Galatians

1 Paul, an apostle—not from human beings or
through a man, but through Jesus Christ and
God the Father, who raised him from the dead—
2 and all the brothers and sisters with me, to
the churches of Galatia:
3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father
and our Lord Jesus Christ,
4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us
from the present evil age, according to the will
of our God and Father,
5 to whom be the glory forever and ever.
Amen.
6 I am astonished that you are so quickly
deserting the one who called you by the grace of
Christ, turning to a different gospel,
7 which is not another gospel at all. There are
some who trouble you and want to distort the
gospel of Christ.
8 But even if we or an angel from heaven
should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to the
one we proclaimed to you, let him be accursed.
9 As we have said before, I now say again: if
anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to the
one you received, let him be accursed.
10 For am I now seeking the approval of
people or of God? Or am I trying to please
people? If I were still pleasing people, I would
not be a slave of Christ.

11 For I want you to know, brothers and
sisters, that the gospel I proclaimed is not of
human origin.
12 I did not receive it from a human being, nor
was I taught it, but it came through a revelation
of Jesus Christ.

13 For you have heard of my former way of life
in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God
beyond measure and tried to destroy it.
14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of
my own age among my people, being far more
zealous for the traditions of my fathers.
15 But when the one who set me apart from
my mother's womb and called me by his grace
was pleased
16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might
proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not
immediately consult flesh and blood,
17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who
were apostles before me. Instead, I went away
to Arabia and returned again to Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to
Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas
and stayed with him fifteen days.
19 I saw none of the other apostles except
James, the Lord's brother.
20 As for what I am writing to you, I declare
before God that I am not lying.
21 Then I went to the regions of Syria and
Cilicia.
22 I was still unknown by sight to the churches
of Judea that are in Christ.

23 They only kept hearing, “The one who once
persecuted us is now proclaiming the faith he
once tried to destroy.”
24 And they glorified God because of me.

2

1 Then after fourteen years I went up to
Jerusalem again with Barnabas, taking Titus
along as well.
2 I went up because of a revelation and set
before them the gospel I proclaim among the
Gentiles, privately before those held in esteem,
to make sure I was not running or had not run
in vain.
3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not
compelled to be circumcised, though he was a
Greek.
4 This arose because of false brothers secretly
brought in, who slipped in to spy on the freedom
we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might
enslave us.
5 We did not yield in submission to them even
for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel
might remain with you.
6 As for those held to be something—whatever
they were makes no difference to me; God
shows no partiality—those held in esteem added
nothing to me.
7 On the contrary, they saw that I had been
entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised,
just as Peter had been for the circumcised,

8 for the one who worked through Peter in his
apostleship to the circumcised also worked
through me for the Gentiles.
9 When James, Cephas, and John, who were
regarded as pillars, recognized the grace given
to me, they gave Barnabas and me the right
hand of fellowship, so that we would go to the
Gentiles and they to the circumcised.
10 They asked only that we remember the
poor, the very thing I was also eager to do.
11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I
opposed him to his face, because he stood
condemned.
12 For before some men came from James, he
used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they
came, he began to draw back and separate
himself, fearing those of the circumcision.
13 The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy,
so that even Barnabas was carried away by their
hypocrisy.
14 But when I saw that they were not walking
straight according to the truth of the gospel, I
said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a
Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how
can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?
15 We are Jews by birth and not sinners from
among the Gentiles;
16 yet we know that a person is not justified by
works of the law, but through faith in Jesus
Christ. We too have believed in Christ Jesus, so
that we might be justified by faith in Christ and
not by works of the law, because by works of the
law no flesh will be justified.

17 But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ,
we ourselves were also found to be sinners, is
Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not!
18 For if I rebuild what I tore down, I show
myself to be a transgressor.
19 For through the law I died to the law, so that
I might live for God. I have been crucified with
Christ;
20 it is no longer I who live, but Christ who
lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh I live
by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and
gave himself for me.
21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if
righteousness comes through the law, then
Christ died for nothing."

3

1 Foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you,
before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly
portrayed as crucified?
2 I want to learn only this from you: did you
receive the Spirit by works of the law or by
hearing with faith?
3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the
Spirit, are you now being brought to completion
by the flesh?
4 Did you suffer so much in vain—if indeed it
was in vain?
5 So does the one who supplies you with the
Spirit and works miracles among you do so by
works of the law or by hearing with faith?
6 In the same way, Abraham "believed God,
and it was counted to him as righteousness."

7 Know, then, that those who are of faith are
sons of Abraham.
8 And Scripture, foreseeing that God justifies
the Gentiles by faith, proclaimed the gospel
beforehand to Abraham: “All the nations will be
blessed in you.”
9 So those who are of faith are blessed with
Abraham, the man of faith.
10 For all who rely on works of the law are
under a curse, for it is written, “Cursed is
everyone who does not continue in all the things
written in the book of the law, to do them.”
11 Now it is clear that no one is justified before
God by the law, because “The righteous will live
by faith.”
12 But the law is not based on faith; rather,
“The one who does these things will live by
them.”
13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the
law by becoming a curse for us, because it is
written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a
tree,”
14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of
Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we
might receive the promise of the Spirit through
faith.
15 Brothers and sisters, I speak in human
terms: even a human covenant, once ratified, is
not set aside or added to by anyone.
16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham
and to his seed. It does not say, “And to seeds,” as
referring to many, but as referring to one, “And
to your seed,” who is Christ.
17 This is what I mean: the law, which came

430 years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.

18 For if the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from a promise. But God graciously gave it to Abraham through a promise.

19 Why, then, the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the seed to whom the promise had been made should come, and it was ordained through angels by the hand of a mediator.

