

Galatians

Galatians 1:1-2

This letter is from Paul, an apostle, I was not appointed by any group, or by human authority. My call is from Jesus Christ himself and from God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. All the brothers and sisters here join me in sending greetings to the churches in Galatia. Galatians 1: 1-2 NLT

This book addressed to the Galatians is a book that is relevant to all ages and has endured over the centuries to be the book explaining the law versus grace.

I am eager to share this explanation with the body of Christ. So many are confused and this will set the record straight! My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. They are depending on others to teach them, when they can learn themselves through the help of the Holy Spirit, and daily reading of my word. Did I not say, *“And when he (the Holy Spirit) comes, he will convince the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment? The world’s sin is unbelief in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the prince of this world has already been judged.”* (John 16:8-11 NLT)

The body of Christ needs to clearly understand law and the conversion to grace. It is essential to healthy growth in the Lord, and power to know who they are in Christ. You are living in the period of grace and need to know all the scriptures connected with it. Amen and amen

Galatians 1:3-5

May grace and peace be yours from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. He died for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. That is why all glory belongs to God through all the ages of eternity. Amen. Galatians 1:3-5 NLT

There are many on this earth that would pervert the gospel, the good news, for all mankind. In this letter to the Galatians, we will explore some of their fallacies.

The truth of the gospel of Christ Jesus, the hope of all mankind, will be revealed, verse-by-verse. It is not enough to be saved, and then stop all spiritual endeavors. Grace is extended to those who believe on his name, and confess him as Savior and Lord. This is only the beginning for the true child of God. The journey begins, and many start the journey, only to give it up at the slightest provocation.

This salvation that is offered to my child is not for the lackadaisical Christian, or those that are faint of heart. It takes tenacity, and a courage that can only be acquired by the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was given by your Heavenly Father, and your Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:1-4) This Spirit enables you to walk the Christ like walk, and talk the talk. Amen and amen

Galatians 1:6-7

I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who in his love and mercy called you to share the eternal life he gives through Christ. You are already following a different way that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who twist and change the truth concerning Christ. Galatians 1: 6-7 NLT

“How”, you may ask, “did the Galatians stray so far away from the truth, when the gospel of Christ was not that old?” Satan reared his ugly head early in the church. He did this by twisting and perverting the original message, just as he did in the Garden of Eden! He is the father of lies.

In order to work out his evil plan, he used the Judaisers to mix law and grace. We still have that going on today in the body of Christ! Once again I say, you cannot pour new wine into old wineskins, the reason being, the wineskin will burst! The law will cause you to come under condemnation of the law. You are not under law but under grace.

Be glad that you are given grace freely, and do not get entangled under a yoke of slavery. You are set free by the blood Christ shed on the cross! Amen and amen

Galatians 1:8-9

Let God's curse fall on anyone, including myself who preaches any other message than the one we told you about. Even if an angel comes from heaven and preaches any other message, let him be forever cursed. I will say it again; if anyone preaches any other gospel than the one you welcomed, let God's curse fall upon that person. Galatians 1: 8-9 NLT

Your God is a consuming fire! Anyone disseminating the gospel must be very careful to speak according to his word. Be careful and prayerful when speaking his word, my little children, for whom Christ died. Do not lead your brothers and sisters astray, but always speak truth and life! To be cursed is not a pleasant thing.

Curse: a malevolent appeal to a supernatural being for harm to come to somebody or something, or the harm that is thought to result from this.

Religious ban: an ecclesiastical pronouncement of censure or excommunication. (Encarta Dictionary)

So you see, my little children, stay close to my word and quote it accurately. Manmade doctrines are prevalent in many guises in the world today. Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves! Amen and amen

Galatians 1:10

Obviously, I'm not trying to be a people pleaser! No, I am trying to please God. If I were still trying to please people, I would not be Christ's servant. Galatians 1:10 NLT

Many people start out in life trying to please people thinking this will give them “the winner’s edge.” However this is really a sham and hypocrisy. For the motive in their heart is all wrong. They are trying to buy their friendship and to be thought well of in return. This is a ploy of Satan and it doesn’t work in the final analysis.

Ploy: A tactic or maneuver, especially one calculated to deceive or frustrate an opponent. Trick strategy, plan, and scheme. Taken from Encarta Dictionary/

To be a servant of the Lord, one must speak the truth in love. This may not be what a person would like to hear, but nevertheless, it must be stated. To do any less would be deception in its worst form. Do not succumb to Satan’s plan. He does this to make you a liar, just as he is!

Of course, it is not necessary to state your opinion, and you can be silent. This is not hard, as the other person usually goes on to another subject. If, however you are asked, give them an honest answer. Amen and amen.

Galatians 1:11-12

Dear brothers and sisters, I solemnly assure you that the Good News of salvation, which I preach, is not based on mere human reasoning or logic. For my message came by a direct revelation from Jesus Christ himself. No one else taught me. Galatians 1:11-12 NLT

Having a direct revelation from your Lord and Savior is a powerful thing. This comes about through the avenue of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul received teaching to facilitate the writing of the many epistles in the New Covenant. He had to have a clear understanding of the Old and New Testament. This was for all mankind, but especially for the Jews and Gentiles of his day. It had to be a transition for both Jews and Gentiles. As you read the book of Galatians, the scales of legalism should fall off for anyone really wanting to understand.

I give direct revelation to my church today. If only my people would read and listen. Many are too caught up in this world's system to linger and meditate on my word. Because of this, my people are destroyed for lack of biblical knowledge, and direct revelation. Also, if they ask me I will speak to them in a still, small voice. I will commune with them and confide in them of future happenings in their own personal lives.

I do not change; I am the same yesterday, today and forever. World without end! Amen and amen

Galatians 1:13-14

You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion –how I violently persecuted the Christians. I did my best to get rid of them. I was one of the most religious Jews of my own age, and I tried as hard as possible to follow all the old traditions of my religion. Galatians 1:13-14 NLT

Religion: people's beliefs and opinions concerning the existence, nature, and worship of a deity or deities, and divine involvement in the universe and human life-Encarta Dictionary.

Religion comes in many guises. Many are faithful and devoted to a cause not related to your heavenly Father, but it is all reported to be religion. Even in the name of God, many are operating under their own pet theories. They gain a following and presto! They have a "church! And so the name of Jesus Christ, the one who died for their sins, is relegated to a statue, or inanimate object!

It should not be so with the true follower of Christ. There must be a genuine repentance and a new relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There must be an earnest passion to live the way of their predecessor, Jesus Christ, who died that they might live eternally!

Paul realized after the Damascus road experience that he was in the wrong religion and his life was changed forever! Amen and amen.

Galatians 1:15

But then something happened! For it pleased God in his kindness to choose me and call me, even before I was born! What undeserved mercy! Galatians 1:15 NLT

Many do not realize the statement Paul made in this passage of scripture. This not only happened to Paul, it happened to you as an individual! I knew why I made you before you were even a pinpoint in your mother's womb! Does this surprise you? There are even more surprises in store for you, and I love to have it so!

Many think they are just an accident and wonder what their purpose is in life. They do not know their loving Heavenly Father wants to reveal it to them, but they must submit their will to him. Some great composers of this world had a passion for music and did not even know that I put it there. It is the same for great artists of every age. Some acknowledged me as their source, and some took all the glory to themselves. Some died; never knowing their work would become famous after their death!

All talent and all gifts come with the individual that I have birthed by way of their mother. It is built into their mortal beings. Satan disrupts this plan for many and they never knew what greatness could have been theirs. Their bodies now lie under a grave marker, which should have told of their accomplishments in life. Do not waste your gift, but use it for your Father's glory! Amen and amen.

