**Galatians**

**Chapter 1**

Paul was the author of this letter written to the churches in Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, and Thessalonica.

He visited the region of Galatia, which today is called “Turkey”, while he was on his first missionary journey. He and Barnabas were the ones who planted churches in Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, these were all cities in Galatia.

While they were in ministering in Iconium, many people, both Jews and Greeks repented and received salvation, however, there were some unbelieving Jews who “stirred up some from the Gentile community and poisoned their minds against the ones who truly believed” Acts 14:1-2

Also, while ministering in Lystra, a man lame from birth received his healing, when “Paul commanded him to ‘Stand up on your feet!’ The man jumped up and began to walk around. When the crowds saw what was done, they shouted, saying in the Lycaonian language, ‘The gods have come down to us in human form!’ Barnabas, they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker”

But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting*: “Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. In the past, he let all nations go their own way. Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them. Acts 14:10-18*

The people were disappointed by Paul and Barnabas rejection to the sacrifices they were offering them, therefore, their hurt of rejection, caused them to turn against Paul and Barnabas. When people are hurt and rejected, you never know how they will respond. They tried to kill these apostles by stoning them, but God spared their lives.

Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city.

Some would shake off the dust from their feet and say, let them burn in Hell, but that was not what these brethren did. They return to the city and continue to preach the gospel, and many people turned their lives over to Jesus. The Bible said***, the next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe where they preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said. Acts 14:19-22***

On Paul’s second missionary journey, he returned to Galatia. “So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers” (Acts 16:5). While there, he discipled and mentored a young man named Timothy, who then joined Paul as a coworker.

The young church at Galatia was opposed by the devil and his lies. There, as in other places, the unbelieving Jews taught that one had to obey the Law to be saved. They taught salvation by works. When Paul wrote his first epistle, he championed salvation by grace alone!

**1:1-3.**

***Paul, an apostle —sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead — and all the brothers and sisters with me, To the churches in Galatia:***

As Paul was called upon to give his testimony before the authorities, he said, *on one of these journeys, I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ “‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ Acts 26:12-18.*

Paul was not ordained by some organization, or some special school to be qualified to preach the gospel, but it was the Lord himself who saw the passion in Paul to destroy the church, and he did not take it away from Paul. He took that same passion, and used it for the advancing of the kingdom of God.

**1:2**.

Paul was the author of this letter written to the churches in Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, and Thessalonica.

He visited the region of Galatia, which today is called Turkey, on his first missionary journey. He and Barnabas were the ones who planted churches in Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, all cities in Galatia.

**1:3**

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

This is a common way the apostle writes in most of his letters to the churches he planted. [Eph.1:2; Rom. 1:7; etc.]

**1:6-9**

***I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one, we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!***

Because Paul was considered a church planter, he was not station in one place as a pastor would. He started the church and put people in leadership positions, so that the brethren can grow and mature to fulfill God’s purpose for their lives.

He gave these leaders specific instructions on how to pastor God’s people, even to the very moment when he realized his ministry was about to climax, he instructed them, ***For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. Acts 20:27-31.***

He was well aware of the enemies of the cross, and that the Devil himself will do anything to distort God’s word causing the people to lose faith in God. It is the very same thing he is doing to this very day.

He is reminding these leaders to pay attention to the way they are living among the people, they could not just do as they please, because they are God’s people, also because the enemy is always on the prowl looking for an opportunity to bring an accusation.

***Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1Peter 5:8.***

Paul was disappointed to see how quickly the people were ready to desert /leave the church, and the reason was because there were some unbelieving Jews who came among the people and sowed a doctrine that was contrary to what the Lord told Paul to preach.

***Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So, Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. Acts 15:1-2.***

At one time Paul had to even rebuke Peter for hypocrisy. ***When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.***

***When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs? Gal.2:11-14.***

There is such a danger in who is feeding you the word of God, because if the pastor who has been given the responsibility as Peter, whom the Lord said to, feed his sheep, and take care of his lambs. (John 21:15-21).

