

***“The Curse”***  
***Galatians 3:10-12***

**Introduction:**

1. I Know That It Has Been A Few Weeks Since We Have Been:
  - In The Book Of Galatians:
    - But I Would Like For Us To Head Back Over:
      - To The Place Where We Left Off!
  - Back To Galatians 3!
    - And As We Head Back There:
      - I Want Us To Remember One Of The Main Reasons Paul Is Writing This Letter!
  - Several Years Before He Wrote:
    - To The Churches In The Roman Province Of Galatia:
      - He Visited That Region As Its First Missionary, Along With Barnabas, And Preached The Gospel!
        - You Can Read About Those Adventures In Acts 13-14!
    - But God Greatly Blessed Their Work & His Word:
      - And Many People Were Saved, Of Both Jews & Gentiles, And Churches Were Formed!
    - And Even Though Paul & Barnabas:
      - Both Experienced Great Persecution & Opposition:
        - They Went Back Through Each Of The Major Cities To Establish Those Young Churches In The Faith!
    - Well - Not Long After Paul & Barnabas Left:
      - There Were Certain Jews Who Came Into Those:
        - Newly-Formed Churches:
          - And Tried To Get Them To Conform To The Old Jewish Way Of Thinking & Living!
      - They Tried To Add To The Gospel:
        - Many Of Their Own Traditions & Laws:
          - Which Were No Longer Relevant Because Of The Fulfilling Work Of Jesus Christ On The Cross!
      - But So Many Of The Young Christians In Those Churches:
        - Were Led Astray By Their Error:
          - And Paul Was Gravely Concerned For Their Souls!
      - And So - Paul Wrote This Letter To Those Young Galatian Churches:
        - In Order To Express His Concern:
          - As Well As To Confirm Them In The Truth Of The Gospel Once Again!
            - A Truth He Clearly States In 2:16 - “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified!” - A Key Verse For Galatians!
  - 2. So Now - As We Look Again At Chapter 3:
    - Paul Is Explaining Further:
      - The Necessity & The Nature Of That True Saving Faith!
        - In Fact - As We Learned From 3:6-9:
          - Only Those With A Saving Faith In Jesus Christ Can Even Claim A Relationship With The Great OT Patriarch Abraham:
            - Which The Jews Considered To Be Their Own Exclusive Privilege!
      - But When You Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ:
        - You Share In Some Things With Abraham Himself!
          - You Share His Faith!
            - 3:6 - “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness!”
          - And You Share His Blessing!
            - 3:9 - “So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham!”
      - So Faith Is Essential – Faith In Jesus Christ:
        - And How His Life, Death, Burial, Resurrection & Even Ascension Personally Applies To You!
          - It Is Through Faith Alone:
            - A Person Is Justified!
          - And It Is Through Faith:

- A Person Is Blessed!
- But - As We Will See Even Further This Morning:
  - Faith Is Essential:
    - Because Without It:
      - Instead Of Great Blessing By God:
        - A Person Will Experience The Great Curse Of God Instead!
  - And There Are Many Who Are Under:
    - That Curse!

3. We See This In 3:10-12:

- “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. / But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. / And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them!”
- Now The Curse That Paul Describes Here:
  - Is Not Some Kind Of “VooDoo” Curse:
    - That Is Often Even Joked About In Conversations & Movies & TV Shows!
- No - The Curse Paul Describes Here:
  - Is A Clear Pronouncement Of God’s Judgment:
    - For Sin & Disobedience Against Him!
      - And It Is A Judgment That Is Just & Right!
- And It Is That Curse:
  - That We Will Look At More Closely This Morning:
    - Because There Are Many - So Many - Who Are Under This Curse!

\* First - We See:

1. **The Recipients Of The Curse:**

- 3:10a - “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse!”
  - We See Here:
    - Their Connection – To God’s Curse:
      - Paul Writes - “For As Many As!”
        - There Are Many Who Are Under This Curse!
      - There Are Many:
        - Who Are Under God’s Just Pronouncement Of Judgment For Sin & Disobedience!
    - Their Connection To God’s Curse:
      - Is Not About Race!
        - That Is - It Does Not Matter If A Person Is A Jew Or A Gentile - This Principle Still Applies To Them!
    - And Their Connection To God’s Curse:
      - Is Not Even About Religion!
        - It Does Not Matter What Religion A Person Holds To - This Principle Still Applies To Them!
    - What Connects A Person To God’s Curse Is:
  - Their Confidence:
    - Again Paul Writes In 3:10:
      - “For As Many As Are **Of** The Works Of The Law!”
    - Now This Is A Very Important Phrase:
      - “Of The Works Of The Law!”
        - Because It Is Similar To Another Phrase That We Have Already Seen In Galatians:
          - That Describes True Christians!
    - And That Phrase Is Most Recently Found In 3:7:
      - “Know ye therefore that they which are **of faith**, the same are the children of Abraham!”
        - Christians - Who Share In The Blessing Of Abraham - Are “They Which Are **Of** Faith!”
  - But Those Who Are Under The Curse Of God Are:
    - “**Of** The Works Of The Law!”
      - What Can This Mean?
        - It Is Not Talking About:
          - A Person’s Race - Paul Is Not Talking Just About Jews Here!
        - And It Not Talking About:

- A Specific Religion - The Jewish Religion!
- No - He Is Describing What A Person – What Any Person:
  - Is Relying Upon:
    - In Order To Be Right With God!
      - What A Person’s Confidence Is In!
  - It Can Either Be In Jesus Christ – “Of Faith!”
    - Or It Will Be In Yourself & Your Own Works & Efforts - “Of Works” - In Order To Be Justified Before God!
- How Many People In This World Could This Apply To Today?
  - Just Think About All Of The Different Religions That *Are* Out There:
    - That Focus On What A Person Does Or Does Not Do - In Order To Be Right With Their God?
  - We Even Saw This On Our Vacation:
    - As We Saw Many Ancient Ruins All Throughout Great Britain & Northern Ireland - Many Of Those Ruins Were Abbeys & Monasteries & “Friarys” (Which We Had To Look Up)!
  - How Many People - Even Under The Label Of “Christian” Put Their Confidence In Their Own Works To Merit God’s Pleasure & Their Own Salvation!
- But Even If A Person Has Never Even Heard Of The 10 Commandments - There Are Other “Works Of The Law” That They Attempt To Follow:
  - In Order To Please Their Own God!
    - And This Principle Applies To Them All!
    - And So We See:
- Their Condition:
  - According To 3:10 - They Are All - “Under The Curse!”
    - Under God’s Just Judgment For Their Sin & Disobedience & Rebellion Against God!
  - This Is Similar To What Jesus Himself Said:
    - In John 3:16-19 - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. / For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. / He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. / And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil!”
- There Are Many – So Many:
  - Who Are Today, Right Now - “Under The Curse!”
    - Because They Are Trusting In Their Own Works:
      - In Order To Please Their God!
  - And We Have A Responsibility To:
    - Warn Them - Because Of:

## 2. ***The Reality Of The Curse:***

- Which We See In The Rest Of 3:10 - “For it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them!”
  - Every Year - Surveys Are Taken To Get The:
    - “Spiritual Sense” Of Americans!
  - They Frequently Ask:
    - Do You Believe In God?
      - The Vast Majority Of People Will Say Yes!
    - Do You Believe In Heaven?
      - Many Again Will Say Yes!
    - But When They Ask - Do You Believe In Hell?
      - The Percentage Drops Off Dramatically!
  - Even For Those Who Claim To Be “Christian!”
    - Pew Research:
      - Those Who Believe In Heaven - 85%
      - Those Who Believe In Hell - 70%
    - Why? People Don’t Like To Think Of Judgment / Hell / The Curse!

