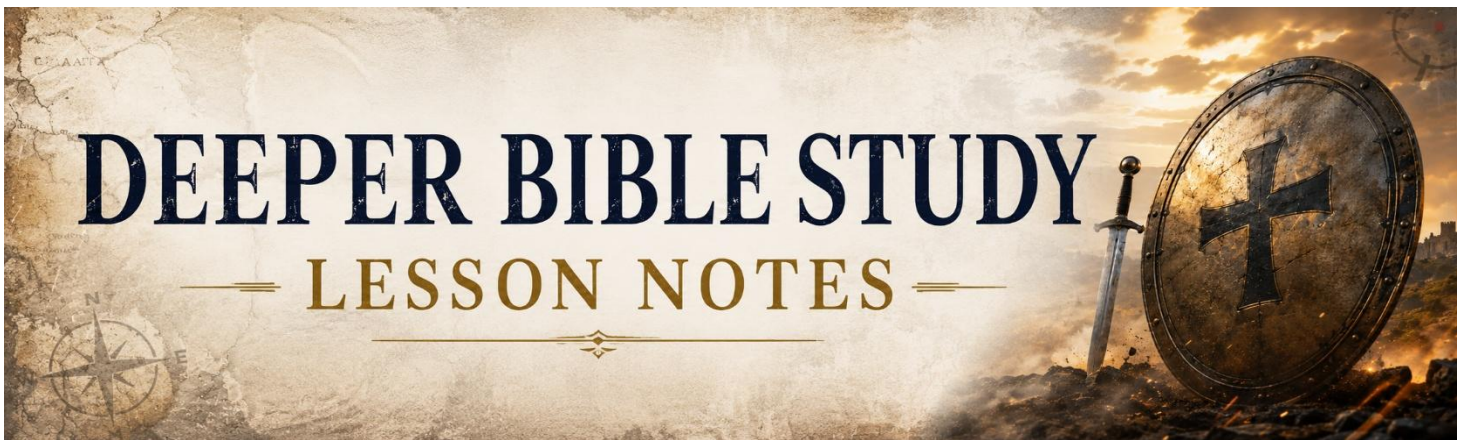




WHY THE LAW? (GALATIANS 3) | PASTOR ADAM AZIZ

WHO HAS BEWITCHED YOU?

Galatians 3:1 (NLT)... Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross.

- **“FOOLISH”**
 - **MOROS** = morally or mentally deficient. That is not the word Paul uses.
 - **ANOETOS** = somebody who **CAN** think, but is **not using** their power of perception.
 - They had the knowledge... They were not using it.
- **“WHO HAS CAST AN EVIL SPELL ON YOU?”**
 - Their thinking was so clouded and so unbiblical that it looked like somebody had put a spell on them.
 - They were focused on the wrong things.
- **“MADE AS CLEAR TO YOU AS IF YOU HAD SEEN A PICTURE”**
 - The Greek behind “made clear” means to **publicly display** — like a poster nailed up in the town square.
 - Paul’s preaching was like putting up billboards of Jesus all over town.
 - **Stop staring at the rules, and go look at the cross.**

LET ME ASK YOU JUST 1 QUESTION

Galatians 3:2-4 (NLT)... Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?

- **PAUL DOES NOT START WITH A DOCTRINE. HE STARTS WITH THEIR _____.**

- “When the Holy Spirit came upon you — how did that happen?”
- He does not have to argue that it happened. They know it did.

- **HOW THE JUDAIZERS’ BELIEVED...**

- A Gentile is told: get circumcised according to the law of Moses or God will not bless you. So he has the procedure done, and the moment the cut is made — the Holy Spirit falls on him.
- **That is not how it happened, and they knew it.**
- **The Holy Spirit is not a _____ you earn. He is a _____ you receive.**
 - *Acts 10:44-45 (NLT)... Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message... they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God.*
 - They just **believed the message they heard.**

- **“After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?”**

- What the Spirit _____, the flesh cannot _____.
- *Philippians 1:6 (NLT)... And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished.*

Galatians 3:5 (NLT)... I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ.

- **That is present tense. Ongoing. Still happening.**
 - Paul is describing what was currently going on in those churches.
 - God has not changed His method.

- **2 SYSTEMS:**

- Under _____ we are blessed and we grow by **EARNING AND DESERVING.**
- Under _____ we are blessed and we grow by **BELIEVING AND RECEIVING.**

FATHER ABRAHAM HAD MANY SONS

Galatians 3:6-7 (NLT)... In the same way, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God.