Galatians 1:16-17

Then he revealed his Son to me so that I could proclaim the good news about Jesus to the Gentiles. When all this happened to me, I did not rush out to consult with anyone else, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. No, I went into Arabia and later returned to the city of Damascus. Galatians 1:16-17 NLT

Paul was eager to walk with Christ after his Damascus Road experience. He did a complete “about face” and ran with the new knowledge of the true God, and not one of legalism and added dos and don’ts of the Pharisees.

Many, which are called today, have dramatically come to the Lord their God as well. They had to have a life changing experience in order to receive their salvation. However, in every case, they are drawn by their Father in Heaven. The Holy Spirit convicts and the blood of Jesus saves.

Paul’s example shows that no one is unreachable, no matter how hopeless his condition appears to be. Pray for that brother on drugs, or that sister caught up in the web of prostitution. Do not stop praying for those that laugh at your simple, childlike faith. They can be reached, for I have all the tools at my disposal! Amen and amen

Galatians 1:18-21

It was not until three years later that I finally went to Jerusalem and met with Peter and stayed there with him for fifteen days. And the only other apostle that I met at that time was James, our Lord’s brother. You must believe what I am saying, for I declare before God, I am not lying. Then after this visit, I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia. Galatians 1:18-21 NLT

Apostles are not without their flaws and idiosyncrasies. They have the same problems that are common to man.

Apostle: to send; one sent on a mission; one of an authoritative New Testament group sent out to preach the gospel and made up especially of Christ’s original 12 disciples and Paul. The first prominent Christian missionary to a region or group. (Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary)

There are some who hold the title of apostle today. It is not some “holy mistake.” An apostle is one who is sent by God for a specific reason.

The proof of a true apostle is the work of God, which is apparent in his life. Does he have the fruit of the Spirit? Is he filled with love for the brethren? Does he have a passion for souls? Does he raise up new churches? Is he in constant communication with Jesus Christ? Is he honest and aboveboard in all the affairs entrusted to his care? Judge by these standards. Amen and amen

Galatians 1:22-24

.... And still the Christians in the churches in Judea didn’t know me personally. All they knew was that people were saying, “The one who used to persecute us now preaches the very faith he tried to destroy!” And they gave glory to God because of me. Galatians 1: 22-24 NLT

How is it that my people are destroyed for lack of true knowledge? They go about their day seeking things that are unprofitable. They are making their own plans, never consulting me as to whether I might have a different point of view. And so another unprofitable day is written in their journal of life!

However, my instruction to you is to redeem the time. That means you are able to make up for the lost time, just as you would in an ordinary job, working overtime. Buy back the time you so frivolously wasted. This will take concerted effort on your part.

Such was Paul’s lot in life when I called him to a great work. That system of Christianity, which he tore down, he proceeded to rebuild. He was redeeming the time, and wrote most of the New Testament in the process. He

not only won souls in his lifetime, but in the ages after his leaving this earth, his epistles converted multitudes! Do not minimize your potential, my little ones! It is far greater than any thing you can imagine! Amen and amen

Galatians 2:1-2

Then fourteen years later I went back to Jerusalem again, this time with Barnabas and Titus came along too. I went there because God revealed to me that I should go. While I was there I talked privately with the leaders of the church. I wanted them to understand what I had been preaching to the Gentiles. I wanted to make sure they did not disagree, or my ministry would have been useless.....Galatians 2:1-2 NLT

The power of agreement is a great and awesome tool. My people do not practice it enough. There is power in agreement because "it is good for brethren to dwell in unity!" A united stand, when done in accordance to my word, is an accredited stand backed by my word.

Paul understood the fact that the apostles had to be united in their efforts for the gospel. Their agreement brought peace and prosperity. And they needed to know they were all speaking the same thing, for there were many false ministers, trying to gain a following for themselves.

And so it is today, that there are many false ministers extant on the world scene. You shall know them by their fruit, whether it is good or evil. Be on your guard and stay married to my word. Do not accept any twisting of the truth. Amen and amen.

Galatians 2:3-5

.....And they did agree. They did not even demand that my companion Titus be circumcised, though he was a Gentile. Even that question wouldn't have come up except for some so-called Christians there-false ones really-who came to spy on us and see our freedom in Christ Jesus. They wanted to force us, like slaves, to follow their Jewish regulations. But we refused to listen to them for a single moment. We wanted to preserve the truth of the Good News for you. Galatians 2:3-5. NLT

There are those that tend to lean on the Law of Moses, and in so doing negate the finished work of Christ on the cross. For if you are practicing the law, then you are falling away from grace.

Grace was established for all time in the new dispensation. Grace is extended to those who accept Jesus Christ and believe the Good News. However you cannot take the law and mix it with grace. You cannot have one and the other also. It is like trying to mix water and oil. It simply cannot work.

Now I know some do not understand this because of false teachers who may be deceived themselves. My true servants and fellow yoke men in the gospel must preach this from the housetops and make it plain! Once coming out of the law, do not return, but walk in fields of grace. Amen and amen.

Galatians 2:6-7

And the leaders of the church who were there had nothing to add to what I was preaching. (By the way, their reputation as great leaders made no difference to me, for the Lord has no favorites.) They saw that God had given me the responsibility of preaching the good news to the Gentiles, just as he had given Peter the responsibility of preaching the Good News to the Jews. Galatians 2:6-7 NLT

The Jews and the Gentiles were separate peoples until Paul began his ministry to the Gentiles. They were brought up without the Law of Moses. However, it was just as difficult for the Gentiles to give up their way of life as it was for the Jews. The Gentiles lived in a pagan society and were steeped in its traditions.

For these two different ways of life to come together was a real and true miracle! The thing that brought them together was the cross of Christ. They all came together and became as one. This is not to say there were not obstacles, for there were many. But God in his mercy brought them through.

Now the identity of both Jews and Gentiles, were not in their upbringing, but their identity became Christ like. This was a beautiful occurrence in the sight of their Creator! Now the New Testament church was making real progress, which was only the beginning in a huge panorama of events! Amen and amen.

Galatians 2:8-9

...For the same God who worked with Peter for the benefit of the Jews, worked through me for the benefit of the Gentiles. In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews. Galatians 2:8-9 NLT

The work of the early church was a gargantuan task. To go into all the world with slow methods of transportation and communication, was a time consuming, arduous endeavor. However the followers of Christ went forth with joy and peace in their hearts, they were happy to fulfill the destiny that was allotted to them.

Many today are going into dangerous territory to reach the lost. Though you may not be called to go, you can support them with your prayers and substance.

Pray for the lost and be fervent in this, for lives are at stake and precious souls need the Good News, just as in the first century. Man still has need of the Savior, and all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Pray for them as you would for your own family! You will be blessed for your efforts! Amen and amen.

Galatians 2:10

The only thing they suggested was that we remember to help the poor, and I have certainly been eager to do that. Galatians 2:10 NLT

“The poor you will have with you always.” Yes this is a fact stated by your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on the occasion of his being anointed by Mary with expensive perfume. The poor are to be helped throughout all generations.

It is the poor who are downtrodden by many that are rich. Many of the poor turn to stealing, thinking they are justified in doing so. They practice a lifestyle that harms the family and just produces more poverty.

The answer to this perplexing problem is found in the pages of the Living Word of God. There you will find scriptures such as “The hand of the diligent makes rich.” “Go to the ant, you sluggard, and learn of her ways, she gathers food in the summer to store up for the winter.”

