



KNOWING CHRIST

Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Galatians 3:1-29

Inductive Discovery Lesson 4

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Subj: threats to your faith and freedom in Christ

YOU FOOLISH GALATIANS, WHO HAS BEWITCHED YOU? Just answer me one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by keeping the Law or by believing in Jesus who died to set you free?

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES?

Paul's intensity boiled to the surface again. His friends in Galatia were pulled into an attractive lie; how could he, from a distance, bring them back to the truth? Since troublemakers in their midst confused them with the notion that keeping the Law is what makes you righteous, Paul went back over the basics.

He reminded them that Abraham, who put his faith in God, was a true believer *before* the Law was ever written. He told them again how God's promise to bless Abraham was passed on to every person who, like Abraham, put their faith in God. Reading between the lines, we hear Paul's exasperation. *Do you really think being religious makes you righteous? That isn't the good news I brought you! Who have you been listening to?*

Paul struggled at how quick to forget, how fickle the Galatians could be! But his frustration was tempered with love. He realized that these Gentile converts might still be confused about the purpose of the Law. So he used a simple example from everyday life to explain the Law's role. *The Law is like a tutor*, Paul wrote.

Background

"In Greek culture, a guardian and teacher was a slave who had the important responsibility for the children in a family. A wealthy family might have one guardian for each child. This slave strictly disciplined the child, conducted the child to and from school, cared for the child, taught the child manners, and gave the child moral training. The guardian's role was temporary—he or she was responsible for the child until the child reached adult age (probably age sixteen).

The picture of the law serving as a guardian and teacher shows that the law was a temporary measure meant to lead us until Christ came. This leading was meant in the sense of the law watching over us until we could receive our 'adulthood,' our full relationship with the Father, through Christ's coming."¹

¹ Life Application New Testament Commentary, pg. 779

Working Text for Galatians 3:1-29
New International Version (NIV)

1 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. **2** I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? **3** Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? **4** Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing? **5** Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

6 Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” **7** Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. **8** The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” **9** So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. **10** All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” **11** Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” **12** The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will 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 hung on a tree.” **14** He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

15 Brothers, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. **16** The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. **17** What I mean is this: The

law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. **18** For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise. **19** What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator. **20** A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one. **21** Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. **22** But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

23 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. **24** So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. **25** Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. **26** You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, **27** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Galatians 3:1-5

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Galatians 3:6-14

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Galatians 3:15-22

Facts from the passage:

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My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

Galatians 3:23-29

Facts from the passage:

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Galatians 3:1-29.

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“works of the **law**” (vs.2,5,10) _____

“hearing of **faith**” (vs.2,5) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action***.

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Galatians 3:1-5

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

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Galatians 3:6-14

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

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Galatians 3:15-22

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Galatians 3:23-29

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

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Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**But the Scripture has confined all under sin,
that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ
might be given to those who believe.**

Galatians 3:22 NKJ

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

The Law tells me how crooked I am. Grace comes along and straightens me out.
- D. L. Moody



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with a torn paper border, containing horizontal lines for writing notes. The border is irregular and jagged, giving it the appearance of a piece of paper that has been torn out of a document. The interior of the rectangle is filled with horizontal lines, providing a space for writing.



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