

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 AUGUST 2021)

THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

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[FN] 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.

CHAPTER 4 SONS AND HEIRS

1 I MEAN THAT THE HEIR, AS LONG AS HE IS A CHILD, IS NO DIFFERENT FROM A SLAVE.[FN] THOUGH HE IS THE OWNER OF EVERYTHING, 2 BUT HE IS UNDER GUARDIANS AND MANAGERS UNTIL THE DATE SET BY HIS FATHER. 3 IN THE SAME WAY WE ALSO, WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN, WERE ENSLAVED TO THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES[FN] OF THE WORLD. 4 BUT WHEN THE FULLNESS OF TIME HAD COME, GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON, BORN OF WOMAN, BORN UNDER THE LAW, 5 TO REDEEM THOSE WHO WERE UNDER THE LAW, SO THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE ADOPTION AS SONS. 6 AND BECAUSE YOU ARE SONS, GOD HAS SENT THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON INTO OUR HEARTS, CRYING, “ABBA! FATHER!” 7 SO YOU ARE NO LONGER A SLAVE, BUT A SON, AND IF A SON, THEN AN HEIR THROUGH GOD.

PAUL'S CONCERN FOR THE GALATIANS
8 FORMERLY, WHEN YOU DID NOT KNOW GOD, YOU WERE ENSLAVED TO THOSE THAT BY NATURE ARE NOT GODS. 9 BUT NOW THAT YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW GOD, OR RATHER TO BE KNOWN BY GOD, HOW CAN YOU TURN BACK AGAIN TO THE WEAK AND WORTHLESS ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD, WHOSE SLAVES YOU WANT TO BE ONCE MORE? 10



ARMOR UP!

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

EPHESIANS 6:11

YOU OBSERVE DAYS AND MONTHS AND SEASONS AND YEARS! 11 I AM AFRAID I MAY HAVE LABORED OVER YOU IN VAIN. 12 BROTHERS, I ENTREAT YOU, BECOME AS I AM, FOR I ALSO HAVE BECOME AS YOU ARE. YOU DID ME NO WRONG. 13 YOU KNOW IT WAS BECAUSE OF A BODILY AILMENT THAT I PREACHED THE GOSPEL TO YOU AT FIRST, 14 AND THOUGH MY CONDITION WAS A TRIAL TO YOU, YOU DID NOT SCORN OR DESPISE ME, BUT RECEIVED ME AS AN ANGEL OF GOD, AS CHRIST JESUS. 15 WHAT THEN HAS BECOME OF YOUR BLESSEDNESS? FOR I TESTIFY TO YOU THAT, IF POSSIBLE, YOU WOULD HAVE GOUGED OUT YOUR EYES AND GIVEN THEM TO ME. 16 HAVE I THEN BECOME YOUR ENEMY BY TELLING YOU THE TRUTH? 17 THEY MAKE MUCH OF YOU, BUT FOR NO GOOD PURPOSE. THEY WANT TO SHUT YOU OUT, THAT YOU MAY MAKE MUCH OF THEM. 18 IT IS ALWAYS GOOD TO BE MADE MUCH OF FOR A GOOD PURPOSE, AND NOT ONLY WHEN I AM PRESENT WITH YOU. 19 MY LITTLE CHILDREN, FOR WHOM I AM AGAIN IN THE ANGUISH OF CHILDBIRTH UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN YOU! 20 I WISH I COULD BE PRESENT WITH YOU NOW AND CHANGE MY TONE, FOR I AM PERPLEXED ABOUT YOU. EXAMPLE OF HAGAR AND SARAH 21 TELL ME, YOU WHO DESIRE TO BE UNDER THE LAW, DO YOU NOT LISTEN TO THE LAW? 22 FOR IT IS WRITTEN THAT ABRAHAM HAD TWO SONS, ONE BY A SLAVE WOMAN AND ONE BY A FREE WOMAN. 23 BUT THE SON OF THE SLAVE WAS BORN ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, WHILE THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN WAS BORN THROUGH PROMISE. 24 NOW THIS MAY BE INTERPRETED ALLEGORICALLY:

THESE WOMEN ARE TWO COVENANTS. ONE IS FROM MOUNT SINAI, BEARING CHILDREN FOR SLAVERY; SHE IS HAGAR. 25 NOW HAGAR IS MOUNT SINAI IN ARABIA; SHE CORRESPONDS TO THE PRESENT JERUSALEM, FOR SHE IS IN SLAVERY WITH HER CHILDREN. 26 BUT THE JERUSALEM ABOVE IS FREE, AND SHE IS OUR MOTHER. 27 FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “REJOICE, O BARREN ONE WHO DOES NOT BEAR; BREAK FORTH AND CRY ALOUD, YOU WHO ARE NOT IN LABOR! FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE DESOLATE ONE WILL BE MORE THAN THOSE OF THE ONE WHO HAS A HUSBAND.” 28 NOW YOU, BROTHERS, LIKE ISAAC, ARE CHILDREN OF PROMISE. 29 BUT JUST AS AT THAT TIME HE WHO WAS BORN ACCORDING TO THE FLESH PERSECUTED HIM WHO WAS BORN ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT, SO ALSO IT IS NOW. 30 BUT WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY? “CAST OUT THE SLAVE WOMAN AND HER SON, FOR THE SON OF THE SLAVE WOMAN SHALL NOT INHERIT WITH THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN.” 31 SO, BROTHERS, WE ARE NOT CHILDREN OF THE SLAVE BUT OF THE FREE WOMAN.

CHAPTER 5

CHRIST HAS SET US FREE

1 FOR FREEDOM CHRIST HAS SET US FREE; STAND FIRM THEREFORE, AND DO NOT SUBMIT AGAIN TO A YOKE OF SLAVERY. 2 LOOK: I, PAUL, SAY TO YOU THAT IF YOU ACCEPT CIRCUMCISION, CHRIST WILL BE OF NO ADVANTAGE TO YOU. 3 I TESTIFY AGAIN TO EVERY MAN WHO ACCEPTS CIRCUMCISION THAT HE IS OBLIGATED TO KEEP THE WHOLE LAW. 4 YOU ARE SEVERED FROM CHRIST, YOU

WHO WOULD BE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW; YOU HAVE FALLEN AWAY FROM GRACE. 5 FOR THROUGH THE SPIRIT, BY FAITH, WE OURSELVES EAGERLY WAIT FOR THE HOPE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. 6 FOR IN CHRIST JESUS NEITHER CIRCUMCISION NOR UNCIRCUMCISION COUNTS FOR ANYTHING, BUT ONLY FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE.

7 YOU WERE RUNNING WELL. WHO HINDERED YOU FROM OBEYING THE TRUTH? 8 THIS PERSUASION IS NOT FROM HIM WHO CALLS YOU. 9 A LITTLE LEAVEN LEAVENS THE WHOLE LUMP. 10 I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD THAT YOU WILL TAKE NO OTHER VIEW, AND THE ONE WHO IS TROUBLING YOU WILL BEAR THE PENALTY, WHOEVER HE IS. 11 BUT IF I, BROTHERS, STILL PREACH CIRCUMCISION, WHY AM I STILL BEING PERSECUTED? IN THAT CASE THE OFFENSE OF THE CROSS HAS BEEN REMOVED. 12 I WISH THOSE WHO UNSETTLE YOU WOULD EMASCULATE THEMSELVES!

13 FOR YOU WERE CALLED TO FREEDOM, BROTHERS. ONLY DO NOT USE YOUR FREEDOM AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FLESH, BUT THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER. 14 FOR THE WHOLE LAW IS FULFILLED IN ONE WORD: “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” 15 BUT IF YOU BITE AND DEVOUR ONE ANOTHER, WATCH OUT THAT YOU ARE NOT CONSUMED BY ONE ANOTHER.

KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT

16 BUT I SAY, WALK BY THE SPIRIT, AND YOU WILL NOT GRATIFY THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH. 17 FOR THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH ARE AGAINST THE SPIRIT, AND THE DESIRES OF THE SPIRIT ARE AGAINST THE FLESH, FOR THESE ARE OPPOSED TO EACH OTHER, TO KEEP YOU FROM DOING THE THINGS YOU WANT TO DO. 18 BUT IF YOU ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT, YOU ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW. 19 NOW THE WORKS OF THE FLESH ARE EVIDENT: SEXUAL IMMORALITY, IMPURITY, SENSUALITY, 20 IDOLATRY, SORCERY, ENMITY, STRIFE, JEALOUSY, FITS OF ANGER, RIVALRIES, DISSENSIONS, DIVISIONS, 21 ENVY, DRUNKENNESS, ORGIES, AND THINGS LIKE THESE. I WARN YOU, AS I WARNED YOU BEFORE, THAT THOSE WHO DO SUCH THINGS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. 22 BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, 23 GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL; AGAINST SUCH THINGS THERE IS NO LAW. 24 AND THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS HAVE CRUCIFIED THE FLESH WITH ITS PASSIONS AND DESIRES. 25 IF WE LIVE BY THE SPIRIT, LET US ALSO KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT. 26 LET US NOT BECOME CONCEITED, PROVOKING ONE ANOTHER, ENVYING ONE ANOTHER.

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