

Galatians

¹ Paul, an apostle, not from men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead, ²and all the brothers with me, to the congregations of Galatia: ³grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴He gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us out of this present wicked world, according to the will of God our Father, ⁵to whom is the glory forever and forever. Amen.

⁶I am surprised that you are so soon forsaking the one who called you by Christ's grace, and turning to a different gospel. ⁷It is not another, though certain ones are disturbing you, and wishing to distort Christ's gospel. ⁸But if we or a heavenly angel should proclaim a gospel contrary to the gospel which we proclaimed, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have previously said, now I repeat: if anyone proclaims a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

¹⁰Do I seek the approval of men or God? Or do I seek to please men? If I were yet pleasing men, I would not be Christ's slave. ¹¹I make known to you, brothers, that the gospel which has been proclaimed by me is not through man. ¹²I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³You have heard of my previous manner of life in Judaism, that beyond measure I persecuted the called-out people of God, and I was trying to destroy them. ¹⁴I was advancing in Judaism more than many contemporaries among my people, since I was more intensely zealous for the traditions of the fathers.

¹⁵But when God (who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace) ¹⁶was pleased to reveal his Son in me (that I should preach him among the, Gentiles), I did not go immediately to flesh and blood for advice; ¹⁷neither did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia and returned

again to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹I saw no other apostle, but I did see James (the Lord's brother). ²⁰Behold! In the sight of God, I am not lying in the things which I am writing to you.

²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, ²²but I was unknown by face to the Judean congregations in Christ. ²³They were only hearing, "He who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith which he once was trying to destroy," ²⁴and they were praising God in me.

2 Then after fourteen years, I again went up to Jerusalem with Barnabas also taking Titus along. ²I went up by revelation, and placed before them the gospel which I am preaching among the Gentiles, but privately to those of reputation, for fear I am running or had run in vain. ³But not even Titus who was with me was required to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. ⁴However, false brothers slipped in to spy on our liberty in Christ Jesus, that they might enslave us; ⁵but we did not submit to them even momentarily, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

⁶Those who were renowned (whatever they were does not matter to me, for God does not accept a man because of his reputation) contributed nothing to me. ⁷On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel of the uncircumcision, as Peter with the gospel of the circumcision ⁸(for he who made Peter an apostle of the circumcision, also made me an apostle for the Gentiles), ⁹and when they recognized the grace which had been given to me, James and Cephas and John (who seemed to be pillars) extended to Barnabas and me the right hands of fellowship, that we might go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcision; ¹⁰only, that we should remember the poor, which very thing I was also eager to do.

¹¹However, when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to the

face, because he stood condemned. ¹²Before certain ones came from James, he had been eating with the Gentiles, but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those of the circumcision. ¹³And the rest of the Jews acted insincerely along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray in their hypocrisy.

¹⁴But when I saw they were not walking uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of everyone, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles, and not in the manner of Jews, why do you compel the Gentiles to live in the manner of Jews?"

¹⁵We are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles; ¹⁶and we know that a man is not made right by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. And we ourselves have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be made right by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law, because no flesh will be made right by the works of the law. ¹⁷And if we ourselves also were found sinners while we were seeking to be made right in Christ, is Christ then a servant of sin? No, indeed!

¹⁸If I build again things which I destroyed, I demonstrate that I am a wrongdoer. ¹⁹Through the law I died to the law, that I might be alive to God. I have been crucified with Christ, ²⁰and it is no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me. Now the life which I live in the flesh is in trusting the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not set aside God's grace, for if righteousness is through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

3 Foolish Galatians, before whose eyes Jesus Christ has been openly crucified, who has deceived you? ²I want to learn only this from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the message of faith? ³Are you so foolish? Since you began in the Spirit, will you now be made complete in the flesh? ⁴Have you suffered so many things for nothing? (If indeed it is for nothing.) ⁵Therefore, he who supplies to you the Spirit, and works miracles among you, is it by the works of the law, or by the message of faith?

⁶Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." ⁷Therefore know that those who are of faith are Abraham's children. ⁸The scripture, seeing in advance that God would justify the nations by faith, proclaimed the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the nations will be blessed in you." ⁹So they who are of faith are blessed with the faithful Abraham.

¹⁰Those who are of the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things written in the book of the law, to do them." ¹¹Now it is clear that no one is justified with God by the law, because "The righteous shall live by faith." ¹²However, the law is not of faith, but "He who does them will live by them." ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, becoming a curse in our behalf, because it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree," ¹⁴in order that Abraham's blessing may be to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, and in order that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through the faith.

¹⁵Brothers, I am speaking from a human standpoint: though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been confirmed, no one annuls it or adds to it. ¹⁶The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He did not say, "and to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "and to your seed," who is Christ. ¹⁷And I say this: the law, which came after four hundred and thirty years, did not cancel the covenant which had been confirmed in advance by God, to the nullifying of the promise. ¹⁸If the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of the promise; but God has given it to Abraham through the promise.

¹⁹What therefore is the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the seed should come who had been promised, and it was ordained through angels by the hand of a mediator. ²⁰Now a mediator is not of one, but God is one. ²¹Is the law therefore contrary to God's promises? No indeed! If a law had been given which could make alive, righteousness would truly have been by law. ²²But the scripture imprisoned all things under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus

Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³Now before faith came, we were held under custody by the law, imprisoned until the coming of the faith about to be revealed. ²⁴The law therefore became our guide to Christ, so that we might be justified by faith; ²⁵but since the faith has come, we are no longer under a guide.

