

## LESSON TWO

# PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS - PART TWO

Scriptural Reference: Galatians Chapters 3 thru 6.

### A. PAUL'S GOSPEL EXPLAINED: (Galatians 3 & 4).

#### 1. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH:

Scriptural Reference:

*"The just shall live by faith" (Galatians 3:11).*

Here is the Scripture that God made real to Martin Luther. It is the revelation of "justification by faith" that inspired Luther to take his courageous stand resulting in the Reformation. Luther heard these words spoken while he was ascending Pilate's staircase on his hands and knees. He ran from the scene and began to preach a salvation based solely upon faith in Jesus.

It is quite evident that no man can ever be justified by the law. No man has ever been able to keep the law in every point. If any man could save himself by his own good works, then Calvary was the greatest blunder of all times.

#### 2. OUR SCHOOLMASTER:

Scriptural Reference:

*"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we may be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster" (Galatians 3:24-25).*

Jesus did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it. The law did not fail, but man failed under the law. The law is still as just as ever condemning the sinner.

It is important to understand why the law was given in the first place. Since the fall of Adam, man had been a sinner. The law did not change this, but it did permit man to know that he was a sinner. *"For by the law is the knowledge of sin," (Romans 3:20).*

Before man could be saved, he first had to be condemned and realize his need of salvation. Jesus did not come to condemn, for the law had already done that (John 3:17).

After giving to Moses the moral law, God added the ceremonial law, which consisted of types all pointing to Christ. The law, our schoolmaster, could not save, but did reveal the need of salvation and pointed forward to the One who could save.

#### 3. ABBA, FATHER:

Scriptural Reference:

*"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6).*

Under the law a person could only be a slave, but under grace he may become a son of God.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Our Father;" however, they did not do this until after the Day of Pentecost. The word "Abba" is the Aramaic word for father. It was used three times in Scripture. Jesus used this term in Gethsemane (Mark 14:36) and Paul used it twice (Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6).

"Abba" expressed the first time an infant calls his father by name ("Papa" or "Daddy" might be suitable equivalents) speaks of a loving, tender trust and brings great joy to the heart of the father. "Father," the Greek equivalent, means maturity.

Undoubtedly the newborn babe in Christ cries this when he speaks in tongues as he is baptized with the Holy Ghost.

#### 4. TRAVAILING AGAIN:

Scriptural Reference:

*"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you" (Galatians 4:19).*

This statement of the Apostle Paul proves that a backslider is a lost soul. The church must travail for every soul born into the body of Christ. If the backslider were not lost, there would be no need to travail.

Every experienced gospel minister knows that frequently it takes more travail for a backslider to be delivered than a new convert in the first place.

#### 5. THE ALLEGORY:

Scriptural References: Galatians 4:22-31.

In the latter part of the fourth chapter, the Apostle Paul gave an allegory. The story of Hagar and Sarah with their two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, have a spiritual application. The Bible student should carefully study this allegory. In the allegory, there are two women, two sons, two covenants, two mountains and two cities.

Paul uses this entire story to illustrate the difference between law and grace. Hagar was a slave and the law enslaves.

### B. PAUL'S GOSPEL LIVED: (Galatians 5 & 6).

#### 1. A LITTLE LEAVEN:

Scriptural Reference:

*"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (Galatians 5:9).*

Leaven is yeast used in baking. Apparently in Bible times, it was kept as a lump of dough between bakings.

Jesus warned His disciples against the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 16:6). This was explained to mean the doctrine or teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

The Apostle Paul states that a little wrong doctrine will contaminate the whole body of believers. The student should consider the seriousness of wrong teaching. False doctrine will lead to apostasy which is far more serious than backsliding by falling into an act of sin. It is very difficult to reclaim an apostate.

Also it should be noted that false cults believe a measure of truth; however, it is the false doctrine interwoven through the truth which destroys. It only takes a little false doctrine to contaminate and destroy the whole body.

## 2. GRACE IS NOT A LICENSE:

Scriptural Reference:

*"Ye are fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4).*

We are saved by grace and are kept by the grace of God; however, it is possible to fall from grace. Grace is not a license for sin, but rather the power of God to live above sin.

There are those who teach that because of the grace of God a person may live in sin and still be saved. Here in this verse the Apostle Paul states that it is possible to fall from grace.

In Jude, verse 4, we read of men who turned the grace of God into lasciviousness; however, the grace of God permits one to live above sin, not under the guilt of sin.

## 3. WORKS OF THE FLESH:

Scriptural Reference:

*"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness ... that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21).*

In the fifth chapter, the Apostle Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. There is a constant warfare between the flesh and the Spirit. The only way to victory is to crucify the flesh (verse 24).

It should be noted that the works of the flesh is in the plural and denotes self-effort. The fruit of the Spirit is in the singular and expresses that which is born by the Holy Spirit.

There are seventeen works of the flesh named, but Paul added "and such like." This means that all sin similar to these are included in the works of the flesh.

These may be divided into four groups: impurity, idolatry, hostility and revelry. We shall attempt to define four of them. The meaning of the others is well understood:

- a. Lasciviousness - lustful desires.
- b. Emulations - rivalry.
- c. Sedition - rebellion and divisions.
4. Heresies - wrong teachings that are destructive to true faith.

Paul sums it up with the warning that those who are guilty of these shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

#### 4. FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:

These are nine in number, but there is only one fruit signifying that they are born of one common foot or plant.

This is not the fruit of the child of God, but rather the fruit of the Holy Ghost. The Christian does not bear this fruit, but rather the Spirit bears the fruit in the life of the Christian.

The Holy Spirit bears this fruit as the need arises. For example, during the seasons of distress and sorrow, the Holy Spirit will bear the fruit of joy.

Paul clearly teaches that the secret of victory is living in the Spirit and walking in the Spirit.

#### 5. LAW OF THE HARVEST:

Scriptural Reference:

*"For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).*

Here is expressed the law of the harvest. A person will reap whatsoever he sows. There is no way to change this law. It will hold true throughout a man's life, whether he is sowing to the flesh or whether he is sowing to the Spirit.

#### 6. MARKS OF THE LORD JESUS:

Paul's enemies claimed that Paul was not a genuine apostle. His battered, bruised and scarred body proved that he was.

## LESSON TWO

### SELF HELP TEST

- A. How was the law our schoolmaster bringing us to Christ?
- B. What revelation did Martin Luther receive which brought about the Reformation?
- C. When does the child of God cry out, "Abba, Father?"
- D. Explain clearly the allegory brought out by the story of Hagar and Sarah.
- E. List the SEVENTEEN works of the flesh. Write beside each the dictionary meaning.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
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  - 9.
  - 10.
  - 11.
  - 12.
  - 13.
  - 14.
  - 15.
  - 16.
  - 17.
- F. Why is the fruit of the Spirit in the singular?
- G. Why is wrong doctrine so harmful?