There are some who claimed ownership of the people whom they have been called to serve, that they address them as “their people”. The church belongs to Jesus Christ and not to any man. He said, ***And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matthew 16:18.***

The apostle Peter also encouraged spiritual leaders to be, “***Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 1Peter 5:2-4.***

Just as Paul warned the leaders of savage wolves will come in among the flock, this was what happened to the believers. These unbelieving religious Jews who came in among the people, observed these believers were not following the customs they were taught. Therefore, they told them, for them to truly be saved, they must follow the customs laid down by the law, which was not what they were taught by the apostle.

***Greetings.***

*We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. So, we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul— men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ****. Therefore, we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell. Acts 15:23-29.***

After bringing this concern to the leaders, they were advising as to how to move forward regarding the Jews who were responsible for adding additional responsibilities to the gentile believers.

These believers started to believe what they were being told by these Jewish brethren. This caused a division within the church. This would have quickly destroyed the church, if Paul and the leaders did not deal with his problem quickly.

These believers were not as mature as they appeared, if they were matured as the apostle hoped, they would not have been easily swayed as they were. This problem is the same today as it was then.

There are some who are part of our generation whom we have spent many times listening to, read books written by them, and today the very thing they preach against, they are now compromising, and preaching a different kind of message, which is causing much problem among the next generation.

The increase of AI that’s becoming more and more popular, it has become more challenging for the next generation to exercise faith in God. As believers, we desperately need the gift of discernment more so now than ever, because of what the enemy is doing.

***But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one, we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!***

This treat could not have come at a better time, because of how strong the persuasion was from those troublemaker Jews. Social media has made it possible for all sorts of teachings to become available to the public, and for those who are not spiritually mature, they will become easily accessible to these false teachings.

This is the primary reason why it is important for the people of God to attend bible study, where they are being taught the Bible, this is the place where questions are being asked and answers are given.

When Paul visited Berea, he was really moved by the love he saw among the believers there that he wrote, *Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.Acts 17:11.*

The scriptures said the early had some traits about them that we came learn from. ***They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Acts 2:42-44.***

**1:10**

***Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.***

This should be the confession of every spiritual leader, but unfortunately this is not what we are seeing today. So many have become victims of the lie from Satan. The very same temptation he put before Jesus, he is bringing before us today, and yet we refuse to believe he is able to trick us.

***Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” Matthew 4:8-10.***

So many great spiritual leaders have become victim of this deception, only to find themselves suffering greatly at the end. The scriptures say, ***“Watch out that no one deceives you.” Matthew 4:4.***

**1:11-12.**

***I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.***

This is very important for these believers to hear, because the troublemakers were using the law of Moses to force these Gentile believers to follow their tradition. He had to remind them that he was not part of the original group of Apostles. He did not get what the apostle receives while Jesus was on earth.

His experience in ministry was totally different form theirs. His came directly from the Lord himself.

As mentioned, while he was on his way to destroy the church, he had an encounter with the Lord Jesus himself. *As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” Acts 9:3-6.*

He recognized how vain it was trying to destroy the church, perhaps he failed to read what Jesus told Peter.

**1:13-21**

*For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.* ***But when God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.***

*Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie. Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report****: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.”*** *And they praised God because of me.*

He did not just let them know about his apostle ship, but he also wanted them to know what those who knew him were saying about him. Most likely they heard he was the one who was authorized by the authorities to destroy the church.

**1:18-20**

***Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.***

***Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.”***

This information he shared with them, is for them to understand, he was no rogue preacher, but he was one who understood accountability, even though he really did not need the approval of the disciples, but by his sharing of his meeting with the disciples, was helpful in them receiving the message of the gospel, and especially for those believers who started to question their trust in the Lord.

**Chapter 2**

***Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain. Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.***

***This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.***

Jude prophesy, ***for certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. Jude 1:4.***

As spiritual leaders, we must be careful who are listening to, because the devil can disguise himself as an angel of light. 2Cor.11:14. These Jews who came troubling those believers, were not sent by God, although they may have good intentions, but it was evident, all they were doing was stirring up confusion among the believers.

