

# **“THE CURSE, THE CROSS AND THE CANCELLATION”**

**Text:** Galatians 3:10-29

**Subject:** How Fortunate You Really Are, That Grace Supercedes The Law

**Question:** How many of you have ever felt condemnation that comes from the accuser of the brethren (the devil himself?)

**Question:** How many of you have ever felt like you just don't measure up to God's expectations?

**Question:** How many of you have ever had to battle feelings of unworthiness or inferiority in your Christian life?

**Question:** How many of you have ever felt like you really messed up (and wished you could go back and start all over again?)

**Question:** How many of you have ever not prayed or not worshipped because you felt like God was distant from you?

**Question:** How many of you have ever wanted to slap yourself (more than just once) for something foolish you did?

**Question:** How many of you have ever asked the question in your mind, “What's the difference between conviction from God and condemnation from the devil”?

- ◆ Well, guess what; you're normal (very normal).
- ◆ And that's why Galatians is in your Bible.

## **Introduction**

1. Paul (In Acts 13 & 14) had founded the churches in Galatia.
2. Believers had embraced the message of justification by faith.
3. False teachers then invaded the church.
4. They taught that salvation was by faith and works.
5. They attempted to bring believers into bondage to the Law of Moses.
6. Legalism was the danger facing the church.
7. So Paul wrote Galatians to magnify God's grace (and the freedom that results from knowing the truth).

**Question:** What's the truth?

**Answer:** The truth is revealed in our text (Galatians 3:13)

*“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”*

**Question:** What's this have to do with me, and how does it reveal how fortunate I really am?

- ◆ What is the curse of the Law?
- ◆ How did Christ redeem you from the curse of the Law?
- ◆ How was Jesus made a curse for you?
- ◆ What does it mean in verse 13 that “Cursed is everyone that hangs on a tree”?

## **I. The Problem Of The Curse**

**Question:** What is the curse of the Law?

**Answer:** The curse of the Law is the sentence of condemnation which the Law pronounced on us because of sin. (Repeat)

## **The Curse Of The Law**

- ◆ Is the problem we all face without grace.
- ◆ Is the wrath of God against sin.
- ◆ Is the vengeance of God upon transgressors.
- ◆ Is the displeasure of God towards disobedience.
- ◆ Is the loss of God's favor because we all fall short of the Lord's expectation.

**Question:** What is the curse of the Law?

**Answer:** The curse of the Law is you and me guilty and needing to face punishment as law-breakers.

**Question:** Why do we all stand guilty before God?

**Answer:** Because (in v.10) all of us have failed in perfect obedience.

#### **In Other Words**

- ◆ The Law is a curse against us because it reveals our inability to fulfill its obligations.

**Question:** Can anybody here be good enough to escape the wrath of God upon sin?

**Answer:** (v. 11) *"But that no man is justified by the Law in the sight of God, it is evident."*

#### **In Other Words**

- ◆ I can't be good enough to keep all the Law.
- ◆ You can't be good enough to keep all the Law.
- ◆ Nobody else around you can be good enough to keep all the Law.

#### **In Fact**

- ◆ The Law wasn't given for you to keep it in the first place.

**Question:** If the Law can't be kept, then why was it given by God through Moses?

**Answer:** It was given for a great reason.

(v. 19) "Why then the Law"? (Or, what good is it?)

**"It was added because of transgressions."** (Which means)

- ◆ The law wasn't given to save us (but),
- ◆ The Law was given to awaken our sense of guilt and drive us to the Savior, who can save us.

#### **In Other Words**

1. The Law reveals that all of us have sinned.
2. The Law reveals that no one is perfect.
3. The Law reveals that no one can save themselves.
4. The Law reveals that God is right, I am wrong.
5. The Law reveals that I am guilty.
6. The Law reveals that I can't earn salvation.
7. The Law reveals how much I need to run to Jesus.

**Deuteronomy 27:26; "Cursed is everyone who doesn't keep the Law."**

## **II. The Pain Of The Curse**

**Question:** How does understanding the Law affect me?

**Answer:** (v. 22) It should affect me when I realize (in v. 22) **"All are under sin."**

**Which Means:**

- ◆ “Shut up as a prisoner in solitary hopelessness.”
- ◆ “Confined as a criminal in unescapable confinement.”
- ◆ “In bondage to a debt that we could never repay.”

#### **In Other Words**

- ◆ Without grace, we are in bondage to sin.
- ◆ Without grace, we are hopelessly addicted to sinful behavior.
- ◆ Without grace, we have no power to conquer the sinful nature.
- ◆ Without grace, we cannot change ourselves.
- ◆ Without grace, we carry our guilt, our shame, our pain, our deeds, our record, our failures, our debt, our sin, our past, our curse that separates us from God.

**Question:** Why is the curse of the Law so painful?

**Answer:** Because of what the Law does:

- ◆ It shows us exactly where we fail!
- ◆ It reveals where we come up short!
- ◆ It increases the guilt inside of us!
- ◆ It condemns our conscience!
- ◆ It renders the verdict and sentences us all to death!

**Question:** What’s the answer if we are all under the curse of the Law?

**Answer:** The answer lies in v.13.

### **III. The Payment Of The Curse**

**Question:** What’s the answer to the dilemma that everybody faces?

**Answer:** (V. 13) *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, cursed is everyone that hangs on a tree.”*

#### **The Dilemma Is:**

- ◆ God is holy and just, and thereby must punish sin (and we’ve all sinned)

#### **The Answer is**

- ◆ If God’s holy law can be satisfied, God can then exercise mercy towards those who trust in the one who satisfies His Law.

#### **In Other Words**

- ◆ How can unworthy sinners be made worthy when none of us can satisfy what the Law requires?

#### **The First Word Of Verse 13 – “Christ”**

**Question:** What did Christ do that affects you and me?

**Answer:** **“Redeemed us from the curse of the Law:** (Which means)

- ◆ Jesus has bought us back from the curse of the Law (as a master bought a slave out of slavery).
- ◆ The word **“redeemed”** in the Greek means: **“To purchase a slave for the purpose of freeing them.”**

**Question:** How did Jesus redeem us from the curse of the Law?

**Answer:** (v. 13) **“Being made a curse for us.”** (Which means)

1. Jesus was made a curse for us when all of our sins were laid on Him.
2. Jesus was made a curse for us when He paid the penalty that you and I deserved.
3. Jesus was made a curse for us, when God accepted His righteous sacrifice as our substitute for sin.
4. Jesus was made a curse for us, when God cursed all of our sin in Jesus, and planned the sacrifice at Calvary.

#### **In Other Words Now**

- ◆ Those who believe in this truth (and accept it) have no more curse upon them!

#### **In Other Words**

- ◆ You may have been a liar,
- ◆ You may have been a thief,
- ◆ You may have been a drunkard,
- ◆ You may have been a cusser,
- ◆ You may have been an adulterer,
- ◆ You may have been a murderer,
- ◆ You may have been a hell-raiser.

#### **But guess what?**

- ◆ When a person becomes **“in Christ”** God sees you as **innocent**.
- ◆ God sees you as **pure!**
- ◆ God sees you as **sinless!**
- ◆ God sees you as **forgiven!**

#### **Why?**

- ◆ Because God punished your sin (in Christ) when He died on a tree!!

#### **Glory be to God!**

- ◆ A past that is forgiven,
- ◆ A present that is clean,
- ◆ A future that is glorious.

#### **Why?**

**“Because Christ has been made a curse for you.”**

AMEN!  
Bill Kirk