

10. The Book of Galatians 3:10 (Topical)

Liberty From Law-Part 9

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(2-25-24)

Find this weeks' sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

We are studying the Book of Galatians here at Calvary on Sunday Mornings—going through the book topically based on its main theme which is the liberty that is ours in Christ.

The section we are currently studying is “**Liberty from Law**”—which is really liberty from *religion and legalism* as a way of being made righteous in God’s eyes.

II. Liberty from Law—verses 1:1-4:31

- A. The testimony of Paul—verses 1:11-2:10
- B. The transgression of Peter—verses 2:11-21
- C. The treachery of false prophets—verses 3:1-4
- D. The truth of the Gospel—verses 5-9

Galatians 3:5–9 (NKJV)

⁵ Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, *does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?* ⁶ just as Abraham “*believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” ⁷ Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.”* ⁹ So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Last week we focused some of our attention on the statement that Abraham knew the gospel—that God actually preached it to him as Paul tells us in verse 8.

Didn’t Jesus say to the Pharisees in John 8:56, “*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.*”?

But how exactly did God preach the gospel to Abraham? Some believe it was when God brought him outside in Genesis 15:5 and said, “*Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.*”

There are those who say that God wasn’t telling Abram to try to literally count the stars—He was telling him to ‘*set them in order.*’ Or in other words God was telling him to read the *order* of the constellations for they tell the story of redemption through the Mazzaroth also known as—“*the gospel in the stars.*”

So, God preached the gospel to Abraham in *nature*—but He has also preached the gospel in Old Testament *Scripture* as well.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God...

You might be thinking—“*All of the Bible is inspired by God?—even the boring genealogies I skip over when I read the Bible in my devotions?*”—Yes, even the ‘boring’ genealogies!

If you doubt that let me show you one of those boring genealogies in Genesis 5—

Genesis 5:1 (NKJV)

¹This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

Adam means “*man*.”

Genesis 5:3 (b)

Adam... begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

Seth means “*appointed*.”

Genesis 5:6

And Seth lived a hundred and five years, and begat Enos...

Enos means “*subject to death*.”

Genesis 5:9

And Enos lived ninety years, and begat Cainan...

Cainan means “*sorrowful*.”

Genesis 5:12

And Cainan lived seventy years, and begat Mahalaleel...

Mahalaleel means “*from the presence of God*.”

Genesis 5:15

And Mahalaleel lived sixty and five years, and begat Jared...

Jared means “*one comes down*.”

Genesis 5:18

And Jared lived a hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch...

Enoch means “*dedicated*.”

Genesis 5:21

And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah...

Methuselah means “*dying He shall send.*”

Genesis 5:25

And Methuselah lived a hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech...

Lamech means “*to the poor and lowly.*”

Genesis 5:28

And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: And he called his name Noah...

Noah means “*rest*” and/or “*comfort.*”

Let’s take the meaning of each of the names in this genealogy and put them together in a sentence to see what the Holy Spirit is telling us:

“Man appointed to death, sorrowful. From the presence of God, One comes down, dedicated. Dying, He shall send to the poor and lowly, rest and comfort.”

There you have the gospel message hidden in this ‘boring’ genealogy! Such is the Word of God—every word and every part is inspired by God.

Jesus said— “It is written, ‘*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*’ ” (Matth 4:4)

Okay, our subject for this morning is—

D. The truth of the Gospel—verses 5-9

Galatians 1:6–9 (NKJV)

⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

This folks, is at the heart of Paul’s letter to the Galatian churches—he came and gave them God’s truth (the gospel) but after he left the region, Satan sent his messengers (the Judaizers) to twist and pervert the true gospel so that it couldn’t save them.

Only the true gospel can bring new life in Christ—a false gospel, no matter how sincerely it is believed and embraced—will not—and cannot save anyone! Yet that is exactly what Satan has done—he has perverted the true gospel turning it into a false one (for anyone that will listen to his lies).

- Jesus said in John 10:9—**“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved...”** (verse 9)
- Jesus (and only Jesus) is the “Door” (not ‘a door’) that a person must go through to be saved and enter into heaven.
- Jesus said, “*I am the Way the Truth and the Life no one comes to the Father except through Me.*” (John 14:6)

- There's only one entrance into salvation and that is through Jesus Christ—He is The Door!

But any door that leads to something of great value is going to be locked!

Likewise, the door leading to salvation (priceless in value!) is locked and requires a 'key' to open it.

