

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; 4:1-7 True Heirs**
- 5) 30 Sept Galatians 4:8-31 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

- The true purpose of the Law → It was our tutor to lead us to Christ
 - ♦ Now Faith take us to a new level of service

| Passage | Comments |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Gal 3:23 | <p>Progressive Revelation from Law to Faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v23. Faith would be revealed later (after the Lord's Resurrection)..... Why the Long Wait (over 3,000 yrs)? <p>• Big Question: Why does God play the Progressive Revelation card? This is where He reveals bits and pieces of His plan for mankind over succeeding generations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Possible Answer: Man needs time (multiple generations) to see how wicked his heart can be, and to see the need for a permanent solution that only God can provide: <p>Titus 1:3 – “<i>But at the proper time God manifested His word...</i>” (NASB) [<i>And then when the time was ripe, God went public with His truth,</i>” Message Bible] – And secret things belong unto God (Deut 29:29), and His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8)</p> |
| 3:24-25 | <p>The Law was a Tutor / Guardian / Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NLT puts it this way: “The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith.” ♦ So, the Law was not a fence to keep us from having fun, but a guardrail to protect us from harm • v24. After the Resurrection, Faith now rules (we live by willful obedience [‘do this because you love Me’] instead of mandated obedience [do this or else]) |
| The Law according to Calvin | <p>Calvinism claims the Law acts as a whip, urging a man on like a lazy donkey (Calvin Institutes 2.7.12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response. The Apostle Paul calls the Law a tutor which leads us to Christ (Gal 3:24), and Jeremiah says God draws us in a loving way (Jer 31:3). So, it is not a whip that goads us to go where we don't want to go |
| 3:26-29 | <p>Jew vs Gentile Slave vs Free Male vs Female</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v27. Baptized in Christ does not mean water baptism, but total immersion/absorption into who Christ is • v28. Our ethnic group, economic status, and even our sex has no relevance in our ability to be saved • Where or when does our race, sex, age, educational and economic levels have an impact on our life? ...and does our weight & looks limit us some? ♦ Consider this. From a worldly perspective, yes, we may run into prejudices that would limit us in life. BUT... from a spiritual perspective, we have few limitations. Most limitations are our own doing. BUT, aren't women excluded from being elders & deacons because of their sex? ...Just as men are excluded from teaching younger women how they should love their husbands! |

| Passage | Comments |
|---------|---|
| 4:1-3 | <p>Held Bondage by Elementary Principles of this World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are these binding elementary principles? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Food? <input type="checkbox"/> Drink? <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter? <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing? <input type="checkbox"/> Love? <input type="checkbox"/> Money? <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs? <input type="checkbox"/> Power? <input type="checkbox"/> Others? • What breaks these Elementary Principles/Additions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Will power? <input type="checkbox"/> Desire? <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer? <input type="checkbox"/> Love of something else that drives change? <input type="checkbox"/> Supernatural empowerment from God? <input type="checkbox"/> Others? • Is it possible for a saved individual to be caught up in sinful addictions? Yes, unfortunately <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We may have to come alongside a weaker brother or sister and help them..... Gal 6:1 |
| 4:4-7 | <p>The Fullness of Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. God has a time schedule for everything <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Creation ♦ Rise of the Jewish nation ♦ Coming of Christ ♦ Adoption of Gentiles into the family of God (though many Gentiles came to believe during the OT) ♦ Return of Christ ♦ End of our present world, start of a new Earth • Have Gentiles ever been able to accept the God of the Jews prior to the Cross? YES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Many non-Jews followed Israel out of Egypt. Ex 12:38 ♦ Balaam, a non-Jewish prophet..... Num 22:9 ♦ Nineveh – Jonah preach to these heathens..... Jonah ♦ Many Babylonians accepted God and “became Jews” during the time of Esther..... Esther 8:17 • v6. The Spirit of God lives within us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Not only does the Holy Spirit indwell us, but also the entire Trinity: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus Christ indwells us John 14:23; Col 1:27 2. God the Father indwells us.. John 14:23; Eph 4:6 3. The Holy Spirit indwells us .. Rom 8:9; 1Cor 3:16; Gal 4:6; 2Tim 1:14; |

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Whether we are male or female, white or black, slave or free, young or old, rich or poor, use our faith to live in obedience, free from sin, enslaved to Christ who lives in us along with His Spirit & His Father
 - ♦ We are in a fight we cannot lose – if we remain faithful

NEXT WEEK: Gal 4:8-31. The Galatians were so far off the reservation Paul questioned whether he labored in vain over them...**BUT** he did not give up on them. He continued to use strong reason to fix things.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES GRACE MAKE?