²⁶All of you are God's children through the faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷for as many of you as were immersed into Christ clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is not male and female, for you are all united in Christ Jesus; ²⁹and if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

4 And I say, so long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, though he is master of all; ²but he is under guardians and stewards until the time set by his father. ³Likewise, when we were children, we were enslaved under worldly principles; ⁴but when the fullness of time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem the ones under the law, that we might receive sonship. ⁶Because you are sons, God has sent his Son's Spirit into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father." ⁷You therefore are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then also an heir through God.

⁸But then indeed when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those who by nature are not gods. ⁹And now, since you have known God (rather, have come to be known by God), how is it that you are turning back again to the weak and impoverished principles, to which again you wish to be enslaved? ¹⁰You are observing days and months and seasons and years. ¹¹I am afraid that I may have labored for you in vain.

¹²Brothers, I beg you to become as I am, that I also may become as you. You have not wronged me in anything; ¹³and you know that because of a bodily ailment I proclaimed the gospel to you the first time. ¹⁴You did not despise, neither did you disdain, what to you was a trial in

my flesh, but you received me as God's angel, even as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Where, then, is your blessing? I testify to you that, if possible, you would have dug out your eyes to give them to me.

¹⁶Have I therefore become your enemy by dealing truthfully with you? ¹⁷They are not seeking you in any good way, but they want to exclude you, so that you might seek them. ¹⁸It is always desirable to be sought in a good way, and not only when I am with you. ¹⁹My children, whose birth pains I am suffering, until Christ is formed in you! ²⁰I could almost wish to be with you now, and to change my voice, because I am in doubt about you.

²¹Tell me, those who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²²It is written that Abraham had two sons: one by the servant-girl, and one by the free woman. ²³The one of the servant-girl was indeed born according to flesh; and the other of the free woman was born of promise.

²⁴These things are an allegory, for these women are two covenants, one from mount Sinai, bearing children into slavery, which is Hagar. ²⁵This Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and she corresponds to the Jerusalem which now is, for she is enslaved with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem which is above is free, which is our mother, ²⁷for it is written,

Be glad, barren one who is not bearing; break forth and cry, the one not having birth pains, because the children of the desolate one are many more than of the one who has a husband.

²⁸And you brothers, as Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹But as the one who was born according to the flesh was then persecuting the one born according to the Spirit, so it is now. ³⁰Nevertheless, what does the scripture say?

Cast out the servant-girl and her son, for the son of the servant-girl shall by no means inherit with the son of the free woman.

³¹Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the servant-girl, but of the free woman.

5 Christ liberated us for freedom. Therefore stand, and do not again be loaded down with a yoke of slavery. ²Behold! I, Paul, assure you, that if you are circumcised, Christ will not profit you at all. ³I testify again to every man being circumcised, that he is a debtor to keep all the law. ⁴You have been cut off from Christ, you who want to be made right by the law, you have fallen from grace. ⁵By the Spirit we await through faith the hope of righteousness, ⁶for in Christ Jesus neither circumcision has any merit, nor uncircumcision, but faith working through love.

⁷You were running well; who hindered you, that you should not obey the truth? ⁸This persuasion is not from the One who is calling you. ⁹A little leaven leavens the whole batch of dough. ¹⁰I have confidence in you in the Lord, that you will think no other way. The one who is troubling you will bear his judgment, whoever he may be. ¹¹And I, brothers, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? Then the cross has ceased to be an obstacle. ¹²I wish that the ones troubling you would cut themselves off.

¹³Brothers, you were called for freedom; only do not exercise your freedom for fleshly indulgence, but be enslaved to one another through love. ¹⁴The whole law is fulfilled in one statement: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, be careful not to be consumed by one another.

¹⁶And I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷The flesh rises in protest against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸If you are being led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹The works of the flesh are well known, which are: fornication, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, strife, jealousy,

wraths, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, ²¹envies, instances of drunkenness, revelries, and such like; of which things I tell you beforehand, even as I told you previously, that those who practice such things shall not inherit God's kingdom.

²²Now the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, ²³gentleness, self-control. There is no law against such as these. ²⁴And they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become boasters, provoking one another, envying one another.

6 Brothers, if a man is overtaken in a fault, you who are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness, watching yourselves, lest you also be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill Christ's law. ³If anyone, being nothing, thinks he is something, he is deceiving himself. ⁴Let each one prove his own work, and then he will have a reason for boasting only on his own account, and not in the other, ⁵for each one will bear his own load.

⁶Let the one who is being taught in the message share with the one who teaches in all good things. ⁷Be not deceived: God is not mocked, for a man shall reap whatever he sows. ⁸He who sows to his flesh shall reap ruin from the flesh; and he who sows to the Spirit shall reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹Let us not tire in doing what is good, for we will reap in due season, if we do not become weary. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have an opportunity, let us do what is good to everyone, especially to those who belong to the household of the faith.

¹¹Notice how large are the letters I have written with my hand.

¹²As many as want to make a good showing in the flesh, these force you to be circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted because of the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the ones being circumcised themselves are not themselves keeping the law, but they want you to be circumcised, in order that they may boast in your flesh.

¹⁴May I not boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶As many as will walk by this standard, peace be upon them, and mercy, and on the Israel of God.

¹⁷In the future, let no one trouble me, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. ¹⁸May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.