What is the key that unlocks the door and allows a person to enter into Christ and find salvation? It is the Gospel! So, the Gospel is to salvation what a key is to a lock. However, we all know that a key won't unlock a door if it's somehow gotten bent or twisted.

The key must be straight and true if it's going to be used to open a door—and the same is true with the gospel!

If Satan can twist and pervert the gospel (Galatians 1:6-7), he can keep the door of salvation locked to people (even though they believe in a false gospel with all of their heart).

That's why the devil has been working very hard for 2000 years to pervert and twist the gospel in an effort to keep the door of salvation locked to seekers—and this is where we, as the people of God, come in!

The Lord has commissioned us to go into all the world preaching the gospel to the lost—which is why we must know the *true* gospel and share it accurately with those we encounter!

Unfortunately, the Church in our day is failing miserably—to properly understand and faithfully teach and preach the true gospel in these days of spiritual darkness and deception.

In a recent article by Pastor and Evangelist Greg Laurie he had this to say on the subject—

"There are a lot of people running around today who are what I would call 'kind-of Christians.' I know that isn't a theologically correct term, because according to the Bible, either you are a Christian or you aren't.

But I'm referring to people whom we're not really sure about. They're 'sort-of' Christians or 'could-be' Christians or 'almost' Christians. You may see some things in their lives that lead you to believe they might be followers of Jesus Christ. They go to church and talk about God periodically. Maybe they even pray before their meals. Yet there are other things in their lives that seem to contradict what they say, and it makes you wonder where they really are spiritually.

I think a lot of people believe they are Christians when they probably aren't. And one of the reasons for that is shallow and anemic preaching. I'm afraid there may be a generation of people running around today who believe they really know God when they don't know him at all. It's because they have been told to believe, but they never have been told to repent. They have been promised the hope of Heaven, but they never have been warned about the reality of Hell.

In fact, I question whether most Americans have ever heard the authentic Gospel message. I know we've heard a lot of preaching and a lot of sermons. But have most Americans actually heard the Gospel? And do they have even a basic understanding of it?

I read that 7 out of 10 American adults have no clue what John 3:16 means, which says, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (NLT). And barely one-third of American adults know what "the Gospel" means.

A while back, David Kinnaman, CEO of Barna Group, wrote an interesting book called "unChristian," which identified behaviors that so-called believers share with nonbelievers. When asked to identify their activities over the last 30 days, those who considered themselves born-again believers were just as likely to gamble, visit a

pornographic website, take something that didn't belong to them, consult a medium or psychic, consume enough alcohol to be legally drunk, use an illegal drug, or lie about someone in retaliation.

I would suggest that these people are not Christians who are living outside the will of God, though that is a possibility. I would suggest that these people are not Christians at all.

Here's what we don't need today. We don't need anymore could-be Christians or maybe Christians or kind-of Christians. We need no-doubt Christians, people whom we can look at and say, "There's no doubt about it. That person knows the Lord."

So, how can we tell the difference between the no-doubt Christians and the could-be Christians? There will be spiritual fruit, hard evidence..."

In our Romans study on Wednesday nights, we spent three weeks (Jan. 31st through Feb. 14th) looking at the qualities that don't prove a person is saved (yet many believe they do) and then the qualities that do prove a person is saved. ([Listen here](#)).

Several years ago, we did a whole series entitled—"I want to be saved—can you help me?" where we studied the true gospel in detail. (Acts 10) ([Listen to that Series here](#)).

At that time, we said that there are many *genuine* Christians who really don't know what's involved in a biblical presentation of the gospel.

We introduced that study by asking the church—"If someone came to you and asked you, 'I want to be saved—can you help me?'—what would you say?"

"Well, I'd just tell them to 'believe in Jesus'!"

- While it's true that we are saved by faith alone in Christ alone—is all *'faith' saving faith*?
- The Bible tells us that *'even the demons believe in Jesus and tremble'*—are they saved?
- For that matter what *"Jesus"* are you asking them to believe in?
- Is it the "Jesus" of the Mormon's who believe He is the brother of Lucifer; or the "Jesus" of the Jehovah's Witnesses who believe He's really Michael the Archangel—a *created* being who is mighty, but less in power and glory than Almighty Jehovah God?

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 (NLT2)

³ But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent. ⁴ You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed.

Let me stop here and say that this is the reason I feel so strongly about this subject—because nothing is more basic, nothing is more foundational to the Christian life than knowing and sharing the gospel.

