



World Christian Fellowship

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Galatians

Lesson 28- Curse on One Man

Galatians 3:10-14, *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." ¹² Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them." ¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

"How can God then declare sinful people just?"

How can God do that?

How can God declare sinner as righteous?

How can God impute His own righteousness to them?

How can God be covered by our sin on the cross and we be covered by His righteousness?

Nahum 1:3, *The Lord is slow to get angry, but his power is great, and he never lets the guilty go unpunished. He displays his*

power in the whirlwind and the storm. The billowing clouds are the dust beneath his feet.

'he never lets the guilty go unpunished'

That's a blanket statement without an exception!

All of us are guilty.

All of us are to be punished.

How do we get around that?

Our punishment is severe.

Ephesians 2:1-3, *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*

We were "children of wrath"

We were of our father the devil.

That's the truth about humanity.

The whole world is in the kingdom of darkness. They are all children of the devil, and targets of divine wrath since they are all cursed in that way.

Last lesson we saw that they are not that they are cursed by Satan, but they are cursed by God.

Why?

Because they're part of Satan's kingdom.

So how can God then just leave the guilty unpunished?

God can't.

God will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.

Proverbs 17:15, *"He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous, both of them are alike an abomination to the Lord."*

That's really an amazing statement.

That is precisely what God did.

That is what God has done.

God has justified the wicked, us, and condemned the righteous, Christ.

And yet, Proverbs 17:15 says that is an abomination!

Further, **Proverbs 24:24**, *"He who says to the wicked, 'You are righteous,' people will curse him."*

This puts God in a very serious dilemma.

Is God going to do what He says is an abomination?

Is God going to do something that will cause people to curse Him?

Is God going to justify the wicked and condemn the righteous?

That is exactly what God does. He condemns His Son, the Righteous One, and justifies us, the wicked.

How can God do that and not be Himself unrighteous?

The answer!

2 Corinthians 5:21, *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

The guilty are punished, but a substitute takes the punishment.

God only can justify the ungodly, in the language of Romans, God only can justify the wicked, in the language of Proverbs. God punishes their sins and He has chosen to do that in the Righteous One, Jesus Christ.

This is the glory of the gospel, and this is the second curse!

The first curse the divine curse on all men.

The second curse: the divine curse on one Man.

2. Divine Curse on One Man.

Bad news: The divine curse on all men.

Great news: The divine curse on one Man.

V 13, *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),*

The curse of the Law is the violation of the law of God. But God has redeemed us, bought us back from that curse through Christ who became a curse for us.

This is how God justifies the ungodly!

Christ became "a curse for us."

No sin goes unpunished. But in the grace of God, we are not punished for our sins, but Christ is punished in our place.

- Man's sin has to be punished
- justice has to be satisfied
- God requires it
- But man's spiritual deadness,
- man's spiritual inability,
- man's spiritual unwillingness

Leaves him unable to pay the penalty for his sin without going to hell forever.

So, God has appointed His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to take the place of sinners and receive their punishment.

1 John 2:2, *And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

1 John 4:10, *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

God's justice must be satisfied.

In the death of Christ, justice was satisfied, because divine justice meted out full punishment for all who would ever believe, through all of human history, on Christ.

All the sins that we will ever commit were paid for. He is the propitiation, the satisfaction of divine justice.

Propitiation:

Hebrews 2:17, *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

Romans 3:23-26, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,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,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.

It's a critical word. God's justice must be satisfied.

God can by no means clear the guilty.

God cannot justify the wicked and condemn the righteous, unless the sins of the wicked are paid for in full so that divine justice is satisfied.

1 John 3:16, *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

"Christ laid down His life for us." This is pictured in the Old Testament.

In the book of Exodus, the judgment of God was going to come on Egypt in the plagues.

God sent the word that if the Jewish people would sacrifice a Passover lamb. Take the blood of that lamb and spread it across the door and top of the door and the sides of the door.



The angel of death would come by in that night of slaughtering all the firstborn and pass by the house where the blood was splattered. A Passover lamb had to be killed and the Passover lamb's blood spread to protect Israel from the execution of God's judgment in Egypt.

