

Oct 29, 2023



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
When we belong to Christ, we're heirs of Abraham

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
King of kings and Lord of lords,
You are mighty and glorious.
Thank You for stooping down to love me and for welcoming me as Your child

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith
(Gal 3:26 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Mar 27, 2021)

Series: God's Law Is Love

**UNIT 3: Christ Frees,
Law Enslaves**

NEXT WEEK

**Freedom from
Expectations
(Acts 15:1-11)**

Freedom as an Heir Galatians 3:23-4:7

Lesson Background and Introduction

In today's printed text, Paul continued his efforts to instruct the Galatian Christians about the correct relationship between law and grace. Because of some false teachers called Judaizers, the churches in the province of Galatia were adding works of the law to the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6-10). Paul reflected on his own "extremely zealous" experience in Judaism (1:14) as he highlighted his inability to follow the law to the point of justification (2:15-21). Through Christ, the promise of salvation had been revealed to the whole world (3:6-9). Paul went on to show the unifying nature of that salvation for all who would believe in Christ. Because of Paul's preaching of the gospel of grace, some of his opponents accused him of acting in contradiction to the Old Testament (example: Acts 18:12-13). While Paul presented the new message of grace without apology, he also readily acknowledged that there was a purpose for the old Law of Moses. He strenuously maintained that the new is superior, but that the old had a vital purpose in God's plan. Galatians 3:15-22 (immediately preceding our printed text) focuses on the illustration of Abraham's (singular) seed. It is in Christ alone that God fulfilled the law. And this fulfillment did not do away with the promises God made; far from it! Instead, Jesus was the means by which God made good on the promises to Abraham and his descendants. In 3:21-22, Paul focused on the limitation of the law, namely that it could not impart righteousness or life.

In the freshman year of a high school student, he went to a camp that described Jesus in a new way. This teaching depicted God, the Father, as one who loved him very much. This God would forgive him and never abandon him. This teaching was good news! When he surrendered to Jesus, he realized he had been a slave to a works-based salvation, a slave to sin, a slave to fear, and a slave to "trying hard, but never sure." But the situation is not hopeless. A pardon has been provided through the death of Jesus. In Christ, he is free from this anguish. And you, brothers and sisters in Christ, enjoy the same status he does. We are loved; we are our Father's children. Our new status is a result of this relationship. The Spirit lives in our hearts to confirm this. God had a plan from the beginning, and regardless of who you once were, in Christ you are made right with God. You have been bought with a price and adopted as his child. We are not to be slaves to law, traditions, cultural norms, or other restrictions; we are free through faith in Jesus Christ to live fully as the heirs of God's promise.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Our Position in Jesus Christ (Gal 3:23-29)

Law brings us to Jesus Christ (23-26)

- Bringing to Jesus as part of the fulfillment of the law (Matt 5:17-18)
- Bringing to Jesus so that Jesus can live in us (Gal 2:19-20)
- Bringing to Jesus to find the true reality (Col 2:16-17)
- Bringing to Jesus so that there will be no condemnation (Rom 8:1-2)
- Bringing to Jesus so that we can stand firm (2 Cor 1:21-22)
- Bringing to Jesus to become a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)

Baptizes us into Jesus Christ (27)

- Baptized in Jesus and His death (Rom 6:3)
- Baptized in Jesus as part of God's unity (1 Cor 12:13)
- Baptized in Jesus' name to become a disciple (Matt 28:19)
- Baptized in Jesus so as to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)
- Baptized in Jesus so that we will be raised by Him (Col 2:10-12)
- Baptized in Jesus to have a good conscience toward God (1 Peter 3:21)

Positions us one in Jesus (28)

- One in Jesus through Jesus' pray to God (John 17:22)
- One in Jesus through being one of His sheep (John 10:16)
- One in Jesus through being gathered into one (John 11:52)
- One in Jesus through being one Church body (1 Cor 12:12)
- One in Jesus through Jesus being our peace (Eph 2:14-16)
- One in Jesus through one faith (Eph 4:4-6)

Positions us heirs to the promise (29)

- Heirs because of overcoming the world (Rev 21:7)
- Heirs through faith (Rom 4:13)
- Heirs through the gospel (Eph 3:6)
- Heirs having the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:4-7)
- Heirs that have the promise and oath of God (Heb 6:16-18)

Escape from Enslavement to the World (Gal 4:1-3)

Escape from being treated as a child (1-2)

- Treated as a child because of being worldly (1 Cor 3:1-3)
- Treated as a child because of thinking like a child (1 Cor 14:20)
- Treated as a child because of not allowing the Holy Spirit to interpret (1 Cor 2:14)
- Treated as a child because of being foolish and not understanding God's will (Eph 5:17)
- Treated as a child because of not being able to bear more knowledge (John 16:12-13)

Escape from being under bondage (3)

- Under bondage because of disobedience (Deut 28:45-48)
- Under bondage because of prideful leaders (Isa 39:1-7)
- Under bondage because of sin (Jer 15:13-14)
- Under bondage through our own fault (Jer 17:4)

Redemption through Jesus Christ (Gal 4:4-7)

Because Jesus was born under the law (4)

- What it means to be born under the law (Barnes Notes)
- Born under the law to fulfill all righteousness (Matt 3:15)
- Jesus also grew up under the law (Luke 2:21-24)
- Born under the law to fulfill God's prophecy (Gen 3:15)
- Born under the law to satisfy the sign of the Messiah (Isa 7:14)

Redeemed from the law through Jesus (5)

- Jesus came into the world to redeem His people (Luke 1:68)
- Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law (Gal 3:13)
- We have redemption through Jesus' blood (Eph 1:7)
- Redemption resulting in the forgiveness of sins (Col 1:13-14)
- Redemption from all wickedness (Titus 2:14)
- Jesus' redemption is eternal (Heb 9:12)
- Jesus is the redemption of the saints (1 Cor 1:30)

Redeemed through the Holy Spirit's indwelling (6-7)

- The Holy Spirit gives life through His indwelling (Rom 8:9-11)
- Indwelling because of being the temple of God (1 Cor 3:16)
- Indwelling that is the good deposit guaranteeing salvation (2 Tim 1:14)
- Indwelling because of loving God and Jesus (John 14:23)