Yes, the poor can receive an education and come out of poverty, learning the practices of the Lord, and upon repentance, he will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory. It is he that gives you the power to get wealth! Amen and amen

Galatians 2:11-13

But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him publicly, speaking strongly about what he was doing, for it was very wrong. When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile Christians, who don't bother with circumcision. But afterward, when some Jewish friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore because he was afraid of what these legalists would say. Then the other Jewish Christians followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was influenced to join them in their hypocrisy. Galatians 2:11-13 NLT

To follow the crowd is not always wise, and in this case was truly a travesty. All the years preceding this incident, My calling the Gentiles into the fold, was evidently forgotten. And so it was that the Jews still were making a separation. How many are following this same pattern today? There is a separation between races and religions and creeds. I want my body to be of one mind and make no distinction among all peoples.

To have an African American President in the United States of America is a strange thing to some of the people. He is judged by the color of his skin, and not the content of his character. He has to work harder to “prove himself” so to speak. In the world to come all cultures will be honored for their differences and will be celebrated! They were fashioned to be different, but created to serve the same God.

Learn to appreciate each other’s characteristics and be thankful for diversity. Each of my children is a miracle and not a carbon copy of someone else. Enjoy each other and celebrate each other! Amen and amen.

Galatians 2:14-16

When I saw they were not following the Good News, I said to Peter in front of all the others,” Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you trying to make these Gentiles obey the Jewish laws you abandoned? You and I are Jews by birth, not ‘sinners’ like the Gentiles. And yet we Jewish Christians know that we become right with God, not by doing what the law commands, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be accepted by God because of our faith in Christ-not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be saved by obeying the law.” Galatians 2:14-16 NLT

The law versus grace is always a hot topic in the body of Christ. Some denominations cling to the law as though by doing so, they could make their own righteousness. They do not understand it is not Christ’s finished work on the cross plus the law, but his grace alone. The law was a schoolmaster, to bring you to Christ, who kept the law perfectly, for you, who could never do so.

Some are going back to accept some parts of the law to go back to their” Jewish roots” so to speak. I abolished the law when my son died on the cross. When he said, “It is finished,” he was referring to the law and all its ramifications, including his death for all mankind. Those who want to return to parts of the law are saying in essence,” Christ’s sacrifice was not enough.”

Do not get caught in this trap. The laws of God are written in your hearts, and not on tablets of stone! Amen and amen.

Galatians 2:17-18

But what if we seek to be made right with God through faith in Christ and then find out we are still sinners? Has Christ led us into sin? Of course not! Rather, I make myself guilty if I rebuild the old system I already tore down. Galatians 2:17-18 NLT

If you go back to keeping the law to redeem you, wouldn’t you make the death of Christ of no effect? Can the law save you? No one was ever saved by keeping the law. The supreme sacrifice was Christ Jesus’ death on a cruel ignominious cross. He suffered for your sins, and the sins of the whole world.

To rebuild the old system of the law would be turning your back on the Savior of all mankind, yet this was what the Judaizers were doing. They tried to infiltrate the New Testament church with a mixture of law and grace! Even the apostles, James and Peter, knowing better, tried to please or placate the Judaizers! This was after Christ and the Holy Spirit revealed that the Gentiles and the Jews were not under law, but under grace!

See that you do not get caught up in this fallacy today in the twenty-first century. There are many that would say we should get in touch with our Jewish heritage. That system of law is no longer in effect. To love God and neighbor is the new commandment. Be content with that fact and go forward and not backward. Amen and amen.

Galatians 2:19-21

For when I tried to keep the law, I realized I could never earn God’s approval. So I died to the law that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ. I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not one of those

who treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could save us, then there was no need for Christ to die. Galatians 2:19-21 NLT

No one, having put his hand to the plow of righteousness, should ever look back. To go forward is to make progress daily. The things that are left behind must stay there, even if they were held dear to you. Christ gave his all and you are required to lay it all down at his feet. Surrender! Surrender to self and all your own aspirations, for I have a plan that will pale into insignificance, all your plans.

You see my plan is custom designed for you as an individual. You are unique, and as such, have a unique calling! My people, in many cases try to emulate another human being, and thus, they lose their individuality! I want you to be yourself in Christ Jesus, and all your brilliant colors will come forth!

Looking backward can cramp your moving forward. The law was nailed to the cross with Jesus. He alone could fulfill the law. He ushered in the dispensation of grace. Immerse yourself in grace that gives you unmerited pardon. Do not get caught up again in a yoke of slavery! Amen and amen.

Galatians 3:1-3

Oh foolish Galatians! What magician has cast an evil spell on you? For you used to see the meaning of Christ's death as clearly as though I had shown you a signboard with a picture of Christ dying on the cross. Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by keeping the law? Of course not, for the Holy Spirit came upon you only after you believed the message you heard about Christ. Have you lost your senses? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? Galatians 3: 1-3 NLT

The Galatians were listening to the wrong gospel, after they believed on the atoning death of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God! Quickly Satan comes to steal the truth from the baby Christian. He convinces them that God did not really say that the law was nailed to the cross, just as he deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden.

The Judaizer's sole mission was to mix law and grace. Christ kept the law perfectly in your stead, for you could not do it by your own effort. Then, when you receive Christ into your life, and he washes your sins away, you have access to the Father. You can enter the Holy of Holies!

Now it is no longer you that lives, but Christ lives in you! He now directs your life, and directs you to avoid sin. The laws of God are written on your heart! No longer are they on tablets of stone! There is no need of circumcision in the flesh, but you are circumcised in the heart! No wonder God called the new covenant a better covenant! Grace has been extended to you! Reach out and grab it! Amen and amen.

Galatians 3:4-5

You have suffered so much for the Good News. Surely it was not in vain was it? Are you now just going to throw it all away? I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the Law of Moses? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Jesus Christ. Galatians 3: 4-5 NLT

The Law of Moses was in effect until Christ died on the cross. He explained this to his disciples before his death on the night of the Passover. He was the sacrificial lamb to be slain for the sins of all mankind. The bread and the wine symbolized his body to be beaten, and his blood to be shed. The Law of Moses given at Mt Sinai was finished when Christ uttered those famous words as his last words under the Old Covenant, "It is finished!" Many Christians do not understand the great magnitude of this statement. Christ was the Conqueror of death, hell and the grave!

The New Covenant was ushered in, which was a better Covenant. This Testament was ushered in to replace the Old Covenant. Now the laws of God are written on hearts of flesh and not on tablets of stone.

The Holy Spirit was sent as a guide, overseer and help to the new Christian, and was given perpetually so that Christ could live in you. Christ in you, the hope of glory! This is the mystery that no one could know until Christ lived in them. It continues to be a mystery to the law keeper of the Old Covenant. The way of the law keeper is blinded to the work of grace. Christ must remove this veil from their eyes! It is only through the unbeliever's coming to Christ, that this veil is lifted and confession of their sin is uttered from their own lips. Then, upon reception of Christ and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Christ takes residence in your whole being, along with the Holy Spirit, and changes are made by the believer because he has the guidance and love from God. Reading of the Holy Word is paramount, and should be done on a daily basis. Amen and amen

Galatians 3:6-7

In the same way, "Abraham believed God, so God declared him righteous because of his faith." The real children of Abraham, then, are all those who put their faith in God. Galatians 3: 6-7 NLT

The faith of Abraham declared him as righteous before his Creator. Belief in God is a prerequisite, for you must believe that he exists. If not, you would be mouthing mere words in prayer. Belief is the umbilical cord that connects you and your Maker.

To be a genuine Son of God, you must also believe on God's Son, who gave his life that you might live eternally! What a priceless privilege! You also inherit all things along with Christ, your Redeemer and Master, Lord of all in your life!