The same is true of Christ.

1 Corinthians 5:7, *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

Christ is the true Passover Lamb!

- ❖ When His blood is spread over our lives, the judgment of God passes by.
- ❖ As the blood of the Passover lamb protected Israel from the execution of God's judgment in Egypt.

The blood of the slain Lamb protects His people from the wrath of the Father in heaven against their sins.

Christ's death was a sacrifice. It wasn't the death of a sympathetic man who wanted to show that you ought to die for whatever cause you're committed to.

Christ death was the death that God did plan.

Did things go wrong?

No.

It was God who planned it all in every detail.

Isaiah 53 makes very clear, and many other places in the Old Testament that predict the details of His death.

It was God who predetermined this!

Acts 2:23, *Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;*

It was God who predetermined it!

Acts 4:28, *to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.*

It was always the plan of God that every Passover lamb of every Passover and every other sacrificial lamb through the whole sacrificial system in Israel's history **pointed toward the one true Lamb**, who by the offering of Himself once for all would provide a full sacrifice for sin.

Incomprehensible debt was meted out on Christ in the fury of judgment in three hours of darkness on the cross.

This is the reason Jesus came.

Mark 10:45, *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

He came to die for the ungodly.

Nowhere is this more beautifully laid out than in the tenth chapter in the gospel of John. Familiar passage about our Lord as the Good Shepherd. John 10:

While we understand the shepherding aspect of it, the heart of this passage is about His giving His life for the sheep. This is what is emphasized most strongly.

He talks about being the True Shepherd.

John 10:11, *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

Then in **John 10:14-18**, *I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. ¹⁵As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power*

to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

Jesus laying down His life for the sheep.

John 10:27-29, *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. ³⁰I and My Father are one.”*

What is obvious here?

The Lord is the shepherd who has sheep.

- ✓ He knows His sheep,
- ✓ He knows who they are,
- ✓ He gives His life for His sheep,
- ✓ He lays down His life for His sheep,
- ✓ He calls them,
- ✓ Sheep will hear His voice,
- ✓ They will come,
- ✓ They will follow Him,
- ✓ He will keep them,
- ✓ Protect them,
- ✓ Guard them,
- ✓ No one will ever take them out of His hand,
- ✓ He gives them eternal life,
- ✓ They will never perish.

This is the commitment of the great Good Shepherd to His sheep.

Of course, when He died on the cross there were millions of sheep that hadn't even been born yet who belonged to Him! He will gather them to Himself. They will hear His voice. He will rescue them, because He has provided an atonement for them at the cross.

He redeemed us all.

He redeemed His sheep.

Peter seeing Christ as the slain Passover Lamb. He is the One providing the true and final offering.

1 Peter 1:18-19, *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

Isaiah 53:5-6, *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

This is substitutionary sacrifice.

The curse falls on Jesus.

If you want to understand the massive character of this curse that is on all humanity for the violation of God's law?

Sum up in your mind how many times has God's law has been broken!

Incalculable!!

Yet heaven keeps a record. It's all in the books.

But for all believers of all ages, the punishment for all those sins are meted out in divine fury on Christ in the darkness of Calvary.

This is the gospel.

The curse on us falls on Christ.

Now you will understand why Apostle Paul so much against for systems of works?

Because somehow the system of works makes you to assume that the death of Christ was either insufficient or incomplete.

Romans 5:10, *For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

The atonement is an objective atonement.

It is a work accomplished in history by

- ✓ a real person in,
- ✓ a real place on and
- ✓ a real cross.

This is divine plan.

An objective atonement.

- ❖ Not mystical
- ❖ Historical,
- ❖ Final atonement, and
- ❖ Nothing can be added to it.

Hebrews 7:26-28, *For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.*

Hebrews 9:25-28, *not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— ²⁶ He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*

Hebrews 10: 11-14, *And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of*

God, ¹³from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Matthew 1:21, *“for He will save His people from their sins.”*

It will be an efficacious atonement. It is not a potential atonement but a real one.

He really died for the sins of all who would ever believe in Him through human history.

He didn't just potentially pay for your sins.