The term *"evangelical"* comes from the Greek word we get the words, *'gospel'* and *'evangelize'* from. When we call ourselves *'Evangelical Christians'* we are saying we believe in the gospel as presented in the N.T. and are committed to sharing it with others.

That was the passion and mission of Jesus who said, *"I have come to seek and to save those who are lost"* (Luke 19:10)—and that is the mission He passed on to His Church.

We call it the *Great Commission*—where we are commanded to go into all the world and share the gospel with everyone.

Because of this you would think that nothing in the Christian church would be more important than teaching and training young disciples of Christ to know what the gospel is and how to share it with those who are lost—yet sadly that is not the case.

As we have said, only the true gospel can bring new life in Christ—a false gospel, no matter how sincerely it is believed in, will not save anyone.

As we study the New Testament and the various gospel presentations—they all share the same core elements. A succinct presentation of the gospel—

1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (NKJV)

¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

A fuller and more detailed presentation of the gospel is the one that Peter gave in Acts 10 when he was sent by God to preach the gospel to Cornelius the Roman Centurian and his family and servants—

Acts 10:36–42 (NKJV)

³⁶ The word which *God* sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—
³⁷ that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰ Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead.

The first element to the gospel presentation I'd like to share with you—*isn't* really part of the gospel itself—in other words, it *isn't* essential doctrine for salvation.

It is more the introduction—in other words, it's the *motivation* to get people moving in the direction of *salvation*.

1. There is a day of judgment coming.

Acts 10:42 (NKJV)

⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead.

2 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

¹ I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

1 Peter 4:5 (NKJV)

⁵ They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

The word **gospel** literally means ‘*good news*’—which implies the presence of something *bad*.

The ‘*bad news*’ that makes the **gospel** such ‘*good news*’ is that—man having rebelled in the Garden of Eden was doomed to spend eternity in hell (we were cursed—and as such ‘*condemned already*’—John 3:18). This would be the judgment that all of Adam’s descendants (the whole human race) would be forced to endure—and there was nothing any of us could do to escape this eternal judgment.

The good news is that God loved us and saved us from hell by sending His Son to die in our place.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Ephesians 2:4-6 (NKJV)

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus.

Many Christians today would say in response to this—“*I don’t believe we should talk about judgment when we present the gospel—God is a God of love and we should use love not judgment and fear to win them to Christ.*”

If that’s how you feel—I understand where you’re coming from. I too, prefer talking about God’s love—but know this that deleting any talk of hell and judgment from the gospel presentation—is simply not biblical:

Jude 1:22-23 (NKJV)

²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³ but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire...

Look, Jesus talked about hell more than anyone else—in fact, He talked about it more than He talked about heaven or even love—because He didn’t want anyone to go there! Without any talk of coming judgment, the gospel is reduced from an “emergency alert siren” to ‘happy talk’.

The gospel isn’t a message that is designed to make people feel good or happy about themselves—it’s a brutal indictment of our sinful lives and how only by Jesus dying for us on the cross is there hope of escaping the fires of hell.

In that regard, the gospel is a *warning* for people to flee judgment by running into Christ for safety—kind of like a tornado siren today (no one feels comforted or happy when a tornado siren begins to sound!)

Too many pastors and preachers have stopped urging people to receive Jesus as the One Who will save them from hell. Instead, they have turned Him into a sanctified ‘butler’ whose job it is to save them from all the discomforts of life.

As one pastor put it—“*For these folks, prayer then becomes ‘ringing a little bell’, calling for Butler Jesus to bring them up another pillow.*”

John the Baptist and Jesus Himself were both ‘*hell-fire and damnation preachers.*’

The whole point in preaching the gospel is to tell people that they are lost and hell-bound—but God loves them and gave His Son to save them!

Nowadays, many are left to wonder—“*save me from what?!?*”

Unfortunately, the answer from many pulpits today seems to be—save them from poverty, depression and low self-esteem?! → NO! Save them from eternal judgment in hell!

The preaching of coming judgment used to dominate pulpits all across this nation and was used by God to bring about periods of revival and the Great Awakenings.

Men like Jonathan Edwards in his sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” said:

“Unconverted men walk over the pit of hell on a rotten covering, and there are innumerable places in this covering so weak that they will not bear their weight, and these places are not seen. The wrath of God burns against them...”

Can you imagine a message like this being preached in this day of political correctness where the goal of so many preachers is to keep things positive, upbeat and non-confrontational?

How does a person escape the judgment of hell—very simply—by believing the gospel.

Okay, but what are the truths that make up the gospel? We’ll find out next time...

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

Want to know more? Click [here](#).