

#7 Galatians

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Galatians 3:10: 'For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." ¹² Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them.'

No one has ever become righteous through obeying the Law or by any of his own works. Those who are justified and made righteous in God's sight are those, and only those, who believe... who believe that He is Who He says He is, has done what He has said He has done and will do what He has said He will; only those who have come to God through faith in His Son are made righteous in His sight.

Everyone who believes that his obedience to the Law is the source of his righteousness is not only not righteous before God but, rather, he stands before God guilty of all the Law and under all the curse of the Law.

Verse 13: 'Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")'

The Law was given to show forth the Righteousness of God and the sinfulness of man. It showed that every person stood condemned before God; the sin of Adam fell to all of his descendants and then the curse of the Law fell upon all of Israel's, Jacob's, descendants.

The Law, with its demand of perfection and all of the sacrificial system as well as the feasts and holy days, it all pointed to the coming deliverer who had been promised from the very first sin in the Garden: 'And I will put enmity between you (the serpent, Satan) and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed (singular); (Jesus Christ) He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.' Gen 3:15

Who is the '*seed of the serpent*'? I think it is clearly the coming Antichrist, Satan's *son*, as an imitation of God's Son, indwelt by Satan, himself. God never says anything as an unimportant 'throwaway' line. But that will all be for another time.

Every human was sold into the bondage of sin, which we inherited from Adam, and headed to our deserved eternal penalty, the Lake of Fire. Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law completely and even though innocent, He then took the punishment of every person He had chosen, before the foundation of the World, and redeemed us all from the curse of the Law. He became sin for us; He became a curse for us; 'For He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might **be made** the righteousness of God in Him.' 2 Cor 5:21

Did the Lord Jesus Christ do anything to merit our sinfulness? No! God laid it on Him; He **made Him to be** sin for us. The same is true for us: we did not do anything to merit His Righteousness: **He made us** the righteousness of God, in Him. Both things were God's work and only His work; He did it all.

There is the source of our complete righteousness before God and it had, or has, nothing to do with our obedience, or lack thereof, to any Law or rule whatsoever. Our only command is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the Cross and even then, our ability to believe is the gift of God:

'For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For **we are his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.' Eph 2:8 As children of God, we have the God given desire to walk in the good works He puts before us but those good works have nothing to do with our righteousness or acceptance before Him. We stand, always and only, in the Righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 14: (He became a curse of us) 'that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.'

What did that just say? Did it say that the blessing of Abraham might come, in Christ, upon the Gentiles? No, what it said was, that the blessing of Abraham might come upon **the Gentiles who are in Christ**. Those, we, are the only Gentiles upon whom the blessing of Abraham, the blessings of God to Abraham might come.

God blessed Abraham, and called him His friend, only on the basis of Abraham's belief. The blessing of God upon Abraham was not based on any obedience or good work of Abraham. God never said, to Abraham, like

He later did the Israelites, 'If you do this, I will do that.' Or, if you fail to do this, then I will really do THAT! The same is true for us. There is no, 'If you do this, I will do that,' for the Christian. Our salvation is all God's work and only God's work, from His election of us before the foundation of the World until He comes to take us home in the Rapture. It is all God's work and only God's work from inception to conception to interception, to reception and our final perception of Him, face to face. It is all God's work, alone.

God's promise, related to His promise, and curse, in the Garden was that His Seed, the coming Lord Jesus Christ, would create Eternal Life within us, a new spirit within us and that His Holy Spirit would then be One with our spirit and that He would never leave us or forsake us in any way.

Verse 15: 'Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though *it is* only a man's covenant, yet *if it is* confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.'

Any man made contract, if it is properly drawn up and ratified, no one is allowed to change it or annul it. If one of our loved ones dies, if they have left a proper legal will, no one is allowed to challenge or change it.

Verse 16: 'Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.'

Here was God's promise to Abraham: 'I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'" Gen 12:2

Then, to Abraham's son, Isaac, God promised: 'Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴ And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;' Gen 26:3

Finally, to his grandson, Jacob (Israel) God promised: 'Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder *was* set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I *am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I *am* with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.'" Gen 28:12 Bethel is, today, in what is called, Samaria or, the West Bank. God is not happy with those who would divide His land, the land He has promised to Israel, and give it to so-called 'Palestinians' who are simply the descendants of Ishmael, Esau and Canaanites to whom He made no promise of land whatsoever. The name, Palestinians even comes from the Canaanite Philistines.

You'll notice, in all of God's promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, they rested solely on the truth and reliability of God, Himself and upon no other.

It was not until a full 430 years later that God gave the Law. Because the Jews eventually rejected the Law of Moses and crucified the Lord Jesus Christ, God removed them, the Earthly people of God, from their place, putting them on the 'back burner' so to speak while setting about to create His long planned, special, Heavenly people of God, the Bride for His Son, the True Church. When He finishes building the Bride for His Son, when the '*fullness of the Gentiles*' is come in, He will remove the Church, in the Rapture, and then return to finishing His dealings with Israel, completing all the promises He made to them and about them during the final, 70th Week of Daniel's great prophecy in Daniel chapter 9, the '*70 Weeks of Daniel*.'

Here is the truth: God's promises were ultimately made to Abraham's Seed, the Lord Jesus Christ, and with all, and only all, who would eventually put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, being the recipients of God's promises and blessings. The only Jews, Israelites, who will receive God's blessings promised through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be those who believed on and put their faith in the promised Messiah. Whether they lived before His birth or after, only those, in Christ, Jews and Gentiles alike will join in the Eternal Blessings of God forever. Any person who teaches any other way for a Jew or Gentile to be saved is a

false teacher of whom Paul writes, '**Anathema; let him be accursed!**'

We, along with the Galatian believers, are 'in Christ' and are those to whom God's promises were made.

