



World Christian Fellowship

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Galatians

Lesson 26- Why curse exits?

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.*

V 10, *“Cursed is everyone.”*

Universal statement.

Romans 3:23, *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”*

Very hard statement for a Pastor to say. Modern day we want to hear the pastors say God loves you and God wants to bless you, but Apostle Paul wants to say differently.

Modern day theology has got different meaning to the Gospel. They want to say that,

- ✓ God wants to bless them,
- ✓ God has endless blessings just waiting to be received,
- ✓ God wants to make them happy,
- ✓ God wants to make them healthy,
- ✓ God wants to give you a trouble-free, and successful life,
and
- ✓ God wants to bless their own dreams and desires.

This is what is marketable in 21st Century.

What preachers don't tell people is that all of them are under a curse.

They are not cursed by Satan but cursed by God.

That curse will be realized in eternal punishment and eternal remorse, from which there will be no conscious escape or deliverance. Every human being who has ever lived is born cursed, and it is a curse that is permanent and eternal. That is the truth that we see in verse 10.

This is the hidden truth of Christianity. This is the part of the Bible that preachers don't want to talk about, because it offends people. So, they are unfaithful to leave out the truth that essentially makes the gospel so wonderful.

Cursed is everyone.

What does it mean to be cursed?

The Greek word '*kataran*'.

It is the opposite of '*euloge*', which is to be blessed.

To be cursed is the opposite to be blessed.

- Blessed is to be granted all that is good.
- To be cursed is to be granted all that is bad.

A curse is harm, death, destruction, pain, suffering. To be cursed is to be despised and doomed, devoted to destruction according to the New Testament.

The Old Testament uses three words which has the same meaning.

To be cursed is to be assigned, consigned to harm and destruction and damnation.

Curses:

The Bible has a lot to say about curses.

As we know there are curses evoked.

1. There are curses that men unleash on other men,
2. There are curses to invoke Satan and demons to do harm.
3. People throughout history have invoked such curses by their magic spells.

Curses are a part of the kingdom of darkness.

We can see this in the Old Testament itself.

Number 22:6, *Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."*

Balaam is kind of the king of cursers!

Balaam was a diviner, a sorcerer, a medium who literally transmitted satanic and demonic curses to other people, which brought Satan and demons down on their lives for harm.

Goliath ineffectively cursed David.

Shimei of Saul's house cursed David when he was fleeing from his son Absalom in 2 Samuel 16.

So, curses do exist in the kingdom of darkness and evil men pronounce them on each other.

Please do understand we are not talking about this kind of curses.

We are looking into this verse and going to meditate upon the cursing of God. This curse is pronounced by God on the entire human race.

Jesus said this about that curse.

Matthew 10:28, *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Fear the curse of God and this truth needs to be proclaimed!

Everyone is under a curse what is the meaning of it?

Everyone in this planet earth they are under the curse of God now at present and will be after death throughout eternity.

The implications and results of that curse will escalate into incomprehensible suffering.

How do we know everyone is cursed?

Because everyone dies.

Ezekiel 18:4, 20, *“Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.*

²⁰ *The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.*

Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

V10, *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."*

The book of the law referring to God's Word.

The book of the law mentioned in Joshua.

Joshua 1:8, *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Any violation of the book of the law, the Word of God, brings the curse.

So cursed is everyone, because everyone has broken the law of God.

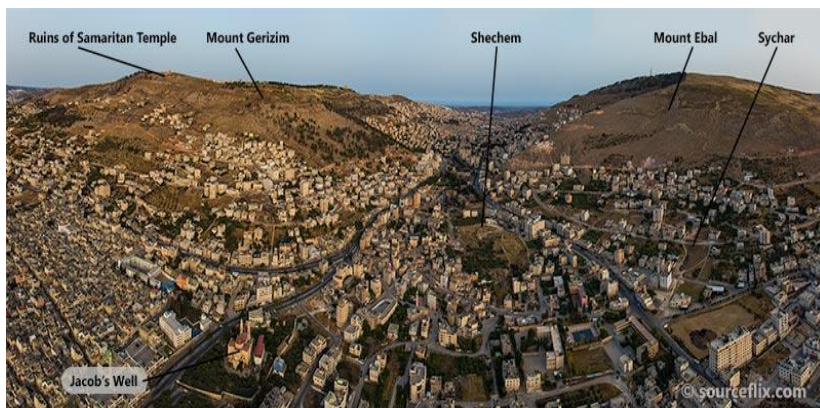
God had explained this in very graphic manner so that we won't forget it.

The children of Israel have come into the Promised Land after they have been delivered from Egypt after 400 years of captivity. They are now in the Promised Land all twelve tribes

are there. They have been assigned to which land they are going to possess in the promised land.

Again, now the Lord, in the book of Deuteronomy, has given them His law, and they are commanded to obey the law of God. So, God designs a ceremony in an area that would be in the New Testament area of Samaria.

There is a town named Shechem, and that town of Shechem sits in a very narrow valley between two mountains.



One of the mountains is Mount Gerizim, the other is Mount Ebal.

God designs a ceremony to occur in that very place

Deuteronomy 27:9-14, *Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the Lord your God. ¹⁰ Therefore you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I*

command you today.”¹¹ And Moses commanded the people on the same day, saying,¹² “These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed over the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin;¹³ and these shall stand on Mount Ebal to curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.¹⁴ “And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel:

- ❖ Six of the tribes on Gerizim, and
- ❖ Six of the tribes on Ebal.

- ✓ Gerizim represents blessing, and
- ✓ Ebal represents cursing.

God is going to pronounce both cursing and blessing.

We see the blessings in chapter 28, You see the word “blessed” repeated there.

But the opposite of that is the cursing, and the cursing dominates most of these two chapters and most of this event.

Deuteronomy 27:15-26, *‘Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.’*

“And all the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen!’

16 'Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

17 'Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

18 'Cursed is the one who makes the blind to wander off the road.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

19 'Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

20 'Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

21 'Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

22 'Cursed is the one who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

23 'Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

24 'Cursed is the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

25 'Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

26 'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.'

“And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’ ”

All the people on all these accounts are affirming the curse of a breaking of any commandment of God. Those are only representative commandments, there are many more!

You can see that in Verse 26, *“Cursed is he who does not confirm all the words of this law by doing them. If you break this law at all you are cursed. And all the people shall say, ‘Amen,’”*

Thus, affirming that curse.

Deuteronomy 28:15-20, *“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:*

¹⁶ *“Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.*

¹⁷ *“Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.*

¹⁸ *“Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.*

¹⁹ *“Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.*

²⁰ *“The Lord will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.*

Deuteronomy 28:45, *“Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.*

Deuteronomy 28:58-59, *“If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD,⁵⁹ then the Lord will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses.*

Deuteronomy 28:67, *In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.*

So, what do you see from this?

If you obey Me, you will be blessed.

Disobey Me and you will be cursed.

We know the rest of the history.

Israelites confirmed by saying, “Amen, amen, amen,” confirming their obedience.

Same thing they did back in **Exodus 24**.

But as the centuries passed, they turned away from God.

- They ignored God.
- They did exactly what God said they would be cursed for doing.
- They were sexually impure.
- They made idols and worshiped those idols.
- They did move boundaries.
- They were corrupt.
- They were murderous against their neighbours.
- They broke every law that God had given.

God punished them!

The curses came on every generation. Every generation was cursed by suffering for their sins, and then dying only to enter eternal suffering in hell forever.

As a nation, the final act of God on account of the suffering comes when they are taken captive into Babylon eight-hundred years after that inauguration ceremony in Shechem.

This is God's judgment on that disobedient nation.

We get a good insight into the heart of God why this happened.

To understand curse of God, you must understand this.

Jeremiah 11:1-17, *The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, ² "Hear the words of this covenant, and speak*

to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; ³ and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Cursed is the man who does not obey the words of this covenant ⁴ which I commanded your fathers in the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, 'Obey My voice, and do according to all that I command you; so shall you be My people, and I will be your God,' ⁵ that I may establish the oath which I have sworn to your fathers, to give them 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' as it is this day." ' "And I answered and said, "So be it, Lord."

⁶ Then the Lord said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying: 'Hear the words of this covenant and do them. ⁷ For I earnestly exhorted your fathers in the day I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, until this day, rising early and exhorting, saying, "Obey My voice."⁸ Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone followed the dictates of his evil heart; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but which they have not done.' "

⁹ And the Lord said to me, "A conspiracy has been found among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁰ They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers who refused to hear My words, and they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers."

¹¹ Therefore thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will surely bring calamity on them which they will not be able to escape;

and though they cry out to Me, I will not listen to them. ¹² Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to whom they offer incense, but they will not save them at all in the time of their trouble. ¹³ For according to the number of your cities were your gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem you have set up altars to that shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal.

¹⁴ “So do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not hear them in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble.

*¹⁵ “What has My beloved to do in My house,
Having done lewd deeds with many?
And the holy flesh has passed from you.
When you do evil, then you rejoice.*

*¹⁶ The Lord called your name,
Green Olive Tree, Lovely and of Good Fruit.
With the noise of a great tumult
He has kindled fire on it,
And its branches are broken.*

¹⁷ “For the Lord of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced doom against you for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke Me to anger in offering incense to Baal.”

Egypt is identified as an iron furnace because of its suffering.

God goes back to the Deuteronomy 27 and 28 eight hundred years earlier.

The curses come from God, the Babylonians invade the city of Jerusalem, slaughter the Jews, and take them captive. The northern kingdom is already gone captive. Now the south, Judah, and Jerusalem, taken captive by the Babylonians.

Cursed by God, just exactly as God said they would be if they did not do what He told them.

Jeremiah 17:5-7, *Thus says the Lord:*

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man

And makes flesh his strength,

Whose heart departs from the Lord.

⁶*For he shall be like a shrub in the desert,*

And shall not see when good comes,

But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness,

In a salt land which is not inhabited.

⁷*“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,*

And whose hope is the Lord.

Curses are laid down in the book of Deuteronomy but there are curses throughout the Old Testament. There are repetitions of God’s curse on sinful people.

The Psalms are full of curses. There are so many curses in the Psalms against the ungodly. In some of the Psalms the spirit of hatred which strikes us in the face is like heat from a furnace mouth.

Some Theologians say that there were no less than thirty-nine psalms that pronounced curses.

One English study group in 1974 concluded that eighty-four psalms were not fit for Christians to sing.

But remember that these Psalms are divinely authored and justified. They are just as justified as the Psalms that comfort, because God wants to trouble sinners.

God wants to trouble the sinner to the core of their being. He wants them to know that they are cursed.

Does God find pleasure in cursing the people and their sufferings?

No.

Ezekiel 33:11, *Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'*

God cries tears through the eyes of Prophets Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isiah etc.

God cries tears through the eyes of Jesus too.

Jesus after pronouncing a curse on Jerusalem wept over Jerusalem.

Luke 19:41-44, *Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴²saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."*

The prophet Jeremiah pronounced curses.

Jeremiah 19:3-9, *and say, 'Hear the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will bring such a catastrophe on this place, that whoever hears of it, his ears will tingle.*

⁴*"Because they have forsaken Me and made this an alien place, because they have burned incense in it to other gods whom neither they, their fathers, nor the kings of Judah have known, and have filled this place with the blood of the innocents ⁵(they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind), ⁶therefore behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that this place shall no more be called Tophet or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter. ⁷And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place, and I will cause them to fall by the*

sword before their enemies and by the hands of those who seek their lives; their corpses I will give as meat for the birds of the heaven and for the beasts of the earth. ⁸I will make this city desolate and a hissing; everyone who passes by it will be astonished and hiss because of all its plagues. ⁹And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his friend in the siege and in the desperation with which their enemies and those who seek their lives shall drive them to despair.” ’

Nahum pronounced a terrible curse on unbelieving people in the city of Nineveh.

Nahum 1:2-6, *God is jealous, and the Lord avenges;*

The Lord avenges and is furious.

The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries,

And He reserves wrath for His enemies;

³ *The Lord is slow to anger and great in power,*

And will not at all acquit the wicked.

