



## World Christian Fellowship

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### Galatians

#### Lesson 33- Son of God & Son of Abraham

**Galatians 3:23-29**, *But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

*<sup>26</sup>For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

The greatness of our salvation the greatness of the blessing, the greatness of the goodness procured by the Lord Jesus on the cross and His resurrection.

This is not anything temporal related to time,  
No way related to earthly and to this world,  
Lord Jesus Christ death is both eternal and heavenly.

Jesus did not give Himself on the cross in death to save us from,

- sickness,
- sadness,
- loneliness,
- loss,
- lack of purpose,
- poverty, and
- trouble,

but to save us from everlasting hell.

God's most wondrous and necessary work that He prepare a way for sinners to be rescued from eternal hell and brought into Eternal Heaven. Therein lies God's greatest work!

- ✓ God sent many prophets to announce and promise salvation.
- ✓ God designed many ceremonies to illustrate salvation.
- ✓ God established a priestly service to provide the sacrifices and offerings that portrayed salvation.
- ✓ God worked many great acts of providence to prepare the way for the Redeemer, the Saviour.
- ✓ God inspired Scripture that told of the Saviour's coming and His purpose in coming.
- ✓ God designed every book of the Bible in some way to carry on the redemptive story.
- ✓ God designed the gospel.
- ✓ God designed everything including the incarnation, the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Lord Jesus Christ.

- ✓ God called the apostles and gifted them to preach the glories of the gospel.
- ✓ God empowered Apostles and other preachers by the Holy Spirit to spread the gospel across the world.
- ✓ God made all His works of creation, all His providence, all His miraculous works, and all His natural works subordinate to the work of redemption.
- ✓ God created heaven as a dwelling place for the redeemed.
- ✓ God created angels to serve the purpose of salvation, ministering both to the Saviour and the saved.
- ✓ God designed and conducts the whole history of the world from the beginning to the end to serve the plan of saving sinners from hell and bringing them to heaven.

**Hebrews 2:3**, *“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?”*

- If the misery of hell is not very great,
- if hell is no great thing to be saved from,
- if the joy of heaven is not very great,

then those ends would not correspond to the means that God ordained to bring them about.

Hell is misery forever, and heaven is joy forever!

**How do sinners receive such a great salvation?**

How has God designed for us to escape hell and to enter heaven?

False religion, and false gospels, say that, it's a matter of believing and doing good things, doing moral things. Being a good person, being religious, going to church, attending the sacraments. It's a matter of faith and works.

Romans Catholic church of Trent Council resolved 9 major themes in their doctrines. This number 5.

**“Protestants claimed that the only source and norm for the Christian faith was Holy Scripture (the canonical Bible without the Apocrypha). The doctrine of Sola Scriptura was rejected at Trent. The Council affirmed two sources of special revelation: Holy Scripture (e.g., all the books included in the Latin Vulgate version) and traditions of the church (including the “unwritten traditions”).**

The Roman Catholic Church at the Council of Trent, says, “If anyone says salvation is by faith alone, let him be damned.”

The Bible says, that we receive this gift by faith alone!

It was our Lord whose life is the subject of John's gospel.

**John 1:12**, *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*

It's about believing in His name.

**John 3:16**, *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.”*

Romans chapter 3, unmistakably consistent with the words of the gospel of John.

**Romans 3:21**, *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,*

**Romans 3:25**, *whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,*

**Romans 3:26**, *to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

**Romans 3:28**, *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**, *“For by grace are you saved through faith; not of yourselves, it is a gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

**Acts 16:31**, *So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*

The question is posed, **“How can I be saved?”**  
“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ,” says Paul.

This is the Christian gospel.

Reformation: salvation by faith alone; sola fide. Not faith and works but faith alone.

### **Why does Paul do that?**

There were many churches that he had planted in the region of Galatia, the gospel was preached, and people had come to faith, and these churches were moving on in the truth. Some Jews came from Jerusalem who claimed to be believers in Christ, and they came into the Galatian churches, and they told the believers that their salvation was not valid because it required more than faith, it required works. Namely circumcision according to the Mosaic law, and adherence to the Mosaic law, so that salvation was by faith and works. Both were necessary.

Paul identified this as a false gospel!

**Galatians 1:6**, *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,*

If you believe in the false Gospel, you are cursed.

If you preach the false Gospel, you are triple cursed.

