

Subject: *Redeemed from the Curse of the Law*

Scripture: *Galatians 3:10-14*

This world is under a curse, and every person who is ever born is under this curse. This curse is worse than any plague ever known in history. Looking back at the record, smallpox has killed between 300-500 million people, but there is something worse. HIV/AIDS has killed 36 million people since 1981, but there is something worse. A flu pandemic in 1918 killed 20-50 million people, but there is something worse. The Black Death during the 14th century killed 75-200 million people, but there is something worse. What could be worse than those dreaded diseases? The plague of sin and the curse of God is fatal in every case.

In this powerful text Paul is magnifying Christ and the gospel and he is doing so by showing that Christ is the only hope for those who are under the curse of sin. He does this by stating four things about our salvation:

- 1) All people are under the curse
- 2) Christ redeemed His people from the curse
- 3) Christ became a curse for us
- 4) We are redeemed by faith in Christ alone

1. All people are under the curse

The law here refers to God's moral law, the Ten Commandments. The law is perfect, and holy, and good. The problem is not with God's law. The problem is that we can't keep the law. We are all guilty of breaking God's law.

Romans 3:19-20¹⁹ *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.* ²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Galatians 3:10 is a quote from ***Deuteronomy 27:26*** *Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.*

The law doesn't save. It curses. To avoid the curse, a person would have to keep every commandment every moment of every day.

Galatians 3:12 is a quote from ***Leviticus 18:5*** *Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.* Nobody was ever saved by keeping the law, because nobody can ever fully keep the law.

All people are under the law and all have broken God's law, and therefore all are under a curse. It's like the links in a chain. If you break one link, the whole chain is broken. It's like a window. If you break part of the window, the whole window is broken. ***James 2:10*** *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

It is a universal curse. All people are under it.

It is a righteous curse. God is a righteous judge and this is the penalty for breaking His law.

It is a dreadful curse. The consequences of the curse are terrible (physical death, spiritual death, and eternal death).

It is a present curse. We are condemned already. We are on death row awaiting execution. All this is bad news, but the bad news is what makes the good news such good news.

2. Christ redeemed His people from the curse

Paul reminds us of what Jesus did (He redeemed us from the curse of the law), how He did it (He became a curse for us on the cross), and why He did it (He did it to fulfill the promise God gave to Abraham). The problem is that we have all broken God's law and we cannot redeem ourselves. We are like condemned criminals sitting on death row, and the only hope we have is for someone to get us off the hook. That someone is Jesus.

To redeem means to set someone free from bondage. It was used to speak of buying a slave out of slave market or buying a debtor out of debtor prison, a place where people was kept for not paying their debts. To redeem means to pay a price (a ransom) to set someone free. The person who paid the price was known as the redeemer and the person set free was redeemed. The redeemer had to be able AND willing to redeem someone. Christ was both able to redeem and willing to redeem sinners from the curse of the law. This was at the heart of God's plan in sending Him to earth.

Galatians 4:4-5 ⁴ *But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,* ⁵ *To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

When Christ redeems, it is an instantaneous redemption. ***Romans 8:1*** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

It is a complete redemption. The sin debt is paid in full. ***John 19:30*** *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished.*

3. Christ became a curse for us

Galatians 3:13-14 is a quote from ***Deuteronomy 21:23*** *His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.* Do you know why Jesus had to die on a cross? He died on the cross which came from a tree. Anyone left to die on a tree was under God's curse.

The curse of sin and breaking God's law could not be taken away by anyone but Christ. He first kept the law perfectly and fulfilled its every demand. He completely and perfectly obeyed the law in act and attitude, but that alone could not take away the curse from us. He took the curse that was upon us and suffered the punishment in our place.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.* God poured out His wrath on Christ and treated Him as if He were the sinner.

4. We are redeemed by faith in Christ alone

We trust in what Christ did for us and we receive the blessings of redemption. This is the same way that Abraham was saved and all others are saved.

Genesis 15:6 *And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*

We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

By grace Christ took our sin and guilt and bore the curse in our place.
By faith we trust in Christ and what He did for us.

How can we know for sure if we truly have faith in Christ?

Were you ever convicted in your conscience as a law-breaker?

Have you ever sensed God's peace in your soul because you have been set free?

Spurgeon gave this illustration: "If a man had been a galley-slave, chained to an oar for many years, and if he was set free, do you not think that he would know whether he was free or not?"

Spurgeon closed his message with the words of an old farmer who had been saved and had this testimony: "The old enemy has been troubling me very much lately; but I told him that he must not say anything to me about my sins, he must go to my Master, for I had transferred the whole concern to him, bad debts and all."

That's what it means to believe in Jesus...it is giving up our sins and our guilt to Him, and taking all that Christ has to ourselves. It is changing places with Him, changing our shame for His glory, our sins for His righteousness, our rags for His robe, and our hell for His heaven.

Song – "Once for All"