

Word of God

The Book Of Galatians

EDITOR'S NOTE: *THE BIBLE IS LIKE NO OTHER BOOK, FOR IT HOLDS THE VERY WORDS OF GOD, WHICH HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF ANY WHO READ IT AND PUT THEIR FAITH IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. MATTHEW 7:24 SAYS, "EVERYONE THEN WHO HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE AND DOES THEM WILL BE LIKE A WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK!" THROUGH THE NEBRASKA LIVING TIMES YOU MAY "TASTE" AND SEE THE GOODNESS OF GOD THROUGH HIS VERY OWN WORDS, EACH MONTH, RIGHT HERE. IF YOU MISSED A MONTH, AND WOULD LIKE TO READ MORE OF THE BIBLE, YOU CAN FIND IT UNDER THE "WORD OF GOD" TAB ON OUR WEBSITE, WWW.NEBRASKALIVINGTIMES.COM. ALSO, IF YOU WANT YOUR OWN BIBLE, PLEASE SEE THE INFORMATION AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE, OR EMAIL US AT NEBRASKALIVINGTIMES@ILOVEJESUS.COM FOR MORE INFO. MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH HIS WORD!"*

(CONTINUED FROM
APRIL/MAY 2021)
THE BOOK GALATIANS
CHAPTER 1
GREETINGS

1 PAUL, AN APOSTLE—NOT FROM MEN NOR THROUGH MAN, BUT THROUGH JESUS CHRIST AND GOD THE FATHER, WHO RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD— 2 AND ALL THE BROTHERS[FN] WHO ARE WITH ME,

TO THE CHURCHES OF GALATIA:
3 GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, 4 WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR OUR SINS TO DELIVER US FROM THE PRESENT EVIL AGE, ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF OUR GOD AND FATHER, 5 TO WHOM BE THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

No Other Gospel

6 I AM ASTONISHED THAT YOU ARE SO QUICKLY DESERTING HIM WHO CALLED YOU IN THE GRACE OF CHRIST AND ARE TURNING TO A DIFFERENT GOSPEL— 7 NOT THAT THERE IS ANOTHER ONE, BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO TROUBLE YOU AND WANT TO DISTORT THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. 8 BUT EVEN IF WE OR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN SHOULD PREACH TO YOU A GOSPEL CONTRARY TO THE ONE WE PREACHED TO YOU, LET HIM BE ACCUSED. 9 AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, SO NOW I SAY AGAIN: IF ANYONE IS PREACHING TO YOU A GOSPEL CONTRARY TO THE ONE YOU RECEIVED, LET HIM BE ACCUSED. 10 FOR AM I NOW SEEKING THE APPROVAL OF MAN, OR OF GOD? OR AM I TRYING TO PLEASE MAN? IF I WERE STILL TRYING TO PLEASE MAN, I WOULD NOT BE A SERVANT OF CHRIST.

PAUL CALLED BY GOD

11 FOR I WOULD HAVE YOU KNOW, BROTHERS, THAT THE GOSPEL THAT WAS PREACHED BY ME IS NOT MAN'S GOSPEL. 12 FOR I DID NOT RECEIVE IT FROM ANY MAN, NOR WAS I TAUGHT IT, BUT I RECEIVED IT THROUGH A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST. 13 FOR YOU HAVE HEARD OF MY FORMER LIFE IN JUDAISM, HOW I PERSECUTED THE CHURCH OF GOD VIOLENTLY AND TRIED TO DESTROY IT. 14 AND I WAS ADVANCING IN JUDAISM BEYOND MANY OF MY OWN AGE AMONG MY PEOPLE, SO EXTREMELY ZEALOUS WAS I FOR THE TRADITIONS OF MY FATHERS. 15 BUT WHEN HE WHO HAD SET ME APART BEFORE I WAS BORN, AND WHO CALLED ME BY HIS GRACE, 16 WAS PLEASED TO REVEAL HIS SON TO ME, IN ORDER THAT I MIGHT PREACH HIM AMONG THE GENTILES, I DID NOT IMMEDIATELY CONSULT WITH ANYONE; 17 NOR DID I GO UP TO JERUSALEM TO THOSE WHO WERE APOSTLES BEFORE ME, BUT I WENT AWAY INTO ARABIA, AND RETURNED AGAIN TO DAMASCUS. 18 THEN AFTER THREE YEARS I WENT UP TO JERUSALEM TO VISIT CEPHAS AND REMAINED WITH HIM FIFTEEN

