

Bible Work: Letter to the Galatians

Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins to set us free to love and serve our Neighbor

Paul apostles-one sent out –thru Jesus Christ and God the Father and all the members of God’s family with me(1:1) servant of Christ//persecutor of the church//zealot for the traditions of Judaism//revealed to him the Son//proclaimer to the Gentiles

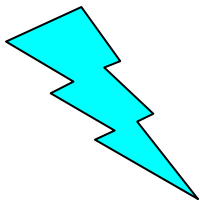
False, different, perverted Message...THAT SOMETHING MORE IS REQUIRED THAN JUST CHRIST & CROSS

- ~e.g. circumcision, who you eat with, what you eat
- ~no additional requirements added by the Jerusalem leaders
- ~if any of the Law applies then obliged to the whole Law, Law cannot not justify us it only convicts us
- ~do not fall back into false righteousness
- ~works of the Law do not bring the Spirit and the gifts ... Do not Submit

The Gospel

+Christ is enough, Grace is enough...Salvation is complete

<p><i>2:15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. ¹⁷But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. ¹⁹For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; ²⁰and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.</i></p>	<p>+Justified thru faith in Jesus Christ +Our efforts to be justified, reveal us to be sinners, transgressors. +The conviction caused by the Law, destroys the Law’s value as a means of salvation. +By dying/letting go of the benefit of the Law, Christ lives in me. +The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son, who loved me and gave himself for me.</p>
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Is it my faith in Jesus Christ that saves me? Is faith our works?
 Or
 Is it Jesus Christ & God’s faithfulness toward us that saves?

Abraham believed God...God’s promise and covenant...all “nations”/ethnos blessed in you

<p><i>3:23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.</i></p>	<p>+Law is our disciplinarian until Christ +We are no longer subject to Law +In Christ all are children of God +Baptized in Christ clothed yourself with Christ...no distinctions...No longer Jew-Greek slave-free male-female +If you belong to Christ...heirs to promised righteousness of Abraham</p>
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4:4 God sent his Son, born of woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children...God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins to set us free to love and serve our Neighbor

<p>¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. The Nature of Christian Freedom² Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. ⁴You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.</p> <p>⁷ You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? ⁸Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. ¹⁰I am confident about you in the Lord that you will not think otherwise. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. ¹¹But my friends, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offence of the cross has been removed. ¹²I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves!</p> <p>¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.</p>	<p>For freedom Christ has set us free. ~do not submit to slavery (of Law) ~do not let yourselves be circumcised ~to seek the Law "cuts" you off from Christ, fallen away from grace +Thru the Spirit by faith...</p> <p>THE ONLY THING THAT COUNTS IS FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE</p> <p> <i>slip of the circumcision knife</i></p> <p>Called to Freedom From the Law To grace & the Spirit From conviction To adoption & promise From death To life & inheritance in Christ</p> <p>Called to Freedom To love and serve one another To love your neighbor as yourself To live by the Spirit...be led by the Spirit</p>
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We know we cannot gain our righteousness thru the Law...
 But can we lose God's righteousness/salvation because of sin?

<p>¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.</p>	<p>Do not gratify the desires of the flesh ~flesh is opposed by the Spirit fornication/impurity/licentiousness...sexual idolatry/sorcery...sins against God enmities/strife/jealousy/anger...family quarrels dissensions/factions...community drunkenness, carousing...our bodies</p>								
<p>Who is not covered by this list? Is this list meant to include or exclude? Then what does this mean: You who do such things will not inherit the kingdom!</p>	<p>Remember: 2:20b The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God... What does this mean in light of 5:16-21?</p>								
<p>²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another</p>	<p>Fruit of the Spirit...therefore these are what comes from living, led & guided by the Spirit.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Love</td> <td>Generosity</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peace</td> <td>Faithfulness</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Patience</td> <td>Gentleness</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kindness</td> <td>Self-Control</td> </tr> </table> <p>Be led by the Spirit...guided by the Spirit</p>	Love	Generosity	Peace	Faithfulness	Patience	Gentleness	Kindness	Self-Control
Love	Generosity								
Peace	Faithfulness								
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Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins to set us free to love and serve our Neighbor

The Questions:

Is something more required for God to save us than Christ giving himself for our sins?

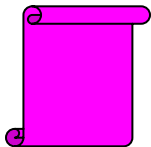
Can the Law and our personal righteousness in following the Law save us?

After the Law has been our Guardian and then our Convictor, is there another use of the Law after being saved?

If we have died through the conviction and judgment of the Law, should we submit again to the Law?

If the Gospel—that Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins to set us free to love and serve our neighbor—is enough, if Christ is enough, if Grace is enough, if salvation is complete..then even while I am still a transgressor and sinner, can may salvation be taken away?

<p>6:1 My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. ³For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbour's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵For all must carry their own loads.</p> <p>6 Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.</p> <p>7 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.</p>	<p>Detect a transgressor +restore them in a spirit of gentleness +do not be tempted to follow them Bear one another's burdens +fulfill the Law of Christ to love one another None of us are better than anyone else Test my own work, not my neighbors All must carry their own loads All must share all good things w/ Christ</p> <p>There are consequences to what you do ~corruption to corruption +Spirit to the Spirit Do not give up ... harvest is coming</p> <p>Let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.</p>
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What does this mean for each of our congregation and how we treat one another?
 This is about community/church living...not just new rules of personal conduct.
 How would church councils and congregations interactions be changed?

How would our preaching change with this Gospel? Who would it be good news to? Who not?
 What issues & concerns of the ELCA might be seen with new eyes if this is applied?
 What does this say about the work of the synod and council?
 What does it say about our mission to ourselves? How does it inform our mission to the world?

<p>. ¹¹ See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹²It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by 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! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷ From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. ¹⁸ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen</p>	<p>Boast only in the cross of Christ +by which the world is dead to me and I to the world</p> <p>In Christ is a new creation (see Romans 8)</p>
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