- **PAUL GOES TO THE 1 MAN HIS OPPONENTS COULD NOT ARGUE WITH — ABRAHAM.**
 - Abraham was declared righteous in **Genesis 15.**

- Circumcision was not given until Genesis 17.
 - **Abraham was made right with God 14 years before he was ever circumcised.**

- **HE DID NOT BELIEVE IN GOD. HE BELIEVED GOD.**

- Believing in God means you accept that He exists. The demons do that and they tremble. *(James 2:19)*
- Believing God means you take Him at His word when everything in your life says otherwise.

- **WHAT COUNTS AS BEING ABRAHAM'S CHILD?**

- Not genetics. Not heritage. Not religious performance. FAITH.

Galatians 3:8-9 (NLT)... What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would declare the Gentiles to be righteous because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you."

- **THE GOSPEL WAS PREACHED IN GENESIS.**

- 2,000 years before Jesus was born, God preached the good news to Abraham.
 - *Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)... And it is impossible to please God without faith.*

THE CURSE NOBODY CAN CARRY

Galatians 3:10 (NLT)... But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God's Book of the Law."

- The law-keepers thought the law was the path to BLESSING.
- Paul says it puts you under a _____.

- **THERE ARE 2 WORDS IN DEUTERONOMY 27:26 THAT END THE ARGUMENT...**

- OBEY / DO — not know it, not love it, not teach it, not want it.
- ALL — not most of it, not the parts you like.
- **God's law does not give partial credit.**
 - *James 2:10 (NLT)... For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws.*

Galatians 3:11-12 (NLT)... So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, "It is through obeying the law that a person has life."

- **PAUL STACKS 3 OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES ON THEM...**
 - Deuteronomy 27:26
 - Habakkuk 2:4
 - Leviticus 18:5

HE BECAME THE CURSE FOR US

Galatians 3:13-14 (NLT)... But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

- **EXAGORAZO** (*ex-ag-or-ad-zo*) = to buy out of the marketplace.
 - It is not just rescue. It is paying a price to rescue.
- **UNDERSTAND WHAT THE PRICE WAS.**
 - It did not just cost Jesus something. It cost Jesus HIMSELF.
 - He made Himself the target of the curse and set everyone who believes outside the target.
 - *Deuteronomy 21:23 (NLT)... anyone who is hung is cursed in the sight of God.*
- **WHY HE DID IT: "SO THAT** we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith."
 - The Holy Spirit is not a wage God owes you. He is the promised inheritance Jesus purchased for you.

A COVENANT NOBODY CAN AMEND

Galatians 3:17-18 (NLT)... The agreement God made with Abraham could not be canceled 430 years later when God gave the law to Moses. God would be breaking his promise. For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise. But God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise.

- **PAUL ARGUES FROM SOMETHING EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS — _____.**
 - Even a human agreement, once it is signed and sealed, cannot be canceled or added to by 1 party.

- If that is true of a human contract, how much more of a covenant God swore to Himself?

- **430 YEARS.**

- The promise came to Abraham first. The law showed up 430 years later.
- You cannot use something that arrived 430 years late to cancel something that was already settled.

SO WHY THE LAW, THEN?

Galatians 3:19 (NLT)... Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised.

- **1. THE LAW WAS GIVEN TO SHOW PEOPLE THEIR SINS.**

- *Romans 7:7 (NLT)... I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet."*
 - Diagnosis was always the assignment of the law.

- **2. THE LAW WAS _____ — “only until the coming of the child who was promised.”**

- It had an expiration date built into it from the beginning.
- It is not that Jesus revoked the law — He came to fulfill it. (*Matthew 5:17*)
- It is that the law is no longer the ground on which you approach God.

Galatians 3:22-25 (NLT)... But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God’s promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ. Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed. Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith.

- **PICTURE 1 — A PRISON.**

- **PICTURE 2 — A GUARDIAN.**

- The Greek word here tells us he was not the teacher. He was a household slave who walked the child to school and disciplined him along the way.
- So the law’s whole job was to walk you to Jesus and hand you off.

- **JESUS DOES THE REST. HIS SPIRIT...**

- _____ us (*John 14:16*)
- _____ us (*John 14:26*)
- _____ (*John 16:13*)

YOU ARE ALL SONS OF GOD

Galatians 3:26-29 (NLT)... For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

- We are ALL children of God... through FAITH.
- **“PUT ON CHRIST, LIKE PUTTING ON NEW CLOTHES”**
 - People should see less of us and more of HIM.
 - We should look different from before we first believed.
- **“NO LONGER JEW OR GENTILE, SLAVE OR FREE, MALE AND FEMALE”**
 - Paul takes all 3 of those categories and makes them equal in Jesus.
- **WE DRAW LINES JESUS DIED TO ERASE.**
 - Lines between denominations... races... political parties... income levels...