20 Now a mediator is not for one party alone, but God is one.

21 Is the law, then, against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, righteousness would indeed come from the law.

22 But Scripture confined everything under sin, so that the promise through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

23 Before faith came, we were held in custody under the law, confined until the faith that was to be revealed.

24 So the law became our guardian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.

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

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

27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is no Jew or Greek, no slave or free;

there is no male and female, for you are all one
in Christ Jesus.
29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are
Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

4

1 What I mean is this: as long as the heir is a
minor, he differs in no way from a slave, though
he is owner of everything.
2 He is under guardians and managers until
the time appointed by his father.
3 So also we, when we were minors, were
enslaved under the elements of the world.
4 But when the fullness of time came, God sent
forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the
law,
5 to redeem those under the law, so that we
might receive adoption as sons.
6 And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit
of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba, Father!”
7 So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if
a son, then also an heir through God.
8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you
were slaves to those that by nature are not gods.
9 But now that you know God, or rather are
known by God, how can you turn back again to
the weak and poor elements, to which you want
to be enslaved all over again?
10 You carefully observe days and months and
seasons and years.
11 I fear for you, that I may have labored for
you in vain.

12 Become as I am, for I too became as you are.
I beg you, brothers and sisters. You did me no
wrong.
13 You know that it was because of bodily
weakness that I first proclaimed the gospel to
you.
14 Though my physical condition was a trial to
you, you did not despise or reject me. Instead,
you received me as an angel of God, as Christ
Jesus.
15 Where, then, is your sense of blessing? For I
testify that, if possible, you would have torn out
your eyes and given them to me.
16 Have I then become your enemy by telling
you the truth?
17 They show great interest in you, but not for
good. They want to shut you out, so that you will
show great interest in them.
18 It is good to be sought after for a good
purpose at all times, and not only when I am
present with you.
19 My children, for whom I am again in the
pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,
20 I wish I could be present with you now and
change my tone, because I am perplexed about
you.

21 Tell me, you who want to be under the law,
do you not listen to the law?
22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons,
one by the slave woman and one by the free
woman.
23 But the one by the slave woman was born
according to the flesh, while the one by the free

woman was born through a promise.
24 These things have an allegorical meaning,
for these women are two covenants. One is from
Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; this is
Hagar.
25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and
corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is
in slavery with her children.
26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is
our mother.
27 For it is written,
“Rejoice, barren woman who does not bear
children;
break out and cry aloud, you who are not in
labor, because the children of the desolate
woman are more numerous than those of
the woman who has a husband.”
28 Now you, brothers and sisters, are children
of promise, like Isaac.
29 But just as then the one born according to
the flesh persecuted the one born according to
the Spirit, so it is now.
30 But what does Scripture say? “Cast out the
slave woman and her son, for the son of the
slave woman will never inherit with the son of
the free woman.”
31 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not
children of the slave woman but of the free
woman.

5

1 For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand
firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of
slavery.

2 Look, I, Paul, tell you that if you let
yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no
benefit to you.
3 I testify again to every man who lets himself
be circumcised that he is obligated to keep the
whole law.
4 You who seek to be justified by the law have
been severed from Christ; you have fallen from
grace.
5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly
await the righteousness we hope for.
6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor
uncircumcision has any power, but faith
working through love.
7 You were running well. Who hindered you
from obeying the truth?
8 This persuasion does not come from the one
who calls you.
9 A little leaven leavens the whole batch of
dough.
10 I am confident in the Lord that you will take
no other view. But the one troubling you will
bear the judgment, whoever he may be.
11 But I, brothers and sisters, if I still proclaim
circumcision, why am I still persecuted? In that
case, the stumbling block of the cross has been
removed.
12 I wish those who unsettle you would even
castrate themselves!
13 For you were called to freedom, brothers
and sisters. Only do not use your freedom as an
opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve
one another.

14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one saying:
“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
15 But if you bite and devour one another, take
care that you are not consumed by one another.

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will
certainly not fulfill the desire of the flesh.
17 For the flesh desires what is against the
Spirit, and the Spirit what is against the flesh.
These oppose one another, so that you do not do
whatever you want.
18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not
under the law.
19 Now the works of the flesh are evident:
sexual immorality, impurity, sensual excess,
20 idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, strife, jealousy,
outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, divisions,
factions,
21 envy, drunkenness, revelry, and things like
these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that
those who practice such things will not inherit
the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, and self-control. Against such
things there is no law.
24 Those who belong to Christ have crucified
the flesh with its passions and desires.
25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in
step with the Spirit.
26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one
another, envying one another.

6

1 Brothers and sisters, even if someone is
caught in a trespass, you who are spiritual
should restore that person in a spirit of
gentleness. Watch yourself, so that you too are
not tempted.
2 Carry one another's burdens, and in this way
you will fulfill the law of Christ.
3 For if anyone thinks he is something when
he is nothing, he deceives himself.
4 Let each examine his own work, and then his
reason for boasting will be in himself alone and
not in someone else,
5 for each will carry his own load.

6 Let the one who is taught the word share all
good things with the one who teaches.
7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked. For
whatever a person sows, that he will also reap.
8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will
reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who
sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the
Spirit.
9 Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at
the proper time we will reap, if we do not give
up.
10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us
do good to everyone, especially to those of the
household of faith.

11 See what large letters I am writing to you
with my own hand.
12 Those who want to make a good showing in
the flesh compel you to be circumcised, only so

that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.
13 For even those who have themselves circumcised do not keep the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.
14 But far be it from me to 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 circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation.
16 Peace and mercy be upon all who will walk by this rule, and upon the Israel of God.
17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear the marks of Jesus in my body.
18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

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