

1 1 Paul, an apostle, not from people or through a person, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead, 2 and all the brothers with me,

To all the churches of Galatia:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins in order to deliver us from the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

6 I marvel that you are so quickly abandoning the one who called you by grace for a different gospel, 7 which is not another gospel, but some are troubling you and wanting to distort the Gospel of Christ. 8 But if even we, or an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel other than the one which we preached to you, let us be damned! 9 As we have said before, now I say again: whoever is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received-- *let them be damned!*

10 Now, am I seeking favor from people or from God? Or am I seeking to please people? If I were still trying to please people, then I would not be a slave of Christ.

11 For I want you to know, my brothers, that the gospel being preached by me is not according to people, 12 for *I* neither received it from people nor was taught it but through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

13 You have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I was zealously persecuting and kept trying to destroy the church of God, 14 and how I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my peers in my race because I was overly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. 15 And when it pleased God to set me apart, out of my mother's womb, to call me through his grace 16 to receive his son in me, in order that I would preach about him to the Gentiles, I did not go to anyone for advice 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to the ones who were apostles before me, but I immediately went away to Arabia, and again I returned to Damascus.

18 When, after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to consult Cephas I remained with him for fifteen days, 19 but I did not see any other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. 20 (Now in what I am writing to you, in the sight of God, I am not lying.) 21 Then I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, 22 but I was not known by sight to the churches of Christ in Judea. 23 They kept hearing only that, "The one who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith he was once trying to destroy," 24 and they were glorifying God because of me.

2 1 When, after fourteen years, I went up to Jerusalem again, accompanied by Barnabas, taking Titus along with me, 2 I went up by revelation and explained to them (but privately before the respected ones) the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, lest I should be running or had been running in vain. 3 But not even Titus, who was with me, although a Greek, was forced to be circumcised; 4 but because of those pretending to be brethren, who kept slipping in to spy on our freedom which we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might enslave us-- 5 but not even for one hour did we yield submission to them, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. 6 But from the ones reputed to be something (whether they were does not matter to me; God does not judge by outward appearance), nothing was added to me. 7 On the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised 8 (for the one who worked, through Peter, a mission among the circumcised had also worked,

through me, a mission among the Gentiles), 9 and, perceiving the grace that had been given to me, James, Cephas, and John (the ones reputed to be pillars) gave Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, that *we* should go among the Gentiles but *they* among the circumcised. 10 Only they wished that we continue to remember their poor, which is the very thing I was eager to do.

11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned. 12 For, before some had come from James, he had been eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he began to draw back and separate himself, fearing those of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews were acting hypocritically with him, and even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not living rightly in accordance with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, being a Jew, should live like a Gentile and not a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like a Jew?"

15 We ourselves, who are Jews by nature and not Gentile sinners, 16 knowing that a person is not justified by works of law, but only through faith in Jesus Christ, *even we* put our faith in Christ Jesus, in order that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of works of law, because no flesh will be justified out of works of law. 17 But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, it were discovered that even we are sinners, then is Christ an accomplice of sin? *Certainly not!* 18 For if I build up again those things which I have torn down, I show myself to be a transgressor. 19 For *I*, through law, have died to law in order to live for God. I have been crucified with Christ; 20 and it is no longer *I* who lives, but Christ lives in me; but that life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I am not rejecting the grace of God, for if righteousness were through law, then Christ died needlessly.

3 1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was placarded as crucified? 2 I wish to learn only this from you: did you receive the spirit by works of law or by hearing with faith? 3 Surely you are not so foolish! Having begun with the Spirit, are you now perfected by the flesh? 4 Did you experience these things in vain?--if it really be in vain. 5 So is the one supplying the Spirit to you, and working miracles in you, because of works of law or because of hearing with faith?

6 Just as Abraham "believed God and it was counted to him for justification," 7 so you should know that *the men of faith* are the sons of Abraham. 8 And the scripture, having foreseen that God would justify the nations by faith, announced the Gospel beforehand to Abraham: "In you all nations will be blessed;" 9 so then, the men of faith are blessed with the faithful Abraham. 10 All who rely on works of law are under a curse, for it is written, "Everyone who does not remain faithful to and do all things that are written in the book of law is cursed." 11 And it is clear that no one is justified in God's sight by law because, "The justified shall live by faith." 12 And the Law is not dependent on faith, but "The one who follows them shall live in them." 13 Christ set us free from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written that "Everyone who hangs on a tree is cursed," 14 so that the blessing of Abraham by Christ Jesus might be given to the Gentiles, in order that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

15 Brethren, I say this according to people, when even a person's will is put into effect, no one rejects or adds to it. 16 Now, the promises were made to Abraham's seed. It does not say, "And to his *seeds*," as if to many, but as to one, "And to your *seed*," which is Christ. 17 I say this: the Law which came after 430 years can not invalidate a will previously put into effect by God, so as to nullify the promise. 18 For if the inheritance is

by law, then it is no longer by promise; but God, because of his promise, gave generously to Abraham. 19 Therefore what is the Law? It was added because of transgressions; and, until the seed to which it was promised came, the ordinance was given through angels to a mediator. 20 So the mediator is not one, but God is one.

21 Is the Law contrary to the promises of God? *Certainly not!* For if the power to make life were given to law, then justification would be by law. 22 But the Scripture made all things a prisoner unto sin, so that the promise from faith in Jesus Christ might be given to the ones having faith. 23 And before this faith came, we were held prisoner under law, being a prisoner until faith should be revealed. 24 So, the law was our supervisor until Christ, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But, this faith having come, we are no longer under a custodian.