Many are deceived, however, into believing there is law and grace. The letter of the law brings death; grace brings life. Choose grace that you might live! The old Covenant is obsolete! It was a teacher to bring you to Christ. He is the mystery of the ages and has, in these last days, been brought to you. Now you can choose life, through his death and resurrection! He died in your place to satisfy all the requirements of salvation. He is the bright, morning star, the King of kings and Lord of lords. You will rule and reign with him, here on the earth! (Rev. 5: 10)

You will overcome by the word of your testimony, and by the blood of the Lamb! Amen and amen

Galatians 3:8-9

What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would accept the Gentiles too, on the basis of their faith. God promised the Good News to Abraham long ago when he said, "all nations will be blessed through you." And so it is: All who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith. Galatians 3: 8-9 NLT

The very thought of becoming like Abraham seems foreign to most Christians! Yet, here it is recorded in God's word and is proclaimed to all the Judiazers of the 21st century! Abraham's belief of God's promises was accounted to him as righteousness. He did not doubt but had perfect faith that what God had promised he would perform. It was Sarah's lack of faith that caused them both to resort to working out the promise their own way.

And so it is today, many children of God try to work out a problem in their own carnality! They do not wait on the Lord their God to bring about the perfect solution. Wait on the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart! Be still and know that I am God. I see the big picture and I know what you have need of. Do not doubt in your heart, but trust in the Lord your God, and wait for his perfect timing!

Abraham should not have listened to his wife's solution to their problem, for Ishmael could not take the place of Isaac. Neither can your "Ishmael" solve your dilemma! Wait, I say, on the Lord! Amen and amen

Galatians 3:10-11

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 these commands that are written in God's book of

the Law.” Consequently, it is clear that no one can ever be right with God by trying to keep the law. For the scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” Galatians 3: 10-11 NLT

It is for freedom that Christ has made you free! He has given you freedom from trying to keep the law in your own strength. Only Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God could do this. That is why his sacrifice on the cross of Calvary paid for your sins, once and for all. Only the sinless Lamb of God could perform this. That is why he can save you from your sins, and the sins of all mankind!

Understand then, those trying to keep the letter of the Law, you can never attain salvation through your own “goodness.” You have no goodness in your human nature; you need Christ living in you to perform his saving work. Now, as he dwells in you, he performs the work to destroy the works of the devil. He conquered Satan, and he alone can help you to conquer Satan.

Christ alone can save you from sin. You cannot save yourself. It is in coming to him and asking him to cleanse you of your sins that you can be made right with God! Amen and amen

Galatians 3:12-13

How different from this way of faith is the way of law, which says, “If you wish to find life by obeying the law, you must obey all of its commands.” 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.” Galatians 3: 13-14 NLT

The Galatians were being influenced by the Jews, who wanted to confuse them with law and grace. Regardless of what Paul told them, their influence caused them to be confounded.

Confound: to puzzle or confuse somebody; to cause a confused situation to be even more confused; frustrate: to prevent somebody or something from succeeding; Mix things up: to fail to distinguish between two or more things. Ruin something: to ruin or destroy somebody or something. (Encarta Dictionary)

So you see Satan had his hand in the beginning of the church. He is the author of confusion. Even today, his tactics remain the same and continues to divide the brethren. Only the truth of God’s word can set them free.

See that you search the Scriptures daily and prove all things. Hold fast the profession of your faith. Amen and amen

Galatians 3:14

Through the work of Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, and we Christians receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:14

It was through faith that Abraham received his son, Isaac. Though he waited many years, Abraham believed God’s promise. And so it was that at the appointed time, Sarah became pregnant. It was God’s appointed time and not Abraham’s or Sarah’s.

Many see the promises in the word of God today, and claim them. However, God the Father has his timing for the promises he makes. He knows the end from the beginning and only he has the wisdom to grant the fruition at the proper time.

Fruition: Completion: a state or point in which something has come to maturity, or had a desired outcome. (Encarta Dictionary)

And so it is my dear children, many times you must wait for the desired result, and when it comes, it will achieve the proper results in your particular case. Do not look at someone else’s blessings, because it was their time to receive them. I see all circumstances, and know the proper time for all things. “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when it comes, it becomes a tree of life.” Amen and amen

Galatians 3:5-16

Dear brothers and sisters, here's an example of everyday life. Just as no one could set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case. God gave the promise to Abraham and his child. And notice it doesn't say the promise was to his children, as if it meant many descendants. But the promise was to his child—and that, of course, means Christ. Galatians 3:15-16 NLT

A promise is a promise, is a promise. God the Father keeps his word and places it above his name! So one might say, God's promises are above his name. That is totally powerful in any language!

God's promise to Abraham then, was ironclad. No one could break it, though Sarah and Abraham tried their own method of obtaining a son. It didn't work, but God, who cannot lie, still kept his promise to them. "Let God be true though every man is a liar!"

Go forth in the sure knowledge that your Heavenly Father will deliver on every promise he gave to you! Do not doubt in your heart, only believe! Amen and amen

Galatians 3:17-18

This is what I am trying to say: 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 only by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise. But God gave it to Abraham as a promise. Galatians 3: 17-18 NLT

Why did God make two agreements, one with Abraham, and one with the children of Israel? The covenant with Israel did not nullify the agreement with Abraham. The agreement or covenant made with Abraham was pointing to a future event: Christ coming to earth, to die for the sins of all mankind! God had already set the new covenant in motion! Then came the law, the sacrifices of which also pointed to Christ! Both covenants were prophetic! Isaac was a type of Christ, and Abraham a type of God the Father of all mankind. These events were as a stage of life and each played a part!

What drama God portrayed, as he watched it being unfolded as a spiritual extravaganza! He had a preview of coming attractions on the screen of man's life!

What a Father and what a Savior, who both agreed before the foundation of the world to set it all in motion before day one even began! All of the script had been prepared! Those who now are steeped in the law are behind the times! God has a different act on the screen of mankind! It is the act of Grace. Hallelujah! What a plan for us! We are living in the days of which the prophets foretold! Amen and amen

Galatians 3:19-20

Well then, why was the law given? It was given to show people how guilty they are. But this system of law was to last only until the coming of the child to whom God's promise was made. And there is this further difference. God gave his laws to angels to give to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people. Now a mediator is needed if two people enter into an agreement, but God acted on his own when he made his promise to Abraham. Galatians 3:19-20 NLT

The law was given to Hebrew slaves. They were in bondage and worked seven days a week. Now that they were freed, they still had a slave mentality! The Lord their God was not readily accepted and they were a stiff-necked people. Many were still angry about their unjust treatment at the hands of the Egyptians. This is not unlike the newly converted Christian. He is being transformed from his former way of life, and must be told what to do.

So the law was given to show people how sinful they really are. God's standard of excellence, is so high, it is unobtainable to the child of God. Try though they might, they always fall short. That is why, in Old Testament times, they had to sacrifice animals to atone for their sins. These sacrifices were a substitute for the coming Savior, so that he would give his life for the sins of all mankind. He kept the law perfectly, because you could not do it in your own strength.

When he uttered these words, "It is finished", he meant the Old Covenant was fulfilled by him perfectly. He did for us what we could not do, and so the New Covenant was ushered in. Grace was now offered to every man, woman, and child. Amen and amen

Galatians 3:21-22

Well then, is there a conflict between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law had given us new life, we could have been made right with God by obeying it. But the Scriptures have declared that we are all prisoners of sin, so the only way to receive God's promise is to believe in Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:21-22 NLT

When the law was given on Mt. Sinai, there were many things my people had to learn, or experience. They did not have a clue as to how to run a government that would be fair and equitable. They had to have instruction on hygiene, food intake, and the most rudimentary procedures.