- But The Curse & Judgment Of God Is Real!
  - It Is Not Something We Made Up, It Is Something That God Himself Has Designed, And Warns Us Of It Over & Over Again In The Scriptures!
- And We See Here That The Curse / Judgment Of God:
  - It Is Certain!
    - Paul Appeals To The Old Testament By Writing:
      - “For It Is Written!”
    - This Is Not Something New:
      - It Is Not Something God Has Been Making Up As Things Go Along!
        - No - It Is Grounded In The Unchanging Word Of God!
    - He Looks Back To The Book Of Deuteronomy:
      - Where In Chapter 27 - God Himself Gives A Great List:
        - Of Blessings - For The Obedience Of The Children Of Israel!
      - But Also A Long List:
        - Of Curses - For Disobedience!
    - And In Verse 27:26 - There Is A Curse / Judgment Given:
      - That Summarizes All Of The Rest:
        - It Says - “Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen!”
    - Paul Appeals Directly To This Long-Standing OT Verse:
      - When He Writes Galatians 3:10!
        - So Every Believer Should Understand The Reality Of God’s Curse & Judgment For Sin & Disobedience!
          - And Seek To Warn Others, Even As God Himself Has Done Over & Over Again!
    - Because There Are Many - So Many:
      - Who Are Under This Curse!
        - We Also See About This Curse That:
  - It Is Comprehensive!
    - Look At The Comprehensive Nature Of This Curse:
      - Cursed Is:
        - **Everyone!**
        - That Continueth Not In **All** Things!
        - To Do Them – **All!**
    - The Problem With Those Who Think:
      - That They Can Please God & Justify Themselves Before God By Their Own Works:
        - Is That They Are Not Perfect!
          - Noone Can Keep All Of The Law Of God Themselves!
    - This Is Clear In Scripture:
      - Romans 3:10-12 - “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: / There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. / They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one!”
      - James 2:10 - “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all!”
    - This Is Clear In Our Own Experience:
      - People Know Of Their Own Failures!
        - And So They Just Hope That Their Good Works Will Obey Their Bad Works!
          - But That’s Not The Way It Works!
  - And Yet How Many People Believe That:
    - This Is The Way It Works!
      - Yet So Many Still Remain Under The Curse Of God & His Law!
        - But We Also See:

### 3. **The Reason For The Curse:**

- In 3:11 - “But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith!”
  - God Pronounces His Curse Of Judgment:
    - Upon Those Who Think They Can Stand Before Him:
      - By Their Own Works:

- Because That Focus Is:
- Contrary To The Gospel!
  - Paul Says That This Is Very Clear:
    - “Evident!”
      - What Is Clear?
  - That - “No Man Is Justified By The Law In The Sight Of God!”
    - No Man Is Justified By:
      - Their Own Efforts & Their Own Works:
        - Even If They Try To Keep God’s Own Law!
  - And The Gospel Is “Good News!”
    - And How Is The Gospel “Good News” If It Just Requires More Of The Same?
      - Which Is Why Back In Chapter 1:6-7, Paul Says: “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another!”
  - But The Focus Of Works-Based Salvation Is Also:
- Contrary To God’s Word!
  - To Prove His Point, Once Again:
    - Paul Appeals To The Authority Of Scripture:
      - “The Just Shall Live By Faith!”
  - By Faith In The One Sent To:
    - Fulfill All Of God’s Requirements:
      - For Us!
  - So That We Can Believe & Rest In:
    - The Fact That “He Hath Made Us Accepted In The Beloved!”
      - In The Lord Jesus Christ! (Ephesians 1:6)
- And Yet - There Are Still Many:
  - So Many - Who Remain Under The Curse:
    - And The Just Judgment Of God!

**Conclusion:**

1. And They Continue To Insist That:
  - Their Way Is The Best Way:
    - To Stand Before Their God!
  - And So - Paul Reminds Them Of Another Truth From Scripture:
    - In 3:12 - That - “The law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them!”
  - A Person That Makes The Focus Of Their Lives:
    - Their Own Works & Their Own Effort:
      - To Stand Before God:
        - Obligates Himself To Keep The Whole Law In Order To Live!
  - And It Has Already Been Proven:
    - That That Is Impossible For A Man To Do!
      - As Paul States Later In 3:22 - “But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe!”
2. Yet There Are Still So Many:
  - Who Persist In Their Own Works-Based Religion!
    - Whether It Is An Organized Religion:
      - Or Their Own Personal Religion Or Irreligion!
  - And So They Remain Under The Curse!
    - But It Doesn’t Have To Stay That Way!
      - Because - As We Will Look More Closely At Next Week:
        - In The Very Next Verse - 3:13 - “Christ Hath Redeemed Us From The Curse Of The Law!”
  - Now That’s Good News!
3. Yet - Let Us Never Forget:
  - How Many Remain:
    - Under God’s Curse!
  - And How Many:
    - We Need To Warn Of God’s Coming Judgment!

- And How Many Need:

- To “Be Justified By The Faith Of Christ!” (2:16)

- And Keep Sharing The True & Pure Gospel Of Jesus Christ!

- With No Addition!

- And With No Subtraction!

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