

The Epistle to the Galatians

God Chooses His Ministers

(Galatians 1)

Jesus Christ Chooses His Ministers; God is Father of the Saints (1); God Raised Jesus from the Dead

1 Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through **Jesus Christ** and **God the Father**, who raised **Him** from the dead),

2 and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

God is a God of Grace; God is a God of Peace; God is Father of the Saints (2)

3 Grace to you and peace from **God our Father** and the **Lord Jesus Christ**,

Jesus Died for Mankind; Jesus Died to Rescue Mankind from this Present Age; God Exerts His Will; God is Father of the Saints (3)

4 who gave **Himself** for our sins so that **He** might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our **God and Father**,

5 to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.

God Called Those in the Church by Christ's Divine Influence

6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting **Him** who called you by the grace of **Christ**, for a different gospel;

Christ is the Theme of the Gospel

7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing 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 what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

God Determines Who Deserves Favour; Christ is the Master of The Church

10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of **God**? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of **Christ**.

11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

Jesus Can Reveal Himself Supernaturally

12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of **Jesus Christ**.

God Rules the Church

13 For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of **God** beyond measure and tried to destroy it;

14 and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

**God Chooses His Ministers (2);
God Calls His Ministers
Through His Divine Influence**

15But when **God**, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through **His** grace, was pleased

**The Son is the Theme of the
Gospel**

16to reveal **His Son** in me so that I might preach **Him** among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,

17nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.

18Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days.

The Lord was a Biological Jew

19But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the **Lord's** brother.

God Knows All

20(Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before **God** that I am not lying.)

21Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

**Christ is the Head of the
Church**

22I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in **Christ**;

23but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy."

24And they were glorifying **God** because of me.

(Galatians 2)

1Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also.

2It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but I did so in private to those who were of reputation, for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.

3But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

Christ Jesus Gives Liberty

4But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in **Christ Jesus**, in order to bring us into bondage.

5But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

God is Impartial

6But from those who were of high reputation (what they were makes no difference to me; **God** shows no partiality)--well, those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me.

7But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised

God Influences His Ministers

8(for **He** who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles),

9and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

10They only asked us to remember the poor--the very thing I also was eager to do.

11But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

12For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

13The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

14But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

15"We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles;

Christ Justifies Those Who have Faith in Him

16nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in **Christ Jesus**, even we have believed in **Christ Jesus**, so that we may be justified by faith in **Christ** and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

17"But if, while seeking to be justified in **Christ**, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is **Christ** then a minister of sin? May it never be!

18"For if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor.

God is the One Those in the Church are to Live For

19"For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to **God**.

Christ Lives in Those in the Church; Christ is God's Son; Christ Loved Mankind So Much that He Died for All

20"I have been crucified with **Christ**; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ** lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the **Son of God**, who loved me and gave **Himself** up for me.

Christ Died

21"I do not nullify the grace of **God**, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then **Christ** died needlessly."

(Galatians 3)

Jesus Christ was Crucified

1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes **Jesus Christ** was publicly portrayed as crucified?

2This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the **Spirit** by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

3Are you so foolish? Having begun by the **Spirit**, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

4Did you suffer so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain?

God Gives the Spirit to Those in the Church

5So then, does **He** who provides you with the **Spirit** and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

6Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

7Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

God Justified the Gentiles by Faith

8The Scripture, foreseeing that **God** would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU."

9So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

10For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

11Now that no one is justified by the Law before **God** is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

12However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM."

Christ Redeemed Those in the Church from the Curse of the Law

13**Christ** 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"--

Christ Jesus Desires the Gentiles to Know Him by Faith; The Spirit is Promised to Those Who Have Faith in Christ

14in order that in **Christ Jesus** the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the **Spirit** through faith.

15Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.

Christ is the Seed of Abraham

16Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed **He** does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, **Christ**.]

God Ratified the Covenant of Righteousness Through Faith

17What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by **God**, so as to nullify the promise.

God Instituted Righteousness by Faith as a Promise Rather than a Law

18For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but **God** has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

19Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

God Did Not Need a Mediator in order to Institute a Promise

20Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas **God** is only one.

God Keeps His Promises

21Is the Law then contrary to the promises of **God**? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.

Jesus Deserves Faith

22But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in **Jesus Christ** might be given to those who believe.

23But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.

Christ Justifies Those Who have Faith in Him

24Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to **Christ**, so that we may be justified by faith.

God Makes Those Who have Faith in Christ Jesus His Mature Heirs

25But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

26For you are all sons of **God** through faith in **Christ Jesus**.

