



LAW AND GRACE

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ON LINE HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Full-size and ready-to-print handouts, coloring pages, memory verse tokens and posters for this volume are available online. Visit shop.biblevisuals.org and search for item #A1027 for a ready-to-print PDF download.

Lesson 1

WHAT IS THE LAW?

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

It is impossible to overemphasize the vital importance of the Epistle to the Galatians. We should always be thankful to God for this wonderful letter. If Paul had not corrected the Galatians, the truth of the Gospel of Christ might have been quenched in that province. Paul was used of God to preserve its purity.

In our study of the first two chapters of Galatians, we saw that the Galatians had begun to doubt the Apostle Paul's message of salvation by faith alone in Christ. They questioned the message partly because false teachers challenged Paul's apostleship. So Paul used one-third of his letter to prove that he really was an

apostle. In chapters 3 and 4, Paul defends the Gospel. The first two chapters of the book are of a personal nature. Chapters 3 and 4 are doctrinal. In this volume, we will look deeply into the subjects of law and grace. Encourage your students to read these two chapters every day during the time you will be teaching these chapters.

When teaching the memory verse, explain that the expression "being made a curse for us" means that Christ died in our place.

Scripture to be studied: Galatians 3; Exodus 20:1–24:11; Leviticus 16

The aim of the lesson: To show that the Law was good, but it could not provide salvation.

What your students should know: That the Law served as a guide for Israel only until Christ came.

What your students should feel: Thankful that God does not expect them to keep the Law in order to belong to Him.

What your students should do:

Unsaved: Each one must turn wholly to Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Saved: Pray that this week they will be able to point an unsaved person to God's true way of salvation.

Lesson outline (For the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. God gave the Law to Israel to show what sin is (Galatians 3:10, 19, 22).
2. In the Law God provided a system of sacrifices for the covering of sins.
3. The penalty for breaking the Law was death (Galatians 3:10).
4. The Law served as a guide until Christ came (Galatians 3:24-25).

The verse to be memorized:

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us. (Galatians 3:13a)

THE LESSON

Do you know someone who thinks he must do something good in order to earn salvation? Then listen carefully.

Paul could scarcely believe what he'd heard. Was it possible that the Galatian Christians had been fooled so easily by men who did not preach the truth? Did they really believe that in addition to receiving Christ as Lord and Saviour they also had to follow the Law in order to be saved and remain saved?

"O foolish Galatians," Paul wrote to them, "you act as though someone had cast a spell on you so that you can't even think clearly!" Then he asked an important question: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit as a result of obeying the Law and doing its works? Or was it by hearing the message of the Gospel and believing it?"

What could the Galatians answer? When Paul had visited their cities, many Galatians had received Christ as their Saviour from sin. They knew that at that time the Holy Spirit had come to live in their hearts. Now false teachers persuaded them that they must earn their salvation by keeping the Law and observing ceremonies. So they became willing to depend on their own works rather than God's perfect gift. Imagine that!

"No man is justified by the Law in the sight of God," Paul said, "for the justified ones shall live by faith. And the Law is not of faith." Nothing could be clearer than this.

The Galatians still had some questions. Perhaps you have some of the same questions. What is this law which we're talking about? Why was it given? Since God knew that no one could ever keep the Law perfectly, why did He give it?