Seeing that this is so, how does this relate to the new child of God? The new way of life must be experienced and taught. Many mistakes will be made along the way, hence there is grace extended all during his Christian journey. That is why you need forgiveness, and that is why Christ died for you. You cannot atone for your own sins; only the precious blood of Christ could ever atone for the sins of all mankind!

So, in comparison, the slavery in Egypt, and the slavery under the rule of Satan is the same scenario. Your lives needed a transformation. There is this one distinction: those coming out of slavery in Egypt needed a schoolmaster, but after Christ died, mankind needed him.

No one can redeem himself by keeping the law; that is why you are under a better covenant! Amen and amen

Galatians 3:23-26

Until faith in Christ was shown to us as the way of becoming right with God, we were guarded by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until we could put our faith in the coming Savior. Let me put it another way, the law was our guardian and teacher to lead us until Christ came. So now, through faith in Christ, we are made right with God. But now that faith in Christ has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian. So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:23-26 NLT

The legalistic churches of this world do not understand these scriptures as completely as they should. There are still "Pharisee's" among your ranks that complicate the simplicity in Christ. Paul said when he was a child, he thought as a child, but when he became a man, he put away childish things. The law is for the child in your home, because he does not have the capacity to think like an adult, so he must have rules and regulations. That was why the law was instituted, because, Christ had not yet died in their dispensation. The spiritual application came later, to those who could understand, and accept the sacrifice of Christ.

Why would God, our Father choose such a method? (Read 1 Corinthians 15: 45-46) *The Scriptures tell us, "The first man, Adam, became a living person." But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. What comes first is the natural body, and then the spiritual body comes later.*) First, there is the natural body, the spiritual body comes later.

In the same vein, there was the first Adam, who was earthly and the second Adam, who came down from heaven. God started man in faith with Abraham, and ended up with faith in Christ. The intervening years were for your learning—to not make the same mistakes as the children of Israel. Amen and amen

Galatians 3:27-29

...And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female, for you are all Christians—you are one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and now all the promises God gave to him belong to you. Galatians 3:27-29 NLT

Living for Christ is indeed a wonderful thing! You no longer have to carry that heavy load on your shoulders, but you can give all your troubles and cares to him.

He was despised and rejected by his own creation! Think of it! The Master of the universe was spat on, beaten beyond recognition, and mocked by the Roman soldiers. They blindfolded him and beat him in the head and body. They laid his back open with a whip that had metal pieces on the end that ripped his flesh down to the bone. He did it for you! He sacrificed his life so that you might have the gift of salvation, and eternal life! What kind of God is this—that he would give his Son to die for you?

He had the load of all mankind's sins heaped upon him, so that he could bring many sons and daughters into his family. He wanted you to live with him forever!

Now for a little while we have trials of various degrees of pain, but we have not suffered what Christ endured. He did it for you! Amen and amen.

Galatians 4:1-2

Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves great wealth for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had. They have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set. Galatians 4:1-2 NLT

The law given to Israel at Mt. Sinai was for the whole nation. The promise given to Abraham superseded the law. Consequently, the Israelites did not understand the covenant with Abraham, in its fullest intent.

And today many in Israel are confounded as to what the true meaning involves. Their blindness can only be taken away through Christ, their Messiah. There are some of that persuasion that have turned to Christ Jesus, Savior of all mankind. But eventually, all Israel will be saved. (*Romans 11:26*)

Seeing this is an established fact, let us proceed. The nation of Israel today is still blinded to biblical truths concerning the New Covenant. They must be taught the oracles of God that was given to them. They carefully copied the scriptures for all posterity. But the New Testament was preserved by the Greek language, and written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, just as the writers of the Old Covenant were. The prophecies of the Old Covenant are being fulfilled as we speak! What a Mighty God you serve!

Galatians 4:1-2 is self-explanatory. Until the death of the testator, there is no will in effect. The will becomes effective after the death of the one who had the will written. He or she can name an age for the children to receive their inheritance. Until the time specified, those children are under the tutorage of guardians. Amen and amen

Galatians 4:3-5

And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were slaves to the spiritual powers of this world. But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. Galatians 4: 3-5 NLT

God's own Son gave up his glory to live among men. He did it because of his great love for mankind, his special creation. He gave man a choice to come out of slavery to the law. The law which was a teacher to last until Christ uttered his final words on the cross, "It is finished!"

The law was finished! A new era had begun. The veil of the temple was rent in two, so that we, as kings and priests were now able to enter the holy of holies! Now there was no need of the Levitical priesthood, for Christ was the High Priest who ushered mankind into the Father's presence! No longer was the Levitical priest to be sent by God into the holy of holies once a year. We now have direct access to the Father because of Christ's sacrifice.

All who believe on Christ and repent of their sins are forgiven, through the blood sacrifice of our Savior. That was his plan before the foundation of the world. And your birth was planned to live in this time and this place. Oh what a wonderful God, to give us his Kingdom! We are heirs to all he possesses! Amen and amen

Galatians 4:6-7

And because you Gentiles have become his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, and now you can call God your dear Father. Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, everything he has belongs to you. Galatians 4: 6-7 NLT

The revolution that took place in the early church was a complete surprise to both Jew and Gentile. It was also a culture shock! To be called one of God's own children, after being despised by the Jews, the Gentiles were awestruck! It is not unlike the Emancipation Proclamation in the United States of America.

The customs and habits did not change overnight, and it took a lot of time in order to unite mentally as well as spiritually. You, however, in this day and time have an advantage living in the land of the free. You are able to look back at the history of the early church and learn from its' problems and mistakes.

No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. So after making a start toward the kingdom, always look forward and not to former days of your life. Learn from your mistakes and sins from the past, and do not repeat them. Of course you need the help of the blessed Holy Spirit every day.

Keep your armor on to fight the good fight of faith! Go forward and conquer as never before! Amen and amen

Galatians 4:8-9

Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so called gods that do not exist. And now that you have found God (or should I say, now that God has found you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless powers of this world? Galatians 4: 8-9 NLT

The Galatians were like many today; they start out in the Spirit, and go back into the flesh. All do this to a greater or lesser degree. All must guard against going back into "Egypt", and back into the slavery of Satan's domain. Examine yourself and do not get caught up in the flesh, but work with the Spirit in your daily lives. I have purchased you, and you no longer belong to the dark domain of the Evil One.

Keep your "running shoes" on and get rid of every weight that so easily besets you. Run with great patience the race that is set before you. Do not look at the race of another, but keep your eye on your own goal. Your progress may not match the progress of another. Make a list of your "weights" that are holding you back from running the race more effectively.

This is a marathon and the finish line is in sight for every believer. Run with great determination and enthusiasm. Exercise in the spirit every day to keep your mind sharp and alert. Contemplate the future; go for it with all of your being. Stand tall, for you are royalty! Walk the royal walk and talk the royal talk! Be confident and steadfast! Amen and amen.

Galatians 4:10-12

You are trying to find favor with God by what you do or what you don't do on certain days or months or seasons or years. I fear for you. I am afraid that all my hard work for you was worth nothing. Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to live as I do in freedom from these things, for I have become like you Gentiles were-free from the law. You did not mistreat me when I first preached to you. Galatians 4: 10-12 NLT

Paul was trying to restore what he had previously built with the Galatians. Those that were observing the law and grace were troubling the Gentiles with laws of do's and don'ts. They were imposing their new "doctrines" on the Gentiles who had never observed the Jewish holy days. Now they were telling them that they needed to observe these days, in addition to accepting Christ's sacrifice.