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus; 27 for as many of you as have been baptized in Christ have also clothed yourself in Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are the seeds of Abraham, heirs according to promise.

4 1 Now I am saying as long as the heir is a young child, although he is owner of all, he is not any different from a slave 2 because he is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by his father. 3 And, in the same way, we, when we were children, were slaves to the elements of this world. 4 But when the fullness of time came, God sent away his son, born of a woman, subject to law, 5 in order that he might redeem those under law, in order that we might receive adoption. 6 But, since you are sons, God sent out the spirit of his son to our hearts, crying Abba Father. 7 So that each of you is no longer a slave but a son, and, if a son, also an heir through God.

8 But, at that time, not knowing God, you were enslaved to the ones who are by nature not gods; 9 but now knowing God, or rather now being known by God, how can you turn again to those weak and pitiful elemental spirits; why do you want to be slaves again? 10 You are observing days, months, seasons, and years; 11 I am afraid that perhaps I have labored among you in vain.

12 Brethren I beg you, *become as I am*, because I have also been as you are. You have not treated me unjustly. 13 Now, you know it was on account of a weakness of my flesh that I preached the gospel to you at first. 14 And, even though in my state I was a trial for you, you did not despise or reject me, but you received me as you would an angel of God or Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore, where is your happiness? For I bear you witness that, if you could have, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. 16 So, have I become an enemy by telling you the truth? 17 They take a great interest in you for no good purpose, but wish to separate you from me, so that you will be interested in them. 18 Now it is good to be interested in the good always, and not only when I am with you. 19 My little children, with whom I am again suffering birth pangs until Christ's nature should be formed in you, 20 I wish I were with you right now and could change my tone, for I am perplexed concerning you.

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under law, do you not hear the Law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. 23 The one by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, and the one from the free woman was born because of a promise. 24 Now, there is an allegory, for these women are also two covenants. One, Hagar, is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery. 25 And Hagar represents Mount Sinai in Arabia, and she corresponds to the present Jerusalem,

for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and this one is our mother; 27 for it is written,

Rejoice, the barren woman who does not bear;
Break forth with a shout and cry out, the one who
does not feel labor pains; for the desolate will have
more children than she who has the husband.

28 Now you, brethren, are children of a promise, just like Isaac. 29 But just as once the one born according to flesh persecuted the one born according to spirit, it is the same even now. 30 But what does the scripture say? "Throw out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave will not inherit with the son of the free woman." 31 Therefore, brethren, we are not children of a slave woman but of a free woman. 5 1 Christ set us free for the freedom; standfast therefore, and do not again become subject to a yoke of slavery.

2 Look, I, Paul, am telling you, if you allow yourself to be circumcised, then Christ will be of no use to you. 3 *I* bear witness again to all men who are allowing themselves to be circumcised, that they are debtors to perform the whole Law. 4 *You*, who are trying to be justified in law are severed from Christ; *you* have fallen away from grace. 5 For we, through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting expectantly for the hope of justification. 6 For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has value, but faith being activated by love is valued.

7 You were running well; who hindered you so that you are not persuaded by truth? 8 This trial is not from the one who is calling you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I am persuaded in the Lord about you, that you will consider no other; and the one troubling you, whoever he should be, will bear the judgment. 11 But if I, brethren, still preach circumcision, why am I persecuted? Therefore, the stumbling block of the cross has been destroyed. 12 I wish the ones distressing you would castrate themselves.

13 You were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use this freedom as a foothold for the flesh, but become a slave of love for others. 14 The whole law has been fulfilled in one phrase: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you are biting and devouring one another, take heed that you do not consume each other.

16 But I say, walk in the Spirit and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires contrary to what the spirit desires, and the spirit contrary to the flesh; for they are opposed to one another. As a result, you cannot do the things which you want to do. 18 But if you are being led by the Spirit, then you are not under law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are clear: immorality, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 idolatry, witchcraft, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, rivalries, divisions, religious sects, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and other such similar things as these, which I am telling you, just as I have been telling you, the ones doing these things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, grace, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, and self-control; against these things there is no law. The ones belonging to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, we should walk in fellowship in the Spirit. 26 Let us not have false prides; neither be provoking one another nor be jealous of one another.

6 1 Brethren, even if a person should be overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should, in a spirit of gentleness, restore that person. Watch yourselves, lest you be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is actually nothing, then he is deceiving himself. 4 Everyone should examine his own work, and then in himself, and not in

another, will he have reason for boasting. 5 For everyone will carry his own load. 6 But the one being taught the message should share all good things with his teacher. 7 Do not deceive yourselves, God is not mocked. For whatever a man shall sow, even that will he reap: 8 for the one sowing to his flesh, out of his flesh will reap corruption; but the one sowing to his spirit, out of his spirit will reap life eternal. 9 So let us not tire of doing good, for in the right time we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So therefore, as we have an opportunity, we should do good to everyone, especially to those of the household of faith.

11 See how large of letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 It is the ones who want to make a good showing in the flesh, *those are the ones* compelling you to be circumcised, but only so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For the ones being circumcised are not even keeping the Law, but they want to circumcise you so that they may boast in *your* flesh. 14 As for me, I will certainly not boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision, nor uncircumcision, is anything, but being a new creation is. 16 And as many as follow this rule, peace and mercy to them from the Israel of God.

17 Henceforth, no one trouble me, for I bear the marks of a slave of Jesus on my body.

18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.