

# Walking in God's Grace—Week Four, Day One

## Read Galatians 3:6-11

***6Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." 7Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. 8The 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." 9So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. 10All 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." 11Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."***

This week we are going to dive into Paul's Scriptural and logical arguments as to why our relationship to God is all about grace and faith. Paul will quote four passages from the Old Testament to prove his point.

First, grab a highlighter and highlight these four phrases that are in quotation marks. Now, read the passage again and this time circle the words "believe", "believed" and "faith"

1. Paul is making an example of who in this passage?
2. Abraham did something that caused God to put him in the 'righteous' category. What was it?
3. How do you think "WE" get into the 'righteous' category of God's economy? Use a phrase from the above verses to back up your answer.
4. Being a Jew or Gentile isn't something we think about so much in our culture—but racial heritage was huge to these people. Do you think there was any difference back then between how a Jew or a Gentile became 'righteous' before God; or saved from his sins? How about now?
5. Read through our passage again and put a box around each word "law" and "curse".
6. Now we have '**faith**' circled, and '**law**' boxed. Let's look at the fruit or the result of each of these:  
V. 9 ...so those who have faith are \_\_\_\_\_  
V.10 ...all who rely on observing the law are \_\_\_\_\_
7. Write out verse 11, just because it's that good:



## Walking in God's Grace—Week Four, Day Two

### Read Galatians 3:10-14

***<sup>10</sup>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."<sup>11</sup>Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." <sup>12</sup>The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." <sup>13</sup>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." <sup>14</sup>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.***

We have repeated two verses from yesterday to help us understand the purpose and fruit of the law. First, let's get out that highlighter again and highlight the passages in quotation marks. You should have a complete set of six Old Testament passages that Paul used to build his case for faith alone.

Just a little more marking before we begin...draw a box around each word "law", "curse", "cursed" and circle the three occurrences of "faith".

1. According to v.10 how much of the law must a person obey in order to 'observe the law'?
2. According to v.11 how many people can do that?
3. Because none of us can do that we are under a curse, or in bondage, slavery to the law—it owns us because it is stronger than us. Write out the first two words in v. 13: \_\_\_\_\_! How did he redeem? By becoming a \_\_\_\_\_ for us.
4. Have you ever pondered the reality that every other religion thought up by mankind has some sort of 'works or law' as the centerpiece? It seems the point is always "*Do good stuff*", "*Do all you can to be a good person*", "*Follow this list of rules*". It seems like man-made religions almost *want* to put us into bondage to the law. Between yesterday and today's passages, what do you learn about trying to be on God's 'righteous' list by doing good stuff?
5. How would you explain this difference between "Faith in Jesus Christ" and other religious systems to someone who asked you why you didn't believe 'being good' was how you got to heaven. How do you plan to explain it to your children?



## Walking in God's Grace—Week Four, Day Three

Read Galatians 3:15-21

***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. 16The 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. 17What 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. 18For 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. 19What, 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. 20A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one. 21Is 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.***

Paul set out a case for *not* relying upon the law from OT scripture and now he is switching up to plain 'ole logic. I find that his courtroom case is solid as brass, but my little brain can get tangled up in words and so I need to really concentrate to unravel his message. Let's work at it together...

1. Paul is using an analogy from something his readers should know about in everyday life. What is it? (hint v. 15)
2. Paul calls it a "human covenant". What might we call something like that?
3. He makes what point about covenants, or contracts, or agreements in v. 15. No one can \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This covenant (promise) is between Abraham and whom? (v.16)
5. In v. 17 Paul says the "law" came \_\_\_\_ years *after* the covenant. Since no one can add to a 'duly established' covenant, what effect could it have on that covenant?
6. Could what was promised be given by keeping the 'law' which came onto the scene so much later?

**"What, then, was the purpose of the law?"** That is a good question. Let's find what this passage teaches us about the law.

7. It was \_\_\_\_\_ (after the promise was given) because of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.19). In other words the law was given to reveal to us that we are sinners.
8. It was added for a season. V. 19 says it was added until the \_\_\_\_\_ had come. Who is the seed?
9. Is the law opposed to the promises of God? In other words since the promise was given first and then the law, did God change his mind by creating a law that needed to be followed? What was Paul's answer to that?

We will continue our investigation tomorrow...stay tuned...



# Walking in God's Grace—Week Four, Day Four

Read Galatians 3:21-26

***<sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. <sup>26</sup>You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus...***

We learned yesterday that the law was:

- Given to reveal that we are sinners
- Temporary “it was added until the Seed had come”
- Not opposed to the promises of God, but rather working in cooperation to fulfill God’s purposes

1. Now we ask the question “can following the law impart life”?
2. If law could have imparted life then \_\_\_\_\_ would certainly have come by the law. But it didn’t, it came by Faith!
3. Why do you think so many people STILL insist that they get to heaven by ‘being good’ or making sure the good things they do in life will outweigh the bad things?
4. Paul says the law is not opposed to the promises of God. Now we will see how it actually works in cooperation with God’s purposes. Verse 24 says “the law was \_\_\_\_\_” for a purpose. What is that purpose?
5. Once the reality that we are sinners (that the law has graciously pointed out to us) has led us to Jesus and the knowledge that faith in HIS work is what will clean us and make us righteous before God; v. 25 says “*now that faith has come, we are no longer under the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law*”. So, the law was put in charge of us to lead us, but once we are saved, is it any longer in charge of us?
6. Something else is now put in charge—actually Someone else! Skip ahead a little and write out Galatians 5:18.

Awesome! God put the law in charge to lead us to Jesus and once we put our faith in Christ and are born again he puts His Spirit in charge. It is foolish to think of someone wanting to go back to the law being ‘put in charge’ isn’t it? Are there any areas that you are tempted to just ‘put the law in charge’ so that you don’t need to rely upon God’s Spirit to lead you?