He actually paid for them, because you belong to Him, because He chose you and wrote your name down before the foundation of the world.

Why does God do this?

What is causing God to be willing to place a curse on His Son?

He made the angels, and when the angels fell, He prepared eternal fire for them.

Never thought about restoring them, recovering them.

When man fell, why does God come together with Christ and say, “We’re going to redeem these fallen people. We’re going to gather a redeemed humanity, bring them to heaven”?

Why does God do this?

Why?

Well, the answers come even back in the Old Testament.

Psalm 106:8, *“He saved them for His namesake, that He might make known His mighty power.”*

He puts salvation power on display that means mercy, grace, compassion, lovingkindness, forgiveness, redemption, substitution – all of that.

Isaiah 48:11, *“For My own sake, for My own sake, I do it; for how shall My name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another. I am all-glorious, and I do this work of salvation to put My name on display.”*

Ezekiel 36:22-29,

Ephesians talks about all that we have in Christ.

We’re blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies.

- Being chosen,
- Predestined,
- Redeemed,
- Forgiven,
- Granted wisdom
- Inheritance,
- Holy Spirit,
- Many more blessings.

Why?

Why does God do this?

Ephesians 1: 12, *“to the praise of His glory.”*

Ephesians 1:14, *“to the praise of His glory.”*

That’s why Jesus in His high priestly prayer in John 17 said

John 17:1 & 5,

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Salvation is God’s design to bring to Himself eternal glory, that is the divine motivation.

V 13, *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),*

Paul reaches back to a text in **Deuteronomy 21:23**,

Deuteronomy 21:23 that reflects on a Jewish tradition.

When somebody was basically a blasphemer, somebody was an abomination to God then the capital punishment is pronounced. When capital punishment was executed against someone like that, they would stone them to death. They didn’t crucify them, they stoned them.

But after they stoned them, it was their habit to tie them to a post, that is the corpse, or to a tree as a visible sign of rejection by God. It was not that a person was cursed because they were tied to a tree. It is that because they were cursed by God, they were tied to a tree.

And here, Paul is saying, “This is Jesus. In a sense, He’s the ultimate fulfilment of that picture. God cursed Him. God killed Him, tied Him to a tree.” This is the curse of God.

You want to know how severe the curse of God is?

It brought all the sins of all who would ever believe on Jesus, and He took the full fury of the punishment, and He was even openly, publicly, blatantly the picture of one cursed by God. The Jews would know that. They would know that somebody tied to a tree was cursed; they knew their Scripture. Jesus was cursed by God.

But there was a purpose on our behalf as well. Not just the glory of God.

V 14, *that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Two purpose: “in order that”

1. Blessings of Abraham
2. We receive the Promise of Spirit.

In Christ Jesus the blessing Abraham might come to the Gentiles.”

Christ died on the cross to provide salvation for the whole world through faith, regardless of whether they knew the law of Moses.

If salvation requires adherence to the law of Moses and circumcision, most of the world can't be saved, because they don't know that.

Christ was cursed so that punishment for sin was completely exhausted; and for all who turned to Christ, there is the blessing of Abraham.

1. What is the blessing of Abraham?

Salvation, righteousness.

Righteousness was reckoned to him, imputed to him, credited to him, accounted to him by faith. That's the blessing of Abraham.

The blessing of Abraham can come on Gentiles, come on all nations, because it's by faith, not by being a part of the Jewish people or the nation Israel, or understanding the Mosaic Laws.

So, salvation is by faith in order that in Christ Jesus where you place your faith, the blessing that came to Abraham could come to the whole world regardless of what they know about Moses and the law.

2. Receive the Promise of Spirit

We would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
Through faith, and faith is the beginning.
Justifying grace brings sanctifying power.
Justifying grace through faith brings sanctifying power through
the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit was promised in the Old Testament and then it was
sent to us after the justification of sinners to be righteous by the
sacrificial death on the Cross.

1 Corinthians 16:22, *“If anyone doesn’t love the Lord Jesus
Christ, let him be cursed.”*

The curse remains if you do not love the Lord Jesus Christ.