Now the shoe was on the other foot, and Paul had to write a lengthy letter to persuade them that they were being moved to "another gospel" which was no gospel at all. The Judaizers' were coming in after Paul saying they had to observe the Jewish laws in addition to the good news of the gospel. *Read Acts 15:1-21.*

This question was answered by the council at Jerusalem. Read verse 10. Does this sound like the Jewish believers kept the Mosaic Law? Verse 11 explains: "We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the special favor of the Lord Jesus." Some have argued that the Gentiles were going back to paganism, but this was not the case. They were listening to the Jews who mixed law and grace, by virtue of their own volition, and not by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen and amen.

Galatians 4:13-16

Surely you remember that I was sick when I first brought you the Good News of Christ. But even though my sickness was revolting to you, you did not reject me and turn me away. No, you took me in and cared for me as though I were an angel from God or even Christ Jesus himself. Where is that joyful spirit we felt together then? I know you would gladly have taken out your own eyes and given them to me if it had been possible. Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth? Galatians 4: 13-16 NLT

The truth and simplicity of the gospel is revolting to some. They must add their useless works to be satisfied. All of mankind's own righteousness is as filthy rags to the Father! Man had to be redeemed from the clutches and stronghold of sin. No one, no matter how good intentioned they may be, can earn his salvation. It is a gift of God, so man cannot take the credit.

Why then does man think his acts of penance will please God? It is a trick of Satan, the Arch deceiver! He tells man that if he just works hard enough, he can earn his way to the Kingdom of God. And so it is that they add works to the salvation freely offered! Many are caught up in this, even down to the smallest churches.

When will my people learn they must not work to "earn their salvation?" Once they accept the Lord Jesus' sacrifice and are forgiven their sins, then and only then, Christ's righteousness is in them. He does the work along with the blessed Holy Spirit! He does what you could never do! Let him work through you! All the glory belongs to God! Amen and amen

Galatians 4:17-19

Those false teachers who are so anxious to win your favor are not doing it for your good. They are trying to shut you off from me so that you will pay more attention to them. Now it's wonderful if you are eager to do good especially when I am not with you. But oh my dear children! I feel as if I am going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives. How I wish I were there with you right now, so I could be more gentle with you. But at this distance I frankly don't know what else to do. Galatians 4:17-20 NLT

Now you see through a glass darkly, but then, face to face. It is not always easy to look and not see clearly. However, that is where faith comes into play. You walk by faith and not by sight!

False teachers have always been prevalent, in the early church, and in the ensuing years, right until this present time. It is Satan's infiltration in the church, for he fights with all his might, thinking he can stop the work of Almighty God! He will not succeed, for the gates of hell cannot stop God's people!

The Galatians were a case in point. Having started with the Spirit, they were giving in to a work of the flesh—namely the Mosaic Law. Grace and law are not able to stand side by side. If you have one, you cannot have the other! This has to be taught to the body of Christ! Amen and amen.

Galatians 4:21-23

Listen to me, you who want to live under the law. Do you know what the law really says? The scriptures say that Abraham had two sons, one from his slave-wife and one from his freeborn wife. The son of the slave-wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfillment of his promise. Galatians 4: 21-23 NLT

How wonderful is the God of Promise! He brings about the fulfillment of his promises every time! However, human beings want to help God to bring it to pass. Such was the case with Abraham and Sarah. They did not wait for God's timing. Timing with the Lord your God is everything. Using the analogy of a play onstage, man must wait for his "queue." And today is no different, for man listens to a prophecy given to him and then tries to work it out by himself.

Waiting is the crux of the matter. Do not try to "rush God along!" He is the Master of timing and as such, should be waited on. He sees the big picture, and he knows what should come next in line. Faith must be exercised and hope must be in force. Do not fear, little ones, you will come forth as gold!

Keep your lamps trimmed and filled with oil, awaiting the greatest promise, the return of the Lord Jesus, the Christ, who is the anointed one. He is the Great Promise-keeper! What he promises, he fulfills to the last iota! Amen and amen.

Galatians 4:24-31

Now these two women serve as an illustration of God's two covenants. Hagar, the slave-wife, represents Mt. Sinai where people first became enslaved to the law. And now Jerusalem is just like Mount Sinai because she and her children live in slavery. But Sarah, the free woman, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. She is our mother. That is what Isaiah meant when he prophesied,

"Rejoice, O childless woman!
Break forth into loud and joyful song,
Even though you never gave birth to a child.
For the woman who could bear no children
Now has more than all the other women!"—Isaiah 54:1

And you, dear brothers and sisters, are children of the promise, just like Isaac. And we who are born of the Holy Spirit ARE PERSECUTED BY THOSE WHO WANT US TO KEEP THE LAW, just as Isaac, the child of promise was persecuted by Ishmael, the son of the slave-wife.

But what do the Scriptures say about that? "GET RID OF THE SLAVE AND HER SON, FOR THE SON OF THE SLAVE WOMAN WILL NOT SHARE THE FAMILY INHERITANCE WITH THE FREE WOMAN'S SON." So dear brothers and sisters, we are NOT THE CHILDREN OF THE SLAVE WOMAN, OBLIGATED TO THE LAW. WE ARE CHILDREN OF THE FREE WOMAN, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH. Galatians 4:24-31

Galatians 5:1-4

So Christ has really set us free. Now make sure you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law. Listen! I, Paul tell you this: if you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ cannot

help you. I'll say it again: if you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey all of the regulations in the whole Law of Moses. For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from grace. Galatians 5: 1-4 NLT

“So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death. THE LAW OF MOSES COULD NOT SAVE US, BECAUSE OF OUR SINFUL NATURE. But God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours, except that ours are sinful. God destroyed sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the requirement of the law would be fully accomplished for us who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.” *Romans 8:1-4 NLT*

So you see, my little children, for whom Christ died, the law ceased-the rules and regulations are now summed up in love for God, and love for neighbor. Do not be deceived by false teachers that try to mix what has been abolished with the New Covenant. That will only frustrate the grace extended to you! That is why it is called the New Covenant-the Old Covenant has become obsolete, and a New Covenant took its place. If you have two wills, the most recent one is binding and takes precedence over the old will. The old will is then null and void. Amen and amen

Galatians 5:5-6

But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive everything promised to us who are right with God through faith. For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, it makes no difference to God whether we are circumcised or uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love. Galatians 5: 5-6 NLT

The whole thinking of the Judaizer was that of continuing to obey the Law of Moses, plus Christianity. They still worshipped the law, which made grace of no effect. The whole law was to be observed when under that particular covenant. Over 600 laws were to be adhered to, not just the Ten Commandments. No wonder Peter stood up and said, “*Why are you now questioning God’s way by burdening the Gentile believers with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestor’s were able to bear? We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the special favor of the Lord Jesus.*” *Acts 15: 10-11 NLT*

Understand this: the same God who gave the law was the same God who abolished being circumcised and keeping that law through their own human efforts. God made a better covenant, because no man could be justified through their own human efforts. He made a way through the death of his own dear Son, to die for their sins. In a sense the Judiazers were thumbing their nose to God saying his Son’s sacrifice was not good enough! And so it is, that some today are adding dos and don’ts to the grace God their Father has extended to them. Can anything be sadder than this? Amen and amen.

Galatians 5:7-10

You were getting along so well. Who has interfered with you to hold you back from following the truth? It certainly isn’t God, for he is the one who called you to freedom. But it takes only one wrong person among you to infect all the others---a little yeast spreads quickly through the whole batch of dough. I am trusting the Lord to bring you back to believing as I do about these things. God will judge that person, whoever it is, who has been troubling and confusing you. Galatians 5:7-10 NLT

There are those who trouble and confuse the body of Christ today. It is no different now than in the first century, however it is more widespread upon the face of the earth. There are those who would manipulate and control you for their own edification, and not for the Lord of all the earth.

