

The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians

1 Paul, an apostle (not from men, neither through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him out from among *the* dead), ²and all the brothers who are with me, to the congregations of Galatia: ³Grace to you and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins in order that he might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

⁶I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you by the grace of Christ *and are turning* to a different Good News, ⁷which is *really* not another; but there are some who are troubling you, and who want to pervert the Good News of Christ. ⁸But though we, or an angel from heaven, should tell you any other Good News than that Good News that we told to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so I now say again, if any man tells you any Good News other than that which you received, let him be accursed. ¹⁰Indeed, am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please

men? If I were still pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

¹¹For I make known to you, brothers, the Good News that was proclaimed by me, that it is not of human origin. ¹²For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but *it came to me* by revelation from Jesus Christ.

¹³For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the congregation of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵But when it was the good pleasure of God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, ¹⁶to reveal his Son in me in order that that I might tell the Good News about him among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood, ¹⁷neither did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and I returned again to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

²⁰(In what I am writing to you, behold!, before God, I do not lie!)

²¹Then I came to the region of Syria and Cilicia. ²²And I was still

unknown by face to the congregations of Judea that were in Christ,²³ but they were only hearing, “He who once persecuted us now tells the Good News *concerning* the faith which he once tried to destroy,”²⁴ and they glorified God because of me.

2 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus with me also.² And I went up by revelation, and I laid before them (but privately before those who were of reputation) the Good News that I preach among the Gentiles, lest by any means I should be running, or had run, in vain.³ But not even Titus who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.⁴ And that *issue came up* because of the false brothers *who were* secretly brought in, who came in secretly to spy out our freedom which we have in Christ Jesus in order that they might bring us into slavery.⁵ We did not yield in subjection to them for *even* an hour, so that the truth of the Good News might continue with you.

⁶But from those who seemed to be important (whatever they were at one time, it does not matter to me, God does not accept a man’s face)—before me, then, those seeming *to be something* placed nothing *for me to do*,⁷ but on the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with

the Good News of the uncircumcision, even as Peter with *the Good News* of the circumcision⁸ (for he who was active in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision was active in me also to the Gentiles),⁹ and when they perceived the grace that was given to me, James and Cephas and John, those who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcision.¹⁰ *They only desired* that we would remember the poor; the very thing I also was zealous to do.

¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I resisted him to the face because he was clearly in the wrong.

¹²For before certain *men* came from James, he ate with the Gentiles, but when they came, he drew back and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.¹³ And the rest of the Jews joined with him in hypocrisy, insomuch that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.¹⁴ But when I saw that they did not walk uprightly according to the truth of the Good News, I said to Cephas before *them* all, “If you, being a Jew, live as the Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel the Gentiles to live as the Jews *live*?”

¹⁵We *who are* Jews by birth, and not “Gentile sinners,”¹⁶ knowing that a man is not declared righteous

by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we believed on Christ Jesus in order that we might be declared righteous by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no flesh will be justified.

¹⁷But if, while seeking to be declared righteous in Christ, we ourselves also were found sinners, is Christ a servant of sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I prove myself *to be* a transgressor. ¹⁹For through law I died to law, that I might live to God. ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but living in me—Christ! And that *life* which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, *the faith* which is in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me. ²¹I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness is through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

3 O unthinking Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly set forth *as* crucified? ²I only want to learn this from you: did you receive the spirit by the works of the law, or by hearing with faith? ³Are you so unthinking? Having begun in *the* spirit, are you now being perfected in *the* flesh? ⁴Did you suffer so many things in vain? If it really was in vain. ⁵Indeed, he who is supplying the spirit to you, and energizing

miracles among you, *does he do it* because of the works of *the* law, or because of hearing with faith? ⁶Just as **Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.**

⁷Know then, that those who are of faith, the same are sons of Abraham.

⁸And the scripture, foreseeing that God would declare the Gentiles righteous by faith, preached the Good News beforehand to Abraham, *saying, In you all the nations will be blessed.* ⁹So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the *man* of faith.

¹⁰For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse, for it is written, **Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things that are written in the book of the law, to do them.** ¹¹But that no one is declared righteous before God by the law is evident, for, **The righteous will live by faith,** ¹²and the law is not of faith, but, **He who does them will live in them.** ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, **Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree**), ¹⁴in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, in order that we might receive the promise of the spirit through faith.

¹⁵Brothers, I speak after the manner of men. Even a covenant that has been ratified by man, no one annuls it or adds to it. ¹⁶Now the promises were spoken to Abraham

and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as concerning many, but as concerning one, "And to **your seed**," which is Christ. ¹⁷Now this I say: the law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. ¹⁸For if the inheritance *is* based on law, it is no longer based on promise, but God has granted it to Abraham by a promise.

¹⁹Why the law then? It was added because of transgressions, until the seed should come to whom the promise has been made, having been put in place through angels by the hand of a mediator. ²⁰Now the mediator is not for one *party only*; but God is *only* one.

²¹Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. ²²But the Scripture has imprisoned all *things* under sin, so that the promise might be given by faith in Jesus Christ unto those who believe.