Verse 17: 'And this I say, *that* the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.'

God's promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were all a one sided, stand alone deal. He made His promises first to Abraham, then He confirmed those promises through his son, Isaac, and then, finally, through his grandson, Jacob/Israel. You'll notice who God didn't confirm His promises to; He did not confirm to Abraham's son, Ishmael or to any of Abraham's other sons and He did not confirm them to Jacob's brother Esau.

God did promise Abraham regarding Ishmael: 'Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall *a child* be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear *a child*?"' ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!" ¹⁹ Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his descendants after him. ²⁰ *And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.* ²¹ But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year." Then He finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

As you can see, God had plans for Ishmael; his descendants are mostly those of the Arabian Peninsula: Saudi Arabia and what are, today, several other Arab nations. As for Esau, Jacob's twin, God caused him to become 'a great nation,' (Gen 36) but his descendants, too, like Ishmael's, were a constant thorn in the life of Israel. Esau took many Canaanite wives which certainly could not have ended well. But that, too, is for another time.

God's promise was through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. When He gave the Law, through Moses, it had no bearing on His previous promises. Even though Israel, from the very beginning, after having come out from 400 years in Egypt, were a faithless and 'adulterous' nation, God's previous promises were never affected at all. Today, actually from many centuries of Catholic teaching and other false teachers of today, many have believed, and taught, that since Israel was such a faithless nation, God rejected Israel and replaced her with the Church. Such teaching is not only wrong but it dishonors God Who is the One Who will never fail to fulfill His plans, purposes and promises.

God made specific promises regarding Israel and He will, eventually, fulfill every one of them. Right now He is finishing up bringing in the last few of those He had always planned to comprise His Church. Again, when He completes His planned Bride for His Son, He will call us all home, in the Rapture, to the place to which He returned to prepare that place for us.

Verse 18: 'For if the inheritance *is* of the law, *it is* no longer of promise; but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise.'

If the inheritance, eternal land grant, father of many nations, innumerable descendants through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, an eternal Earthly Kingdom with David as King and that he would be a blessing to all nations through the coming Messiah... if any of that had been according to keeping the Law then none of it would have been by promise, the promise of God. If Abraham had had to keep any Law, then it would have been simply earned wages and Abraham, as well as his descendants, would have had room to boast.

It was all according to God's Election and Grace... just like it is now, for the true Church, the Bride and Body of the Lord Jesus Christ. God elected Abraham from all the people of the Earth; He called him out of the darkness of pagan Persia. God gave him no laws to follow; it was a completely one sided promise. God did, however, give Abraham a sign of the promise, that all males must be circumcised; part of the flesh must be removed. Forward to our time, the time of the Church, we, too, have no laws to follow but God has given us, also, a sign of the New Covenant: He has given us a circumcised heart, signifying removal of the flesh, and He has given us His Holy Spirit to live within each of us and actually being One, now, with our spirits: '*...but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.*' Rom 2:29

'In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.' Eph 1:11

Verse 19: 'What purpose then *does* the law *serve*? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator' The Law did not add anything to God's promises to Abraham and Israel and the Law did not take anything away from God's promises so what was its purpose. Why did God give Israel the Law?

What does Paul mean, that the Law was *added because of transgressions*?

The Law was given for two purposes: first, to demonstrate the Holiness and Righteousness of God: '...our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God...' Rom 3:5 Also, that man's complete sinfulness and unrighteousness would be manifest.

'...For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.' Rom 5:13

Everyone after Adam was a sinner even though no one else committed the same sin as did Adam and Eve. Finally, after God had created His new, chosen Nation, Israel, and after they spent 400 years in the crucible of Egypt, He brought them out and then gave them the Law, through Moses. Think of the Law, the Ten Commandments, along with all of the 613 laws given to Israel through Moses, first, as a picture of God's Holiness but next, think of it as a circular fence constructed around each person. As each one surveyed the length and breadth of the fence line stretching around himself, he saw every area where he failed to meet the Righteousness of God which was required of every person. He would clearly see his own sin and he would also understand about the coming deliverer, promised in the Garden and he would see that his sin required the shedding of blood but God, in His Grace, allowed a lamb's blood to be shed in place of his own and also as a substitute for his wife and children.

The Law was added to cause every person to see, exactly, the depth of his own sinfulness and desperate need for a Savior and to see that any and all of his efforts could never meet God's required standard of perfection. Then, he would recognize how God had graciously provided for a lamb to be his substitute, to die and shed its blood for him. He would also remember how God had previously, 400 years before, provided a ram, in the thicket, as a substitutionary sacrifice as He stayed Abraham's hand as he was about to obediently sacrifice his son, Isaac, who then became a picture of the coming Son of God Who would be the ultimate, all inclusive, eternal Sacrifice for the sins of every child of God for Eternity. That's why The Law was added.

We must add, here, that just like today: *some* Israelites saw the picture and symbolism exactly for what it was. God had chosen, and elected them, while giving them, like today, the faith to understand and to believe God; and just like Abraham, their faith was counted to them as righteousness. Others, many others, just like today, didn't recognize what it all meant; they simply went through the motions, doing what they saw as their duty but never understanding, never believing and never receiving or exercising true, saving faith, the gift of God.

The chosen, the elect, God's children have always been a remnant; we've always been a small group in comparison to the large numbers who will, eventually, spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. It is sad but it is reality.

Paul writes, in Romans: 'But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.' Rom 3:21