:23-29. The true purpose of the Law → It was our tutor to lead us to Christ. Now Faith takes over to take us to a new level.