²³But before the coming of the faith *in Christ*, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned in regard to the faith that was about to be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law has been our guardian-tutor until Christ, so that we might be made righteous by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a

guardian-tutor. ²⁶For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male and female; for you all are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹Now if you are Christ's, then are you Abraham's seed, heirs according to promise.

4 Now I say, as long as the heir is a minor, he does not differ from a slave, although he is lord of everything, ²but is under guardians and administrators until the date set beforehand by the father. ³So we also, when we were minors, were enslaved to the basic principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of the time came, God sent his Son, coming from a woman, coming under *the* law, ⁵in order that he might redeem those who were under *the* law in order that we might receive the adoption. ⁶Now, because you are sons, God sent forth the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba" (Father). ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and since a son, then an heir through God.

⁸But at that time, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those who are not gods by nature. ⁹However, now that you have come to know God, or rather to

be known by God, how is it that you are turning back again to the weak and inferior basic principles, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? ¹⁰You observe days, and months, and seasons, and years. ¹¹I fear for you, lest somehow I have labored over you in vain.

¹²I implore you, brothers, keep becoming as I *am*, for I also *became* as you. You have done me no wrong. ¹³Indeed, you know that because of an infirmity of the flesh I told you the Good News the first time, ¹⁴and that which was a temptation to you in my flesh you did not treat with contempt, nor loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.

¹⁵Where then *is* the sense of blessing you had? For I testify to you, that if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me.

¹⁶So then have I become your enemy, by telling you the truth?

¹⁷They zealously seek you, *but* for no good. They want to shut you out, that you may zealously seek them.

¹⁸But *it is* always good to be zealously sought after for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you. ¹⁹My children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you—²⁰but I was wishing to be present with you now, and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

²¹Tell me, you who desire to be under law, do you not hear the law? ²²For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave-girl, and one by the freewoman. ²³But the *son* by the slave-girl was born according to the flesh, while the *son* of the freewoman *was born* through promise. ²⁴These things contain an allegory, for these *women* are two covenants. One from Mount Sinai, giving birth to bondage, which is Hagar. ²⁵Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem that is above is free, which is our mother. ²⁷For it is written, **Rejoice, barren one who does not bear, break forth and shout, you who are not in labor, for the children of the desolate woman are more than of the one who has the husband.**

²⁸Now you, brothers, as Isaac was, are children of promise. ²⁹But just as *back* then, he who was born according to *the* flesh was persecuting the one *born* according to spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰But what does the Scripture say? **Cast out the slave-girl and her son, for the son of the slave-girl will not inherit with the son of the freewoman.** ³¹Therefore, brothers, we are not children of a slave-girl, but of the freewoman.

5 *It is* for freedom Christ has set us free. Therefore, keep standing

firm, and do not be subject again to a yoke of bondage.

²Take notice! I Paul say to you, that, if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³Indeed, I testify again to every man who lets himself be circumcised, that he is obligated to do the whole law. ⁴You have been severed from Christ, you who are trying to be made righteous by *the* law. You have fallen away from grace. ⁵For we, through spirit, by faith, eagerly wait for the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value, but faith working through love.

⁷You were running well. Who cut in on you *that* you should not be persuaded by the truth? ⁸This persuasion *is* not from him who calls you. ⁹“A little leaven leavens the whole lump.” ¹⁰I have confidence in you in the Lord, that you will not think otherwise, but the one who is troubling you will bear his judgment, whoever he is. ¹¹But I, brothers, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the stumbling block of the cross has been removed. ¹²I wish those who are unsettling you would castrate themselves!

¹³For you, brothers, were called to freedom, only do not *use* the freedom for an opportunity to *indulge* the flesh, but through love

serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, in the *command*, **Love your neighbor as yourself.** ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶Now I say, walk by *the* spirit, and you shall by no means gratify *the* lust of *the* flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh sets its desire against the spirit, *and* indeed, the spirit against the flesh, for these oppose each other, with the result that you are not doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by spirit, you are not under law.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, unrestrained behavior, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousies, fits of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envyings, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, even as I did forewarn you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³meekness, self-control. There is no law against such things.

²⁴Those who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by spirit, let us also keep in step with *the* spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

6 Brothers, even if a man gets overtaken in some trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of meekness, watching out for yourself, lest you also be tempted. ²Bear one another's hardships, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he is deceiving himself. ⁴But let each one test his own work, and then he will have *reason for* boasting in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵For each one will have to bear his own load.

⁶Moreover, let the one who is being instructed in the word fellowship fully with the one who is instructing in all good things. ⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the spirit will of the spirit reap life *in the Age to come*. ⁹Now let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, while we have opportunity, let us work that which is good to all *people*, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

¹¹See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. ¹²As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, they are trying to compel you to be

circumcised, *but* only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep *the* law, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. ¹⁴But for me on my part, let it never be *that I* boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation *is everything*. ¹⁶And as many as will keep in line with this standard, peace *be* upon them, and mercy, even upon the Israel of God.

¹⁷From now on, let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

