



GALATIANS

FIGHTING for
the GOSPEL

A Verse-by-Verse Study

Galatians 3: 8 (NIV)

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."

Faith is what
characterizes us as
God's chosen people,
not our bloodline!

Galatians 3: 9 (NIV)

So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.



Turn to:
2 Timothy 1: 8-9

2 Timothy 1: 8-9 (NIV)

So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

2 Timothy 1: 8-9 (NIV)

*He has saved us and called us to a holy life, not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus **before the beginning of time,***



Turn to:
Titus 1: 1-3

Titus 1: 1-3 (NIV)

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness

Titus 1: 1-3 (NIV)

*in the hope of eternal life, which
God, who does not lie, promised
before the beginning of time,*

Titus 1: 1-3 (NIV)

and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior,

Galatians 3: 9 (NIV)

So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Blessed

Greek: eulogeo

- To be honored
- To be lifted up and announced
- To be spoken well of

Galatians 3: 10a (NIV)

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse,

Works

Greek: ergon

- To labor
- To perform hard work
- To toil as those at hard labor or as those under a sentence of death

Galatians 3: 10 (NIV)

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse,

Under

Greek: hupo

- To be placed in an inferior position
- To be brought to a place of submission or control of another

Galatians 3: 10 (NIV)

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”



Turn to:
Deuteronomy 27: 26

Deuteronomy 27: 26 (NIV)

“Cursed is anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out.”

*Then all the people shall say,
“Amen!”*



If the Law produces sin, what does sin produce?



Turn to:
James 1: 13-15

James 1: 13-15 (NIV)

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

James 1: 13-15 (NIV)

but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

James 1: 13-15 (NIV)

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.



We know the Law produces sin which leads to death, so what does death bring?



Turn to:
Hebrews 2: 14-15

Hebrews 2: 14-15 (NIV)

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death that is, the devil

Hebrews 2: 14-15 (NIV)

*and free those who all their lives
were held in slavery by their fear
of death.*



Do we see people today being controlled by their fear of death?



Turn to:
1 Corinthians 15: 56

1 Corinthians 15: 56 (NIV)

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.



Who freed us from the fear of death?



Turn to:
1 Corinthians 15: 56

1 Corinthians 15: 57 (NIV)

*But thanks be to God! He gives us
the victory through our Lord Jesus
Christ.*



Turn to:
John 11: 25-26

John 11: 25-26 (NIV)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Galatians 3: 11 (NIV)

Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.”

Galatians 3: 12 (NIV)

The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.”



Why is the Law not based on faith?

Galatians 3: 13 (NIV)

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 pole.”



What does it mean to be redeemed?

Redeemed

Greek: exagorazó

- A term in the ancient world that was used to purchase a slave out of the slave market.



Turn to:
1 Corinthians 6: 18-20

1 Corinthians 6: 18-20 (NIV)

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

1 Corinthians 6: 18-20 (NIV)

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

1 Corinthians 6: 18-20 (NIV)

You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Galatians 3: 13 (NIV)

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 pole.”



How did Jesus become a
curse for us?



Turn to:
Isaiah 53: 10-11

Isaiah 53: 10-11 (NIV)

*Yet it was the Lord's will to
crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes his life
an offering for sin,*

Isaiah 53: 10-11 (NIV)

he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

Isaiah 53: 10-11 (NIV)

After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.



Turn to:
Hebrews 9: 11-14

Hebrews 9: 11-14 (NIV)

But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation.

Hebrews 9: 11-14 (NIV)

He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9: 11-14 (NIV)

The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.

Hebrews 9: 11-14 (NIV)

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Galatians 3: 13 (NIV)

*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 pole.**”*



Turn to:
Psalm 22: 1-6

Psalm 22: 1-6 (NIV)

*My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?*

*Why are you so far from saving
me, so far from my cries of anguish?*

Psalm 22: 1-6 (NIV)

*My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.*

Psalm 22: 1-6 (NIV)

*In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered
them.*

*To you they cried out and were
saved; in you they trusted and were
not put to shame.*

Psalm 22: 1-6 (NIV)

*But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by
the people.*

Worm

Hebrew: towla`

- This is a reference to a red grub that used to dye fabrics or to stain an object. It is also known as The Scarlet Worm.



The Towla

A grub that lives in the earth, but is born from above!

The Towla

When time comes for it to give birth, it fastens itself to a tree facing east toward the rising sun.



The Towla

As the heat from the sun increases the pregnant grub begins to swell from the heat until it explodes.



The Towla

When the Towla explodes it sends it's young down to the earth where they will reside for their lifetime.



The Towla

When the process is over, the only visible evidence that anything occurred at all is a large red stain on the tree!





Psalm 22: 1-6 (NIV)

*But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by
the people.*

Galatians 3: 13 (NIV)

*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 pole.**”*

Galatians 3: 14 (NIV)

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.

Galatians 3: 15 (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, 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.

Galatians 3: 16 (NIV)

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.

God the Father not only
made a promise to
Abraham, His child.

God the Father also made
a promise to Jesus Christ,
His Son!

Jesus knew His sacrifice
was promised by God to
mankind!

Galatians 3: 17 (NIV)

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.

The Law was given
some four hundred years
after the covenant, and
during all those years
before the Law, God's
promise to Abraham had
been in effect.



Turn to:
Genesis 15: 12-18

Genesis 15: 12-18 (NIV)

As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

Genesis 15: 12-18 (NIV)

Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there.

Genesis 15: 12-18 (NIV)

But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.

Genesis 15: 12-18 (NIV)

In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

Genesis 15: 12-18 (NIV)

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

Genesis 15: 12-18 (NIV)

On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “*To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates*”



What does it mean to pass
between the pieces?

The passing between the pieces of sacrificed animals was a binding oath between the parties making the oath.

By walking between the animals or pieces, those making the oath were accepting that same fate if they broke their end of the bargain.



How did God make an oath with Abram if Abram was asleep?



Turn to:
Hebrews 6: 13

Hebrews 6: 13 (NIV)

When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,

Galatians 3: 17 (NIV)

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.

Galatians 3: 18 (NIV)

For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.



What inheritance is Paul talking about?



Turn to:
1 Peter 1: 3-4

1 Peter 1: 3-4 (NIV)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1: 3-4 (NIV)

and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

Galatians 3: 18 (NIV)

For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.



What point is Paul making here?

Galatians 3: 19a (NIV)

**Why, then, was the law given at
all?**



What is the answer to Paul's question?

Galatians 3: 19b (NIV)

Why, then, was the law given at all?

It was added because of
transgressions



Who does the Law reveal our need of?

Galatians 3: 19 (NIV)

*Why, then, was the law given at all?
It was added because of
transgressions until the Seed to
whom the promise referred had
come. The law was given through
angels and entrusted to a
mediator.*



Who is the Seed?



Who was the fulfillment of
God's promise to Abraham?

Galatians 3: 19 (NIV)

Why, then, was the law given at all?

It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator.