

Under the Curse, Led to Christ
Galatians 3:10–29 (NKJV)

10 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. 15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man’s covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. 16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ. 17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. 18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise. 19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. 20 Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. 21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 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. 29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

I. The Law Reveals Our Condemnation (Galatians 3:10-14)

A. The Law Requires Perfect Obedience

Cross References:

- James 2:10 – "Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."
- Romans 3:23 – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

B. Christ Became the Curse for Us

Cross References:

- Isaiah 53:5-6 – He was wounded for our transgressions.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 – He became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God.

II. The Law Cannot Replace God's Promise (Galatians 3:15-18)

A. God's Promise Came Before the Law

Cross References:

- Genesis 15:6 – Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.
- Romans 4:3 – Paul repeats this truth concerning justification by faith.

B. The Promise Is Fulfilled in Christ

Cross References:

- John 14:6 – Christ is the only way to the Father.
- Acts 4:12 – There is no other name by which we must be saved.

III. The Law Leads Us to Christ (Galatians 3:19-25)

A. The Law Reveals Sin

Cross References:

- Romans 3:20 – Through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.
- Romans 7:7 – "I would not have known sin except through the law."

B. The Law Functions as a Tutor Leading Us to Christ

Cross References:

- Hebrews 10:1 – The Law was a shadow of good things to come.
- John 1:17 – Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

1. The Law declares us guilty.
2. Christ bears our curse.
3. Faith receives God's promise.

Reflective Questions

1. Am I trusting in Christ alone for salvation, or am I subtly relying on my own goodness and religious efforts?
2. How has God's Law helped me recognize my need for the grace of Jesus Christ?
3. In what ways can I live this week with greater gratitude for the fact that Christ became a curse for me so that I could receive God's blessing through faith?