**2:1-5**

***Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders,***

The only reason why Paul went to see the apostles, was because of a revelation he received from the Lord. Had he not received such revelation, it is most likely he would have never gone, and even as he went, he was wise enough to do so not in public but privately, for fear the visit would have been met with some resistance. He shared with them what the Lord was doing among the Gentiles, which shows there is not favoritism with God.

***I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain. Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.***

Circumcision was an important part of the Jewish culture, even as Moses almost lost his life because he was not circumcised. ***Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me.” But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.’” At a lodging place on the way, the LORD met Moses and was about to kill him. But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son’s foreskin and touched Moses’ feet with it. “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me,” she said. So the LORD let him alone. (At that time she said “bridegroom of blood,” referring to circumcision.) Exo.4:22-26.***

*This is my covenant which you shall keep between me and you and thy seed after. Every male child among you shall be circumcised. This biblical explanation for this commandment states quite clearly that the circumcision acts as a outward physical sign of the eternal covenant between God and the Jewish people.*

Paul took a risk by taking along with him “Titus”, because he knew the Jews knew Titus was not a Jew, therefore, he was not circumcised. Titus both parents were Greek, therefore the risk of Paul taking him along could have really hurt what he was trying to establish.

First of all, Paul did not have a good reputation, he was known as the one who tried to destroy the church, and now he was willing to take this young man who was a Greek, one could see what he was up against.

The unbelieving Jews had a strong case against Paul. ***This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.***

Paul was acquainted with some troublemaker even within the church. Although they have the appearance as if they are part of the church, but their agenda was not the kingdom, they were sent by the Devil himself, to create all kinds of problems among the believers. These people are dangerous.

Paul’s warning to those leaders who was given the charge to give oversight to the work, was not to be taken lightly. *Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Acts 20:28-31.*

The place where you can find hypocrites are always in the church, because they wear masks. *Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Matthew 7:15-16.*

Paul was very wise to meet with the apostles privately, and perhaps during the dark hours, because he knew those troublemakers Jews were waiting and looking for an occasion to start some trouble.

**2:6-10**

***As for those who were held in high esteem —whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism —they added nothing to my message. On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.***

Paul’s visit to meet with what we called “senior apostles” was to show the believers he also understood to importance of accountability. Even though he did not need affirmation from them concerning his ministry, but it was helpful for the churches to see he was not some rogue preacher.

He received his calling as an apostle, just as Peter who walked with Jesus. He was not threatened by what the Lord was doing through Peter among the Jews, and he was not tying to compete with him either. There was no insecurity in Paul. He knew who he was and what God raised him up to do. This is seen as he addresses the Corinthian brethren.

***Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly —mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?***

***What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building. 1Cor.3:1-9.***

When a spiritual is insecure, they will begin doing harmful things within the body, and some have even begun abusing the people of God.

***To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 1Peter 5:1-4.***

These leaders will embrace some teachings which are contrary to the word of God, and if the people are not spiritual, they could easily find themselves following some ungodly leader.

We can see why Paul warn these brethren, *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Gal.1:6-9.*

The right hand of fellowship that was given to Paul his team was well received and eliminate any fears they had about Paul.

**2:11-13**

***When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, beca use he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.***

Paul was so concern about the spiritual wellbeing of the saints, that he would have done whatever he could to protect them from the enemy who was trying to destroy their faith, therefore, it was not that he was disrespectful to Peter, but when Peter failed to live up the faith he profess, Paul had no choice but to it before the entire group.

While he was with the Gentiles, he was willing to associate with them, until when certain Jewish brethren came from Jerusalem, he tried to dis-associate himself, sending a double message to the saints, that caused even Barnabas to be confused.

**2:14-15**

*When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs? We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles*

Knowing the strong influence Peter had on the church, Paul had no choice but to deal with the issue of hypocrisy in front of the entire church, because of Peter’s action that sends a double message to the brethren.