The Lord has His way

In the whirlwind and in the storm,

And the clouds are the dust of His feet.

⁴ *He rebukes the sea and makes it dry,*

And dries up all the rivers.

Bashan and Carmel wither,

And the flower of Lebanon wilts.

⁵ *The mountains quake before Him,*

The hills melt,

And the earth heaves at His presence,

Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.

⁶ Who can stand before His indignation?

And who can endure the fierceness of His anger?

His fury is poured out like fire,

And the rocks are thrown down by Him.

Isaiah ushered an oracle, a curse against Babylon.

Isaiah 13:9, & 16,

Behold, the day of the Lord comes,

Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,

To lay the land desolate;

And He will destroy its sinners from it.

¹⁶ Their children also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes;

Their houses will be plundered

And their wives ravished.

Nineveh and Babylon were cities of cruel and ruthless nature, which had brought untold misery on many peoples and God cursed them and punished them for it.

But curses are not just for Israel and not just for other cities and nations, as we find in the Old Testament.

Romans 1:18, *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”*

Summary of it!

The truth has been given to us,
The law of God written in our hearts,
But all men,
suppress that truth
behave in ungodly, and
unrighteous in every way.

The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against them all!

The martyrs under the altar in Revelation during the time of the tribulation to come cry out to God.

Revelation 6:10, *“O Lord, holy and true, how long will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”*

We see the smoke of the final kingdom of Antichrist, the final Babylon.

Revelation 18:18-19, *and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’*

¹⁹ *“They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’*

That’s the destruction at the return of Christ, a destruction of the capital city of Antichrist’s system.

What is the response of the godly?

Revelation 18:20, *“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”*

We get a glimpse of heaven in the next chapter.

Revelation 19:1-3, *After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honour and power belong to the Lord our God! ²For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.” ³Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”*

Hallelujahs raise through heaven when God unleashes the final curse.

Why?

It isn't that we wish hell for people, it is that we wish glory for God.

It is that we as the redeemed both on earth and in heaven desire that God be honoured, that Christ be exalted, and that sinners would turn to Him, and escape the curse.

Our Lord Jesus was no different.

Matthew 25:41, *“Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.”*

That was the culminating warning and the reality of the curse. Jesus did pronounce curses as well as blessings throughout His ministry.

He cursed Chorazin and Bethsaida, Capernaum.

Luke 10:13-16, *“What sorrow awaits you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse. ¹⁴Yes, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on judgment day than you. ¹⁵And you people of Capernaum, will you be honored in heaven? No, you will go down to the place of the dead.” ¹⁶Then he said to the disciples, “Anyone who accepts your message is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God, who sent me.”*

He cursed the Pharisees and the scribes, the religious leaders of Israel.

Luke 11:42-44, *“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ⁴³Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over them are not aware of them.”*

Luke 11:46-47, *And He said, "Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. ⁴⁷Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them.*

He cursed the people who make His children stumble.

Luke 17:1, *Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!*

He cursed Judas.

Luke 22:22, *And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"*

Romans 12:19, *Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.*

This is heart-breaking to God, but His holiness demands it.

It is heart-breaking to us, but His glory is what we seek.

Job 31:29-30, *"If I have rejoiced at the destruction of him who hated me, Or lifted myself up when evil found him ³⁰(Indeed I have not allowed my mouth to sin By asking for a curse on his soul);*

You don't curse anyone.
I don't curse anyone.

We are called to confront people with the gospel of blessing against the backdrop of the reality of the divine curse. We should be heartbroken over the condition of the world.

Jeremiah says, even though he knows that the judgment is as a result of the curse.

Jeremiah 17:16-17, *Lord, I have not abandoned my job as a shepherd for your people. I have not urged you to send disaster. You have heard everything I've said. ¹⁷Lord, don't terrorize me! You alone are my hope in the day of disaster. (NLT)*

God had no pleasure in the death of the wicked, neither does our Lord.

Jesus pronounced a curse on Jerusalem and said it would be destroyed, and then wept.

Because God is holy and just, He must punish sin and that is why the curse exists!