DAYS. 19 BUT I SAW NONE OF THE OTHER APOSTLES EXCEPT JAMES THE LORD'S BROTHER. 20 (IN WHAT I AM WRITING TO YOU, BEFORE GOD, I DO NOT LIE!) 21 THEN I WENT INTO THE REGIONS OF SYRIA AND CILICIA. 22 AND I WAS STILL UNKNOWN IN PERSON TO THE CHURCHES OF JUDEA THAT ARE IN CHRIST. 23 THEY ONLY WERE HEARING IT SAID, "HE WHO USED TO PERSECUTE US IS NOW PREACHING THE FAITH HE ONCE TRIED TO DESTROY." 24 AND THEY GLORIFIED GOD BECAUSE OF ME.

CHAPTER 2

PAUL ACCEPTED BY THE APOSTLES

1 THEN AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS I WENT UP AGAIN TO JERUSALEM WITH BARNABAS, TAKING TITUS ALONG WITH ME. 2 I WENT UP BECAUSE OF A REVELATION AND SET BEFORE THEM (THOUGH PRIVATELY BEFORE THOSE WHO SEEMED INFLUENTIAL) THE GOSPEL THAT I PROCLAIM AMONG THE GENTILES, IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE I WAS NOT RUNNING OR HAD NOT RUN IN VAIN. 3 BUT EVEN TITUS, WHO WAS WITH ME, WAS NOT FORCED TO BE CIRCUMCISED, THOUGH HE WAS A GREEK. 4 YET BECAUSE OF FALSE BROTHERS SECRETLY BROUGHT IN—WHO SLIPPED IN TO SPY OUR FREEDOM THAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST JESUS, SO THAT THEY MIGHT BRING US INTO SLAVERY— 5 TO THEM WE DID NOT YIELD IN SUBMISSION EVEN FOR A MOMENT, SO THAT THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL MIGHT BE PRESERVED FOR YOU. 6 AND FROM THOSE WHO SEEMED TO BE INFLUENTIAL (WHAT THEY WERE MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME; GOD SHOWS NO PARTIALITY)—THOSE, I SAY, WHO SEEMED INFLUENTIAL ADDED NOTHING TO ME. 7 ON THE CONTRARY, WHEN THEY SAW THAT I HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOSPEL TO THE UNCIRCUMCISED, JUST AS PETER HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOSPEL TO THE CIRCUMCISED 8 (FOR HE WHO WORKED THROUGH PETER FOR HIS APOSTOLIC MINISTRY TO THE CIRCUMCISED WORKED ALSO THROUGH ME FOR MINE TO THE GENTILES), 9 AND WHEN JAMES AND CEPHAS AND JOHN, WHO SEEMED TO BE PILLARS, PERCEIVED THE GRACE THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME, THEY GAVE THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP TO BARNABAS AND ME, THAT WE SHOULD GO TO THE GENTILES AND THEY TO THE CIRCUMCISED. 10 ONLY, THEY ASKED US TO REMEMBER THE POOR, THE VERY THING I WAS EAGER TO DO.