There was a time when “truth” was the measuring rod everyone used to determine the difference between good and evil, clean and unclean, even for the people who were unchurch, they also would use the Bible, the very court system would also use it, but over the years we have seen such a drastic shift in our standards. What was right then, now has become wrong, this has caused such confusion for our children to determine which should they follow.

Those who we put in position of leadership are strong supporting the confusion or better known as supporting the lie, which is very bad for our children

The book of Malachi said, *For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty and people seek instruction from his mouth. Mal.2:7.* When our spiritual leaders are not acting in the truth they once preach, then who will our world turn to for advice when they need it.

The scriptures said, ***Blessed is the one, who does not walk in step with the wicked, or stand in the way that sinners take, or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. Psalm 1:1-2.***

Peter decision to withdraw from the Gentile brethren when the Jewish brethren visited him, because he did not want them to see him fellowshipping with these Gentile believers, because they consider the Gentiles as unclean people. It does not matter if they were saved, to these Jewish brethren, they were still considered unclean.

Peter should have known better, because he was the one the Lord rebuked when he had the vision of all kinds of animals on a sheet, and the Lord told him to kill and eat, but he refused, and the Lord told him, “do not call anything impure that God has made clean”. Acts 10:15.

 Perhaps he forgot the vision God gave him, which caused him to withdraw from these brethren when he saw the rest of his people, this sent a double message to the Gentile brethren, which left of them confused.

**2:16-19**

*We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles* ***know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. “But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker. “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.***

* **Jews vs Gentiles**

*What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? Much in every way!* ***First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God****. What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God’s faithfulness? Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written: “So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge.” Romans 3:1-4.*

*Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. Romans 3:27-30.*

Paul’s argument to these brethren was they were Jews by birth, which means the that law was a part of their culture. They tried to live by the law, they held on the the law so strong, that if one violates it, the penalty is capital punishment. This is the primary reason why they want Christ to die. They could not comprehend the law was given by him and not Moses as they supposed.

Paul warned them it does not matter, if they tried to keep the law, they could only the obtain salvation through Faith in Jesus, and not by their works. *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph.2:8-9.*

Moses gave them the law to help them get rid of the Egyptian was they learnt while living in Egypt. God wanted them to be all for him.

***Therefore, “Come out from them, and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” 2Cor.6:17-18.***

**2:20-21.**

***I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”***

Paul was quite familiar with the process of crucification. It was not a pleasant process, not only for the one who was crucify, but even for the witnesses who were present. As much as we watch movies that try to make fun of such, but crucifixion was not fun.

Crucifixion was meant to inflict the maximum amount of shame and torture upon the victim. Roman crucifixions were carried out in public so that all who saw the horror would be deterred from crossing the [Roman government](https://www.gotquestions.org/Roman-empire.html). Crucifixion was so horrible that it was reserved for only the worst offenders.

For Paul to compare his relationship with the Lord caused him to recognize it as crucifixion, for him to say, “***I am crucify with Christ, never-the-less I live”.*** He considered himself dead to the things that were important to him before his encounter with the Lord. He wrote,

***But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. Phil.3:7-9.***

Jesus said,***very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. John 12:24-25.***

Growth always requires death, which means for one to get deeper in God, they must b be willing to die to self. Jesus said, *whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. Matt.16:24-25.*

*“…* *the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.* ***I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”***

***Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Col.3:1-3.***

**Chapter 3**

**3:1-4.**

***You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain?***

**Bewitch: -** *to attract or interest someone a lot so that you have then power to control or influence the person./ to put a magic spell on someone or something in order to control the person.*

Many pastors have been accused of bewitching their congregation or their parishioners to get them to do what they want, this practice have caused many unchurch people to labeled the church as a place of occult practice, and perhaps they may have a valid cause, but there are great shepherds who are truly concern about the congregation.

Paul writing to the church in Philippi wrote, ***It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, Phil.1:15-18.***

For there are some who see the church as a place where they can exploit the people of God for their own benefit, but God will deal with them. Anyone who try to use the people of God for their own benefit will suffer the consequence of that action.

***Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. Phil.3:17-19.***

Apparently, some of the saints have forgotten what it was that brought them salvation, therefore Paul had to challenge them as to how did they receive the Spirit. No one is saved by keeping the law, or even by their good works.

***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph.2:8-9.***

The were confronted with making the decision about the choice they made to turn their lives around. He challenged them about the decision they made to follow the Lord, if it was in vain.

I would ask some who are not serving the lord anymore, what did the Lord do to them as to why they made the decision not to fellowship with the saints anymore, and their excuse are always because of something somebody said or did. If their salvation had its foundation on the people of the church, that’s a pitiful foundation.

The old hymn said, “*on Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand”.*

This is the reason why we must be careful as to whom we allow to be our spiritual leaders, because they are responsible for feeding and caring for our spiritual needs. The Bible tells us there are some who are considered “hirelings”. When they see the enemy attacking the flock, they ran away leaving the flock at the mercies of the enemy.

***3:5-14.***

***So again, I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? So also, Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.*** ***For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.***

Paul’s argument with these brethren concerning the different gospel some of the Jewish brethren were teaching, which was quite different than what brought them the type of experience they had.

His challenge to them was what they had received form the Lord, was it by the works of the law or by believing in faith. The salvation they received had nothing to do by them keeping the law. He had to bring them back to their senses, for somehow, they forgot the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation.

***For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed —a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” Romans 1:16-17.***

Believers today are facing the same challenge, and especially lately, with the availability of social media, false teachers are taking advantage of the opportunities given, to further their message of deception, this is all the reason why believers need to me more careful as to what they are listening and who they are hearing it from.

Simply because some saints refuse to study the word as the scriptures commanded us. “***Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of*** truth***”. 2Timothy 2:15. KJV.***

***Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psalm 1:1-3 KJV.***

Once the truth of the word fills our heart, it gives us a sense of protection from what these false teachers are saying.

These saints has so much evidence concerning the Lord, and what he has done for them, and yet they were so easily deceived by the teaching from these brethren, this says that people who only run after miracles, do not necessarily mature in their faith. They run from place to place, following miracles, but when it comes to their personal growth, they lack the spiritual nutrition to produce strenth.

Paul had to use the example of Abraham in order for them to fully grasp what he was saying to them, because of what those Jews who came from Jerusalem said to them. Once Paul mention the name of Abraham, he was able to command their attention.

He had to let them know, that the children of Abraham, are not those who follow the law, but those who live by faith, and because Abraham believed God, that belief was credited to him as righteousness, thereby he is called the father of faith for all who believed.

Paul reminded them, all who follow the law are under the curse, because it was impossible for the law to save anyone. The law only served as a school master to bring us to Christ. Once we come to Christ, the entire law is fulfilled in us.

Christ became a curse for us, when he went to the cross for us. For the scripture said, *Curse is anyone who is hung on a pole” Gal.3:13.* Because of what Christ did, he provided a way for us to receive the blessing of Abraham.

Those who accept the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, are no longer under the curse, but they are open to receive the same blessing God promise to Abraham.

As believers must understand the price that was paid for our freedom and not to make light of it. The Bible said, *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8. NIV.*

The earth is blessed because of the presence of the church. The company that employ you is blessed because you are there, your family is blessed, because you are saved and are praying for them. Those who are saved are the conduit God is using to release his blessing. Please keep in mind it is not because of your own righteousness, but because of Christ in us the hope of glory.

***To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. Col.1:27-28.***

 **3:15-22**

***Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise.***

***For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise. Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.***

***Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.***

The saints in the churches were really convince they had to follow the law if they would share in the inheritance, from what they heard from the Jewish brethren. He wanted the saints to know they would not be able to share in the inheritance of Abraham, although, the law was given to their ancestors, but when Christ came, the purpose of the law was fulfilled. For Christ is the fulfillment of the law.

***Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Romans 10:4.***

There are still those who practice or try to keep the law, but they are trying to follow the law within the OT, which they fail to understand in Christ the law is fulfilled.