**Galatians 3:11**, *But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”*

Paul quotes **Habakkuk 2:4**, *'The righteous man shall live by faith.'*"

**Verses 23-24 shows what the law did to us.**

**Verses 25-29 shows what faith did for us.**

Paul gave law two images:

1. Prison
2. Tutor.

It is prison and bondage.

It is a tutor and severe discipline.

## **1. Prison**

**V23**, *But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.*

*"Before faith came"*

Paul means not just historically when Christ came, he personifies faith in the person of Christ and the gospel of Christ.

Paul says as we by saying this he also personally includes himself and the other believers.

The Jews were imprisoned by the law and for the most of them they were never freed from that.

We broke the law because of that we were condemned by it and sentenced to death.

We were kept in custody under the law.

**Romans 6:14**, *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

To be under the law and unable to keep the law is to be under the dominion of sin. We are literally prisoner's captive to the law, sentenced by the law, and headed for execution.

We are spiritually on death row, kept under it and waiting to be sent to our eternal punishment in hell. We are in that condition until faith came.

The Jews were locked up under the law until Messiah came. Paul and even Jewish believers prior to their faith were locked up under the law until personal faith came to them by the Holy Spirit through the gospel.

All Gentile believers were locked up under the law of God. They might not have had the written law of God, but they had the law of God written in their conscience.

**Romans 2:14-15**, *for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,<sup>15</sup> who show the work of the*

*law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)*

Every human being is a prisoner to the law, in bondage to the law of God, waiting on death row for an execution. The only escape is a pardon offered by faith in Jesus Christ.

The Jews thought they were righteous but they were not. This must have been stunning to hear in the ear of the Judaizers.

They were prisoners. Jesus even described them as poor prisoners, blind and oppressed, in the gospel of Luke.

That is the condition of all men before faith comes - bound to the law.

## **2. Teacher**

**V24**, *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith*

The Greek word used here is '**paidaggos**' translated as '*tutor*'

Now what is this "tutor"?

We think of the word teacher, somebody who comes in and does some instruction.

That is not really the word *paidaggos*.  
Teacher is *didaskalos*, different word.

**V25**, *But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

This is a guardian, and particularly was describing a guardian of young boys. This would be usually in the Roman world a slave, a slave who had the responsibility to be the chaperone, to be the personal guardian, to be the mentor. (Like what we used have in our old Tamil culture the *kurukulam*)

He would be assigned to the child to be the guardian, to keep the child from trouble, to keep the child from danger, and to make sure that the child was under control so that he didn't do harmful things.

Typically, a *paidaggos* would be a severe disciplinarian, someone who would discipline the child if he got out of line. The discipline was often very severe, so boys in the Roman world would long for the day when they were old enough to step out from under the *paidaggos*.

The law was a severe disciplinarian. The law was a threatening reality, creating guilt and fear and dread. The law hemmed us in, cut our freedoms off, controlled us, kept watch over us in our childishness.

So, the law does have a distinct place, but its place is as a prison and as a severe guardian. Every young boy would want to be freed from this. Every young boy would be happy when the day came when he was at the point of '*toga virilis*', when he reached an age somewhat like a '*bar mitzvah*' where they would give him his own robe and he would be freed from this *paidaggos*.

**1 Corinthians 4:15**, *For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.*

"You may have ten thousand paidaggos, you only have one Father in Christ."

He distinguishes between him as the spiritual father of the Corinthians and the ten thousand people that might have been in their lives caring for them in one way or another as caretakers. Boys would want the day when they were adults and they were freed from that severe discipline.

**Purpose:**

To lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.

The law doesn't make any contribution to that, it drives us to the point where we say,

How can I be delivered from death and hell?

**How can I be rescued from sin?**

## **Where is my salvation?"**

**Answer:** Gospel!

It is in Christ Jesus, by believing in Him that you are justified, declared righteous.

The Judaizers and the Galatians needed to understand the function of the law.

The law is not to save us, the law is the prison that makes us aware of our captivity and the death sentence that looms over our heads.

The law is a severe disciplinarian that troubles our conscience, that cuts our freedoms down.

Now we come to Christ.

Now that faith has come,

Now that we have heard the gospel to be justified by faith means we are no longer under a tutor, and we are out of prison!

**So, what does it mean to be in Christ?**

**What is the benefit of this salvation?**

First, we are out of prison, and the death sentence is reversed, and we now have the promise of eternal life in heaven.

Secondly, we are free from external bondage, fear, and dread, which is the dominion of the law. Now we have in our hearts a loving eagerness to obey God out of love and gratitude.