PAUL OPPOSES PETER

11 BUT WHEN CEPHAS CAME TO ANTIOCH, I OPPOSED HIM TO HIS FACE, BECAUSE HE STOOD CONDEMNED. 12 FOR BEFORE CERTAIN MEN CAME FROM JAMES, HE WAS EATING WITH THE GENTILES; BUT WHEN THEY CAME HE DREW BACK AND SEPARATED HIMSELF, FEARING THE CIRCUMCISION PARTY. 13



“PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL.”

EPHESIANS 6:11

AND THE REST OF THE JEWS ACTED HYPOCRITICALLY ALONG WITH HIM, SO THAT EVEN BARNABAS WAS LED ASTRAY BY THEIR HYPOCRISY. 14 BUT WHEN I SAW THAT THEIR CONDUCT WAS NOT IN STEP WITH THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL, I SAID TO CEPHAS BEFORE THEM ALL, "IF YOU, THOUGH A JEW, LIVE LIKE A GENTILE AND NOT LIKE A JEW, HOW CAN YOU FORCE THE GENTILES TO LIVE LIKE JEWS?"

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH

15 WE OURSELVES ARE JEWS BY BIRTH AND NOT GENTILE SINNERS; 16 YET WE KNOW THAT A PERSON IS NOT JUSTIFIED[FN] BY WORKS OF THE LAW BUT THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, SO WE ALSO HAVE BELIEVED IN CHRIST JESUS, IN ORDER TO BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH IN CHRIST AND NOT BY WORKS OF THE LAW, BECAUSE BY WORKS OF THE LAW NO ONE WILL BE JUSTIFIED. 17 BUT IF, IN OUR ENDEAVOR TO BE JUSTIFIED IN CHRIST, WE TOO WERE FOUND TO BE SINNERS, IS CHRIST THEN A SERVANT OF SIN? CERTAINLY NOT! 18 FOR IF I REBUILD WHAT I TORE DOWN, I PROVE MYSELF TO BE A TRANSGRESSOR. 19 FOR THROUGH THE LAW I DIED TO THE LAW, SO THAT I MIGHT LIVE TO GOD. 20 I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST. IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST WHO LIVES IN ME. AND THE LIFE I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME. 21 I DO NOT NULLIFY THE GRACE OF GOD, FOR IF RIGHTEOUSNESS WERE THROUGH THE LAW, THEN CHRIST DIED FOR NO PURPOSE.

CHAPTER 3

By Faith, or by Works of the Law?

1 O FOOLISH GALATIANS! WHO HAS BEWITCHED YOU? IT WAS BEFORE YOUR EYES THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS PUBLICLY PORTRAYED AS CRUCIFIED. 2 LET ME ASK YOU ONLY THIS: DID YOU RECEIVE THE SPIRIT BY WORKS OF THE LAW OR BY HEARING WITH FAITH? 3 ARE YOU SO FOOLISH? HAVING BEGUN BY THE SPIRIT, ARE YOU NOW BEING PERFECTED BY THE FLESH? 4 DID YOU SUFFER SO MANY THINGS IN VAIN—IF INDEED IT WAS IN VAIN? 5 DOES HE WHO SUPPLIES THE SPIRIT TO YOU AND WORKS MIRACLES AMONG YOU DO SO BY WORKS OF THE LAW, OR BY HEARING WITH FAITH— 6 JUST AS ABRAHAM "BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS COUNTED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS"? 7 KNOW THEN THAT IT IS THOSE OF FAITH WHO ARE THE SONS OF ABRAHAM. 8 AND THE SCRIPTURE, FORESEEING THAT GOD WOULD JUSTIFY THE GENTILES BY FAITH, PREACHED THE GOSPEL BEFOREHAND TO ABRAHAM, SAYING, "IN YOU SHALL ALL THE NATIONS BE BLESSED." 9 SO THEN, THOSE WHO ARE OF FAITH ARE BLESSED ALONG WITH ABRAHAM, THE MAN OF FAITH.

THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

10 FOR ALL WHO RELY ON WORKS OF THE LAW ARE UNDER A CURSE; FOR IT IS WRITTEN, "CURSED BE EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, AND DO THEM." 11 NOW IT IS EVIDENT

THAT NO ONE IS JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD BY THE LAW, FOR "THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." 12 BUT THE LAW IS NOT OF FAITH, RATHER "THE ONE WHO DOES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM." 13 CHRIST REDEEMED US FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW BY BECOMING A CURSE FOR US—FOR IT IS WRITTEN, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO IS HANGED ON A TREE"— 14 SO THAT IN CHRIST JESUS THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM MIGHT COME TO THE GENTILES, SO THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISED SPIRIT THROUGH FAITH.

THE LAW AND THE PROMISE

15 TO GIVE A HUMAN EXAMPLE, BROTHERS: EVEN WITH A MAN-MADE COVENANT, NO ONE ANNULS IT OR ADDS TO IT ONCE IT HAS BEEN RATIFIED. 16 NOW THE PROMISES WERE MADE TO ABRAHAM AND TO HIS OFFSPRING. IT DOES NOT SAY, "AND TO OFFSPRINGS," REFERRING TO MANY, BUT REFERRING TO ONE, "AND TO YOUR OFFSPRING," WHO IS CHRIST. 17 THIS IS WHAT I MEAN: THE LAW, WHICH CAME 430 YEARS AFTERWARD, DOES NOT ANNUL A COVENANT PREVIOUSLY RATIFIED BY GOD, SO AS TO MAKE THE PROMISE VOID. 18 FOR IF THE INHERITANCE COMES BY THE LAW, IT NO LONGER COMES BY PROMISE; BUT GOD GAVE IT TO ABRAHAM BY A PROMISE.

19 WHY THEN THE LAW? IT WAS ADDED BECAUSE OF TRANSGRESSIONS, UNTIL THE OFFSPRING SHOULD COME TO WHOM THE PROMISE HAD BEEN MADE, AND IT WAS PUT IN PLACE THROUGH ANGELS BY AN INTERMEDIARY. 20 NOW AN INTERMEDIARY IMPLIES MORE THAN ONE, BUT GOD IS ONE. 21 IS THE LAW THEN CONTRARY TO THE PROMISES OF GOD? CERTAINLY NOT! FOR IF A LAW HAD BEEN GIVEN THAT COULD GIVE LIFE, THEN RIGHTEOUSNESS WOULD INDEED BE BY THE LAW. 22 BUT THE SCRIPTURE IMPRISONED EVERYTHING UNDER SIN, SO THAT THE PROMISE BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST MIGHT BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE.

23 NOW BEFORE FAITH CAME, WE WERE HELD CAPTIVE UNDER THE LAW, IMPRISONED UNTIL THE COMING FAITH WOULD BE REVEALED. 24 SO THEN, THE LAW WAS OUR GUARDIAN UNTIL CHRIST CAME, IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH. 25 BUT NOW THAT FAITH HAS COME, WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER A GUARDIAN, 26 FOR IN CHRIST JESUS YOU ARE ALL SONS OF GOD, THROUGH FAITH. 27 FOR AS MANY OF YOU AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST. 28 THERE IS NEITHER JEW NOR GREEK, THERE IS NEITHER SLAVE NOR FREE, THERE IS NO MALE AND FEMALE, FOR YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS. 29 AND IF YOU ARE CHRIST'S, THEN YOU ARE ABRAHAM'S OFFSPRING, HEIRS ACCORDING TO PROMISE.

SOURCE: THE HOLY BIBLE, ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION COPYRIGHT © 2001, 2007, 2011 BY CROSSWAY BIBLES, A PUBLISHING MINISTRY OF GOOD NEWS PUBLISHERS. USED BY PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Would you like your own Bible?

Contact the The United States Bible Society, Inc., 5544 Forest Drive, Loganville Ga. 30052. Visit their website at <http://www.usbiblesociety.com/> or call them at (855)524-2537