***But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir. Gal.4:4-7.***

We can see the strong confrontation Paul had with those who believe for anyone to truly be saved, they must follow the law of Moses. We can see them challenging Paul’s message, asking who does this fellow think he is. They were very religious to the law, this is the reason why the gospel was a treat to what they believed all these years.

**3:23-29.**

***Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.***

***So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

The law kept us in bondage as long as we remain outside of Christ, and refused believed in God through Christ, therefore, those outside of christ are already condemn, even before judgement day

Those who believed have already passed from death to life and are now considered a member of the family of God. It really does not matter if you are Greek or Gentile, what really matter is having faith in God through Jesus Christ.

Some Jews who once challenge Jesus said, ***I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.” “Abraham is our father,” they answered. “If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do what Abraham did. As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. You are doing the works of your own father.” “We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. John 8:37-42.***

To be considered heirs of the promise, one must be part of Abraham’s seed, which are those who are in Christ. Those who have experienced the new birth. Jesus said, ***Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ John 3:3-7.***

**Chapter 4**

**4:1-7**

***What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.***

As chapter there ends, he addresses the issues about the differences among them. He assures them that faith in God through the Lord Jesus was what entitled them to become children of God.

His example of a child being a heir, although he may be the owner of everything, until he reaches the age where he can show some form of responsibility and accountability, he is no different than a servant.

Though these brethren were born into Jewish families, is no guarantee they will inherit the promise, which was what they place their hope on. Jesus had to address this concern to the Jews who believed in him.

He told them, *“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:31-36.*

When Paul rebuke Peter for his lack of wisdom in the way he carried himself among the saints, he said to him, ***We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the wks of the law no one will be justified. Gal.2:15-16.***

*What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God. What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God’s faithfulness? Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written: “So that you may be proved right when you speak, and prevail when you judge.” Romans 3:1-4.*

Those who believe they can merit salvation if they follow the rules and regulations in the law, or even by them doing good works. They will be disappointed. The Bible said, *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph.2:8-9.*

***In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.*** (Acts 17:30)

God gave them laws some 430 years, after he made the promise to Abraham, therefore, the laws was what God used to help in the process of bringing transformation to the people who left Egypt. We must remember that those who came of Egypt with Moses, were all born and educated by the Egyptians, therefore, today, they would be considered Egyptian-Jews.

Although God provided them with these laws to help them develop a relationship with him, which was quite different from what was know to them, it was not easy for them to adjust to these changes.

The intention of the law was defeated because of the challenge of the carnal nature of the people. *For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:3-4.*

Because of the carnal nature, the law was not able to produce the righteousness God expected from them, therefore, the people who left with Moses did not make it to the promise land.

The scriptures said, *These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! 1Cor.10:11-12.*

The righteous requirement God wants was only possible through Jesus Christ, therefore, those who are in Christ are really considered the true children of Abraham, because Christ is the fulfillment of the Law.

*Therefore, anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.* ***For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:19-20.***

No one can produce the righteousness God desires using their own works, or even goodness, the scriptures also condemn our righteousness as rags that are filled with filth. Isa. 64:6.

Outside of Christ, it will be impossible for man to really be in good standing with God. Christ is the only one who can help man to live a lifestyle that pleases God. The Bible says, *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6.*

For those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as the only one who was able to enable us to become children of God, we are the ones that can truly say “ABBA Father”. We have the right to share in the inheritance of Christ.

***4:8-9.***

***Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God —how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?***

He challenges the believers as to their behavior regarding their spiritual walk, this is directly due to what these Jewish brethren who came down from Jerusalem was teaching them. It is so important that believers should be taught properly the word of God, so that they Would not be carried away with all kind of teachings that are not sound doctrine.

The instructions Paul gave to Titus helped us understand why we need credible spiritual leadership who is responsible to feeding the flock.

***The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 1:5-9.***

The Bible said, ***As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly. Proverbs 26:11.***

 ***If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker. Gal.2:18.***

**4:10-11**

***You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you, that somehow, I have wasted my efforts on you.***

These were some of the practices the saints were observing, believing these requirements should be practice as part of receiving salvation.

***Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: Col.2:16-19.***

**4:12-16**

***I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you. You did me no wrong. As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.***

***Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?***

Whatever the infirmity was the apostle spoke about, the Bible is silent about it. Paul made some reference to some kind of infirmity.

***Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. ” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.2Cor.12:7-9.***

There are times when the Lord may allow his children to face some kind of trial, to see if their faith is genuine of not.

***Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 1Peter 4:12-16.***

Paul was no stranger to these brethren. They had some kind of relationship with the apostle, therefore, he was considered their spiritual father in the gospel. Although his discipline may have seem to be hash to them, his influence on them was like that of a father disciplining their children.

***Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Heb.12:9-11.***

They knew he had their best interest in his heart for them and was passionate about their spiritual development and was not willing to allow the enemy to destroy what he was building.

**4:17-20.**

***Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may have zeal for them. It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!***

In his letter to the church in Corinth, he wrote, “*I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children. Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore, I urge you to imitate me. 1Cor.4:15-16.*

By his sharing this, he was able to capture their attention that he had something worthwhile to share with them. This is the same as when a parent tries to warn their child of impending danger, although some may not pay heed to watch they said, it was his heart decision to win them over from the influence of those troublemakers.

He was perplexed about them, because of the things they were saying to him. They started to believe what those Jewish brethren were saying.

***Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 1Peter 5:2-3.***

The writer to Hebrews said, ***have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. Heb.13:17.***

**4:21-23.**

***Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.***

It is clear that the influence from those brethren who come from Jerusalem was so strong that a lot of the saints from the Galatians church bang practicing what they were being taught.

He reminded them of the very origin of the Jews. The fact that Abraham had a child with Hagar, who was not the person God made the covenant with, when he spoke about him being the father of many nations, caused a problem, but it did not caused the plan of God to be aborted. It just became problematic for Abraham.

Hagar was the slave girl to Sarah, therefore, Ishmael, whose name means, “God will hear”, was also truly bless by the Lord, even though he was not the son of promise.

Sometimes, we get into some difficult situations, and believe God cannot bless us in those situations, but the plan of God does not depend on the various situations we find our selves in. God is always watching the condition of the heart.

The scriptures said, ***Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, Eph.6:8-9.***

Hagar giving birth to Ishmael caused major problems in Abraham household, that resulted in her being homeless. She perhaps thought Abraham would get rid of Sarah, and take her as his wife, but she was rudely awakened.

Paul reminded these brethren although Hagar gave Abraham his first born, that was not the fulfillment of the promise God made to him.

Hagar represents mount Sinai, which speaks of the current Jerusalem, while Sarah represents the Jerusalem from above.

We now can see why the nation of the world is trying desperately to destroy Jerusalem. It is flesh fighting against the Spirit, trying to position itself to be in control.

***For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Gal.5:17-18.***

Hagar represents the world the flesh and the devil, while Sarah represents the church, the body of Christ. The true. Children of Abraham are those who are living by faith, and not adapting to the law. This is what caused the religious leaders to doubt Jesus was who he claimed to be, because he was not practicing the law.

They could not understand how he could be a spiritual leader and not follow the law. All the Jesus taught them was what they were trying to get from the law, the law was noble to provide, they must believe that he was the one the law was pointing to.

***You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. John 5:39-40.***

**4:28-31**

***Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.***

Those who are trying to live by the law are consider slaves, even though they despise people calling them slaves.

In Jesus conversation with the Jews, they told him, ***“Abraham is our father,” they answered. “If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do what Abraham did. As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. You are doing the works of your own father.” “We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. John 8:39-42.***

To this very day, there are some Jews who still have problems with Jesus, or even the mention of His name. They still see him as the carpenter son. And because of this, they are unable to see him as their savior and Lord.

Getting rid of the “slave woman” is still the command the Lord is giving today. ***Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” 2Cor.6:17-18.***

The scriptures said, ***Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Romans 8:12-16.***