Be that as it may, there is nothing hidden that shall stay hidden, for all will be revealed in time. That is why I urge you to study the word and let the Holy Spirit enlighten you and be your guide. I do not want some man, even your Pastor to call all the “shots.” Deception creeps in and behold! You are duped into believing a lie! How many misconceptions do you still believe because of false teaching? Examine the Scriptures for you have many tools at your disposal.

That being said, I want you to approach the word of God with a new perspective. It is your responsibility to study the word, and not someone else's. Grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen and amen.

Galatians 5:11-12

Dear brothers and sisters, if I were still preaching that you must be circumcised—as some say I do—why would the Jews persecute me? The fact that I am still being persecuted proves I am still preaching salvation through the cross-alone. I only wish those troublemakers who want to mutilate you by circumcision would mutilate themselves. Galatians 5:11-12 NLT

Those that preached circumcision was necessary for salvation were looking at Christ's sacrifice as having no effect unless the Mosaic Law accompanied it. The whole preaching of Paul and others was to cast away the Old Testament to make way for the New! And so it is today that many mix law and grace, and both are watered down instead of embracing the gospel Christ perpetuated.

How hard it is for these preachers to fulfill the will of God in their lives! Instead of letting the Holy Spirit have control; these preachers want to have the control! They love the adoration of the congregation, and not the true gospel. That is why I say in James 3:1 "Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged by God with greater strictness." NLT

When the ax is laid at the root of the tree, there is finality. The tree is no longer fruitful, and withers away. So shall it be for false preachers who do not repent. Amen and amen

Galatians 5:13-15

For you have been called to live in freedom—not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if instead of showing love among yourselves you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. Galatians 5: 13-15 NLT

The very real threat of living among your brethren is familiarity. Knowing someone intimately can be dangerous without the Spirit of God to direct you. So esteem others as better than yourselves! Proper boundaries should be established, so that there will be the proper space in which to grow.

When you are in the habit of loving your neighbor, you will always have their best interest at heart. You will be honest in all your transactions. There will be no hostility or badgering. There will be no talking behind their backs, slandering, or harsh words. Being kind, even if they are not kind to you, is the right avenue.

Some churches are torn apart by bickering, arguing and backstabbing. This has no place in the heart of a true Christian. Do not get mixed up in their malicious ways, my little children, it is like pulling a dogs ears. You will be bitten. If at all possible, live in peace with everyone, but especially the household of faith. Amen and amen.

Galatians 5:16-18

So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict. But when you are directed by the Holy Spirit, you are no longer subject to the law. Galatians 5: 16-18 NLT

"Oh what a miserable person I am! Who shall free me from this life that is dominated by sin? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 7:24-25

The Apostle Paul wrote this Scripture, and he had the same problems that you face today. He had to continually fight his human nature, and it was, and still is, a battle today. Do not lay down your armor and

become complacent, for those in the front lines in a battle must be sharply aware of their enemies' whereabouts.

Stand tall then, and be aware of the reason the law was given. It was to point out the definition of sin. Your heavenly Father knew that man could never be justified by keeping the law. If the law could have saved you, then why did Christ have to die? He was the Supreme Sacrifice. And now grace is extended through His giving of Himself, for you, and for all mankind. Amen and amen.

Galatians 5:19-21

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results:

- *Sexual Immorality*
- *Impure thoughts*
- *Eagerness for lustful pleasure*
- *Idolatry*
- *Participation in demonic activity*
- *Hostility*
- *Quarreling*
- *Jealousy*
- *Outbursts of anger*
- *Selfish ambition*
- *Divisions*
- *The feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group.*
- *Envy*
- *Drunkenness*
- *Wild parties, and other kinds of sin*

*Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the kingdom of God.
Galatians 5: 19-21 NLT*

Take inventory, my little children, for whom Christ died, and be watchful. Satan will stir others and yourselves to participate in these things, causing division in nations, states, homes and families. Be Christ like and do not fall prey to his diabolical plans. Amen and amen.

Galatians 5:22-23

But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us:

- *Love*
- *Joy*
- *Peace*
- *Patience*
- *Kindness*
- *Goodness*
- *Faithfulness*
- *Gentleness*
- *Self Control*

Here there is no conflict with the law. Galatians 5: 22-23 NLT

The fruits of the Spirit are listed in this passage of Scripture. It is a good measuring rod. Examine yourself by these fruits. See what you have, and what you are lacking. The successes of the gifts are contingent upon the fruits. Read 1Corinthians 13 again, and it tells you that if you don't have love, all of the gifts are useless in you, and profits you nothing!

Cultivate your garden of love and plant the rest of the fruits in them. Then you will be successful and win many souls for the kingdom of God! Amen and amen.

Galatians 5:24-26

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited, or irritate one another or be jealous of one another. Galatians 5: 24-26 NLT

Letting the Holy Spirit leading every part of your life! How awesome is this! In order to do this there must be yieldedness in every area of your life, right down to the minutest detail!

In order to do this, you must surrender daily and die daily to yourself. This is a task that is set before you every day, before your feet hit the floor. No longer are you slaves to the law, but you are now to be led by the Spirit. The Israelites followed the cloud in the wilderness you follow the Holy Spirit. This is the way that Christ made for you by his death on the cross. To reject this is to say his death was worthless! He, the ultimate sacrifice, was crucified for your sins, and not for his, for he was sinless.

Your duty as a Son or Daughter of God is to live your life in the Spirit, and to crucify the flesh, every day. That old flesh rises up every day and you must kill it every day. "How can I do this?" you may ask. Be led of the Holy Spirit, who is your guardian, guide, and human resource. He will help you, remind you, warn you, and strengthen you.

Make this the beginning of total surrender to God, and kill the flesh every day! Amen and amen

Galatians 6:1

Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Galatians 6: 1 NLT

On the pathway of life, there are many obstructions. Look at the case of David, a man after God's own heart. He loved his Creator with all his heart, wrote songs and sang to him, worshipped him daily. He went through many sore trials, but in a weak moment sinned greatly, so much so, that the sword never left his family! If David had just stopped and thought the situation over, cried out to God in his weakness, he would have saved himself a lot of heartache and distress!

So it is today, many giants have fallen into traps laid by Satan, the arch deceiver. He is cunning and crafty, and take heed, lest you fall into his snare. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, whatever a man sows; he shall reap that same thing, many times over! It is good to repent, but to live with the consequences brings a man or woman into stark reality.

That is why you need to keep your focus on me, and not the lusts of the flesh. The pride of life will make you fall, and great is that fall! Satan goes for your jugular vein! So run, do not walk, from his cunning devices and use your authority to chase him away. You are a child of the Most High God, and have that authority to crush and squash his temptations! Amen and amen.

Galatians 6:2-3

Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone in need, you are only fooling yourself. You are really a nobody. Galatians 6: 2-3 NLT

Everyone needs help at some point in their lives. No one is exempt. People need other people in their life's journey. Go the mile or two, even when you are inconvenienced.

When you have a need, what is in your help account for others? Are you thinking only of your needs? There is a world of hurting people out there beyond your little corner of it. Do you pray for the homeless? Do you contribute to their needs? Are you even concerned about them? Remember, many of them were reduced to homelessness due to loss of a job, foreclosure, divorce and other contributing factors.

How about widows and orphans, are they remembered in prayer, and monetarily as well? To use the vernacular, "Do you give a flip?" Do you remember to listen to someone in emotional distress, or do you think they should pull themselves up by their own bootstraps?

Are you concerned about the military, and our men and women giving their lives for their country? Do you pray for our President and other officials? Do you clothe the poor; feed the hungry, visit the sick, and those in prison? Do you pray for the Peace of Jerusalem? Are you, in fact, concerned about your fellowman?