We have reached adulthood, we have reached maturity, and we can be trusted now to live. The fruit of conversion draws us into loving God and obeying God from the heart.

**Verses 26-29.**

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

**a) Through faith in Christ Jesus you become a son of God.**

The first result is you become a son of God not just a son of Abraham, but a son of God.

Abraham believed God, and anyone who believes God, has a connection to Abraham.

Paul says to the Galatians that you don't need to add the law, you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

**What more do you want?**

You used to be sons of Satan. So, you were dominated by the devil, imprisoned by the law, and disciplined by your own conscience.

Now you have been set free and you have become sons of God, mature children, no longer prisoners, and it came by faith. No

longer children who obey out of fear and threat, but sons, mature sons who obey out of love and desire.

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

*“You are all sons of God.”*

### **What does it mean to be a son of God?**

**John 1:12**, *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*

When we put our trust in Christ and believe in Him, we have the authority to become sons of God. With that sonship comes authority, with that sonship.

### **What authority?**

We have the right, privilege, to go to God, and speak to Him in very personal, intimate terms.

### **How do you know that?**

**Galatians 4:6-7**, *And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”<sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

### **What are the benefits of being a son?**

You have the authority to go to God.  
You possess the Holy Spirit who's taken up residence in you.  
You have promise of an inheritance.  
You are not a slave, you are a son.  
You are then an heir of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

We have the Holy Spirit living in us, and the Holy Spirit is witnessing to us that we are the children of God.

We have an internal witness of the Spirit.  
We have an external witness of the Spirit in Scripture.  
We have authority and confidence and boldness to go to God and say, "Abba."

That means "papa." That's an Aramaic language, a term of endearment.

No Jew would ever think of saying that to God. No Jew would ever say, "Father," even, let alone, "Abba." "But you as sons of God not only can say, 'Father,' but, 'Abba.'" Those are the words that our Lord Jesus used to speak to His Father.

What more do we need?

We don't need the law.

We are sons of God with all the

- ✓ rights,
- ✓ authority, and
- ✓ privileges.

We possess the Holy Spirit  
We have an inheritance  
We will one day be glorified.

Circumcision adds nothing to that or any other element of the law. We have everything as joint heirs. We are true sons.

**V 27**, *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

Clothed with Christ!

### **What does it mean to be baptized?**

**Romans 6:3-8**, *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup>knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. <sup>7</sup>For he who has died has been freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,*

Paul the apostle is saying, by faith you became sons of God with all the rights and privileges. By faith you have been clothed with Christ, His robes for mine.

Like that young Roman boy who came to the age where he became an adult and was given the robe, '**toga virilis**'.

We have been given the robe of righteousness, righteousness of Christ. We are clothed with Him. We are covered with Him.

That is the imputation of His righteousness to us, and it's by faith. We are sons through faith, and we are clothed with Christ through faith.

Sonship doesn't demand circumcision. The Jews were saying, "You have to be circumcised."

Paul says, "The sonship does not demand circumcision."

**Galatians 5:2**, *Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.*

Sonship does not demand circumcision.

We are united with Jesus Christ and then clothed with Jesus Christ.

**V28**, *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

There is another benefit, we are one with each other.

There are Jews and there are Gentiles, there are slaves and there are free men, there are men and there are women, and God does not intend to erase the distinction.

But what it's saying here is that in Christ, those distinctions are meaningless, because in Christ we are one, whether we be Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female, we are all one in Christ. He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

This is not saying we need to get rid of all the distinctions.

This is not saying that that slaves ought to be all set free, and women ought to be equal to men in all their functions and roles. Not at all.

The Bible is crystal clear: "Slaves, obey your masters. Masters be good to your slaves. Wives submit to your husbands. Husbands, love your wives."

In Christ, we make no distinctions of gender with regard to our mutual love, we make no distinctions of social status, we make no distinctions of ethnicity. That's all alien to the fellowship of Christ.

Any kind of racism, any kind of white supremacy, any kind of anger and hostility toward other people, is part of the world, but not part of the church.

We are known by our love!

We're all one in Christ.

**V 29**, *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

You are the true sons of Abraham.

You are the descendants of Abraham.

Abraham's seed is Christ, you're in Christ who is the one true seed, and therefore you receive the promises that belong to Christ.

This is the greatness of salvation, the greatness of salvation, that God would go to this extent to provide rescue from hell and entrance to heaven.