27For all of you who were baptized into **Christ** have clothed yourselves with **Christ**.

Christ Jesus Unifies Those Who Have Faith in Him

28There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in **Christ Jesus**.

Christ is the Head of All Heirs According to Promise

29And if you belong to **Christ**, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

(Galatians 4)

1Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything,

2but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father.

3So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

God Sent His Son to Mankind; Jesus was Born of a Virgin; Jesus was a Biological Descendent of David

4But when the fullness of the time came, **God** sent forth **His Son**, born of a woman, born under the Law,

Jesus Redeems the Jews, Born Under the Law

5so that **He** might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

God Gives the Spirit of His Son to Those Who have Faith in Christ

The Spirit of God's Son Crys "Abba! Father!"

6Because you are sons, **God** has sent forth the **Spirit of His Son** into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

God Makes Those Who have Faith in Christ Jesus His Mature Heirs (2)

7Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through **God**.

God Can be Known

8However at that time, when you did not know **God**, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.

God Can Have an Intimate Relationship with Those Who have Faith in Christ Jesus

9But now that you have come to know **God**, or rather to be known by **God**, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

10You observe days and months and seasons and years.

11I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.

12I beg of you, brethren, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong;

13but you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time;

God Sends Messengers; Christ Jesus Reveals Himself through His Ministers

14and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of **God**, as **Christ Jesus Himself**.

15Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me.

16So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?

17They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them.

18But it is good always to be eagerly sought in a commendable manner, and not only when I am present with you.

19My children, with whom I am again in labor until **Christ** is formed in you--

20but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

21Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law?

22For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman.

23But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise.

24This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar.

25Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.

26But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother.

27For it is written,

"REJOICE, BARREN WOMAN WHO DOES NOT BEAR;
BREAK FORTH AND SHOUT, YOU WHO ARE NOT IN LABOR;
FOR MORE NUMEROUS ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE DESOLATE
THAN OF THE ONE WHO HAS A HUSBAND."

28And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.

29But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the **Spirit**, so it is now also.

30But what does the Scripture say?

"CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN AND HER SON,
FOR THE SON OF THE BONDWOMAN SHALL NOT BE AN HEIR WITH THE SON OF
THE FREE WOMAN."

31So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.

(Galatians 5)

**Christ Set Free Those who have
Faith in Him so That They
Would Live in Freedom**

1It was for freedom that **Christ** set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

2Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, **Christ** will be of no benefit to you.

3And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.

**Christ is Joined to Those
Under Grace.**

4You have been severed from **Christ**, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

**The Spirit is the Agent of
Righteousness to Those Who
have Faith in Christ Jesus**

5For we through the **Spirit**, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

6For in **Christ Jesus** neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

7You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

God Calls Mankind

8This persuasion did not come from **Him** who calls you.

9A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough.

10I have confidence in you in **the Lord** that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you will bear his judgment, whoever he is.

11But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished.

12I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves.

13For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

14For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

15But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

The Spirit Enables His Followers to Live Righteously (1)

16But I say, walk by the **Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

17For the flesh sets its desire against the **Spirit**, and the **Spirit** against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

The Spirit Operates Differently Than the Law

18But if you are led by the **Spirit**, you are not under the Law.

19Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

20idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

God Rules a Kingdom

The Spirit Produces Love; The Spirit Produces Joy; The Spirit Produces Peace; The Spirit Produces Patience; The Spirit Produces Kindness; The Spirit Produces Goodness; The Spirit Produces Faithfulness; The Spirit Produces Gentleness; The Spirit Produces Self-Control

21envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of **God**.

22But the fruit of the **Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Christ Jesus is the Head of God's Heirs

24Now those who belong to **Christ Jesus** have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

The Spirit Enables His Followers to Live Righteously (2)

25If we live by the **Spirit**, let us also walk by the **Spirit**.

Christ Wants God's Heirs to Bear One Another's Burdens

26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

(Galatians 6)

1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of **Christ**.

3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.

5 For each one will bear his own load.

6 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.

God Judges Individuals
According to Their Deeds

7 Do not be deceived, **God** is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

The Spirit Produces Eternal
Life

8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the **Spirit** will from the **Spirit** reap eternal life.

9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

12 Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of **Christ**.

13 For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.

14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord **Jesus Christ**, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

God Considers Jews Who Live
by Faith in Christ His True
Israel

16 And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of **God**.

17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of **Jesus**.

Jesus is Gracious

18 The grace of our Lord **Jesus Christ** be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.