This is a measuring rod for all Christians. Put mercy in your account, so that when you need mercy, you will have much to withdraw! Amen and amen.

Galatians 6:4-5

Be sure to do what you should, for then you will enjoy the personal satisfaction of having done your work well, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct. Galatians 6:4-5 NLT

It is easy as humans to compare what they are doing with the work of others. It even starts as a young child. When given a project to do by the teacher, the child will start and then look at his neighbors work. He immediately decides if he is doing better or worse, than his neighbor. That then, is carried into adulthood, and thus, "the keeping up with the Jones's."

This human foible is carried into the church, and so the divisions begin! Be content with your calling and be happy for the calling of another. Each must esteem others as better than themselves. When Christ's body runs smoothly, then he receives great pleasure! However, it takes one rotten apple to spoil the whole barrel. Satan gains a foothold and another church is on its way down.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure is applicable here. Nip that attitude in the bud is another cliché. Examine yourself and see that your motives are pure. Is there envy or jealousy? Are you angry at the promotion of another? If you are looking at your neighbor, who then is doing your work well? Is it not you? Who can do your work better than you? God, your Father designed you for your office because he had confidence that all he built within you would equip you for the job assigned. Be yourself and fulfill your destiny! Amen and amen.

Galatians 6:6

Those who are taught by God should help their teachers by paying them. Galatians 6:6 NLT

Our New Year should bring many changes to the child of God. A year should not just be new by the calendar, but also in your life. It is a time to pause and reflect.

What has been lacking in your life?

How can you make things different to improve?

What is your primary focus?

What are the useless things in your life of which you need to dispose?

How will you do this?

Of course you cannot do this without the help of your Creator, so invite him to help you.

In all things give thanks! A thankful heart is a grateful heart. To be grateful is to appreciate, and to appreciate is to love. Therefore, appreciate your instructors in the word, and do not hesitate to help them with their expenses in the gospel.

Some instructors have become rich because of their popularity. They should use their money as a good steward and not just to line their pockets, for they will give an account. They will be judged by the passage in *Matthew 25:34-46*.

All that is hidden shall be revealed. Instructors, preachers and laymen alike will be judged by their deeds. No one is exempt. See that you use your resources to further the Kingdom of God! Amen and amen.

Galatians 6:7-8

Don't be misled. Remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it. You will always reap what you sow! Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful desires will harvest the consequences of decay and death. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. Galatians 6:7-8 NLT

Greeting those whom you love is a wonderful thing, especially if you have not seen them for a prescribed period of time. It is then that you fill in by telling each other what has transpired in the interim months or years. There is a lot to tell and it might take hours, and then to reminisce about old times. However, it is not so in your relationship with Jesus Christ, the Father and the Blessed Holy Spirit, for we are with you 24 hours per day. Nothing escapes our notice! We are there to protect and guide you, and comfort you.

So, whether you are sowing righteousness or evil, it will manifest in your attitude. It is good to repent quickly and to get back on the right path, for the longer you linger, the more you will give in to temptation. Which would you rather do, please your Savior or the Tempter? Think about that the next time you have to choose!

Rather than reap death, all Christians should want to reap life everlasting! Don't give in, don't look back, do not fail in your commitment to your fiancé, Jesus the Messiah, the Holy One, the Bright Morning Star, the Rose of Sharon, the Lifter of your head! Love him! Choose His way! Sow righteousness and Justice, peace and tranquility. Sow everlasting Joy! Amen and amen.

Galatians 6:9-10

So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessings at the appropriate time. Whenever we have the opportunity we should do good to everyone, especially to our Christian brothers and sisters. Galatians 6:9-10 NLT

Growing tired is prevalent in the world today, with all the conflict and bitterness, the hatred and bigotry. How is the child of God to react to this unpleasant mindset? All people, no matter how great or small will grow weary at different phases of their lives. That is why it is so necessary to stay close to your Savior and Lord.

To do this there must be prayer every day not only to ask for yourself, but also for those of which you are in daily contact. Care for others as much as you do for yourself. "Love your neighbor as yourself." This can only be done if you ask the Lord for love like this. It is not human love, but divine love that will carry you through the darkest moments of your life.

Consider this: all people need people in their lives, but first and foremost, they need Jesus Christ in their lives. When you have Christ, you have what you need to deal with your fellowman. Follow his example. When Satan tempted Christ to jump off the temple pinnacle, he did not accept what would have been suicide. He answered by saying, "Do not test the Lord your God." *Matthew 4:5-7 NLT* It is Satan that wants you to give up, but the Lord says, for you to bring all your burdens to him. He will fight your battles for you, if only you give up all your ways to handle a problem. He has the answer you do not. If you must "give up", give up all to Jesus and let him carry you. Amen and amen.

Galatians 6:11-13

Notice what large letters I use as I write these closing words in my own handwriting, those who are trying to force you to be circumcised are doing it for just one reason. They don't want to be persecuted for teaching that the cross alone can save. And even those who advocate circumcision don't really keep the whole law. They only want you to be circumcised so they can brag about it and claim you as their disciples. Galatians 6: 11-13 NLT

Now is the time that all peoples, nations, languages and tongues should come into the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world's population is at an all time high. The harvest is bursting at the seams. You must be ready to act at a moment's notice. All systems must be GO!

In light of that fact, do not be disturbed by reports of the media, their fear tactics and reports of doom and gloom. I still rule the world in spite of Satan and his devices. My message to him is, "Thus far, and no farther!" I rule all principalities and powers whether they are on the earth or under the earth. My purposes stand and my word will not return as void, but it will accomplish all my will, and all my bidding. So lift up the feeble hands and strengthen you legs for the journey of a lifetime!

Go where no man or women has gone before. Dare to be a modern Daniel! Set your mind as flint! Do not be as one who draws back! Go forward and with courage and fortitude. Be about your Father's business!

Paul's letter to the Galatians was to explain law versus grace. Circumcision was not only the physical rite of cutting the flesh, it was also to keep all the laws contained in the Torah-the Law as given to Moses for the children of Israel. You live in a new dispensation, namely the time of grace. Do not be misled by your persecutors and their scare tactics. Yours is a better covenant, my laws are written on your heart, and the Holy Spirit is the voice of God's instruction to you on a daily basis. Listen and obey, for you are loved and appreciated by your heavenly Father. Amen and amen.

Galatians 6:14-18

As for me, God forbid that I should boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world died long ago, and the world's interest in me is long dead. It doesn't make any difference now whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we really have been changed into new and different people. May God's mercy and peace be upon all those who live by this principle. They are the new people of God. From now on, don't let anyone trouble me with these things. For I bear on my body the scars that show I belong to Jesus. My dear brothers and sisters, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Galatians 6: 14-18 NLT

Stop to contemplate the meaning of grace.

Grace:

1. Unmerited divine assistance given man for his regeneration or sanctification.
2. A state of sanctification enjoyed through divine grace;
3. A virtue coming from God -taken from Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary

Grace abolished the law when the Grace giver died for all mankind. Now you are not under condemnation as those were under the law.

(Romans 8: 1-4 NLT) So now there is no condemnation to those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death. The Law of Moses could not save us because of our sinful nature. But God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours, except that ours are sinful. God destroyed sin's control over us by

giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the requirement of the law would be fully accomplished for us who no longer follow our sinful nature, but instead follow the Spirit.

The law could never save us from our sins. V. 7: For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws and it never will! Read the whole chapter.

Be overwhelmed that you are living in the dispensation of grace, and thank your Lord and Master for this priceless privilege. Amen and amen.