

Galatians
“Living Free”
Main Teaching: 1:10-6:10
B. 3:1-4:31 Reasoned Grace
2. 3:15-29 Logic liked

3:22-29
“No more red pencils”

I. Intro.

II. Vs. 22-25 Lessons from the law

III. Vs. 26-29 Graduation

I. Intro.

Czar Nicholas of Russia would walk about his military camps dressed as an ordinary officer, in order that he might know what was going on without being known by others. One night, the Czar noticed a light under the paymaster's door. He opened the door and stepped inside and noticed a young officer—son of an old friend who was seated at a table, sound asleep. He thought of awaken him, but noticed a gun on the table along with some money and a sheet of paper. The paper contained a long list of gambling debts amounting to thousands of rubles. He had realized how much he owed and how impossible it was for him to pay it. The only way out, he thought, was to end it all with the gun as he could not face the disgrace which awaited him. He had written below the terrible total: "**WHO CAN PAY SO GREAT A DEBT?**" The Czar's first thought was to have him arrested. But he thought of his long friendship with the officer's father. A feeling of compassion took possession of him and he took up the pen which the officer had dropped and wrote just one word: "**NICHOLAS**" The young officer awoke after the Czar had gone and noticed the name "Nicholas" below his own question. Joy and shame

filled his heart as he thought of the fact that the Czar knew all about his dishonesty and recklessness and yet was willing to pay his debt. The following morning the money arrived from the Czar enough to pay "**So Great a Debt**" down to the last ruble. The joy of the officer for this kindness could not be described and it changed the rest of his life.

II. Vs. 22-25 Lessons from the law

Vs. 22 The law does not make a person a sinner; it is like a mirror as it reveals that we are one. It enables us to see our dirty faces but once you see your dirty face you don't take the mirror off the wall and try to scrape the dirt off. No, you simply wash the dirt off and that is what grace and the blood of Christ does. The law can't help us because it holds us in the prison of sin. If you can't stop sin in your life then you have proven that you are imprisoned by the law of God. Martin Luther wrote: *"When the Law drives you to the point of despair, let it drive you a little farther, let it drive you straight into the arms of Jesus who says: 'Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'"*

There is a mistake often made in the presentation of the gospel. In telling folks about the "good news" most folks don't understand why Jesus is good news. If the church only speaks about salvation people will not understand what they are in need of being saved from.

Suppose you took a flight to Hawaii and somewhere over the Pacific ocean unknown to all the passengers, the pilots realize that they a fuel leak and they don't have enough fuel to land the plane. So the Pilots call the two stewardesses into the cockpit and tell them of the situation: They need to get the passengers ready for the fact that the plane isn't going to be able to land. The good news is that in that the cargo hold is enough

parachutes for every passenger on board. Furthermore they have radioed ahead and there are ships in the immediate area where the plane will be going down to pull out the folks from the water. There needs to be no loss of life if the passengers will only put on the parachutes and exit the plane as instructed. The Pilots are busy keeping the plane in the air so the task of preparing the passengers falls on the two stewardesses. The first stewardess says, *“Gotcha, I’ll take care of it!”* So she pulls out some parachutes gets on the PA and says, *“Ladies and gentleman aboard flight 777 I have some wonderful news for you all today!”* *“We have a special free backpack that will make your flight more comfortable. And after you land it will come in handy every day.”* *“How many of you would like to have one?”* To her surprise only a few folks raise their hand and the rest of the folks aren’t interested. Of the folks that have raised their hands all but two just put the parachute under the seat and go back to watching the movie, playing with their I-pads or reading books. Of the two that try them on only one leaves it on the other one tries it on then just tosses it aside. The fellow that puts it on keeps it on for 15 minutes and until it becomes hot and uncomfortable then he also takes it off. The first stewardess comes back and tells the 2nd stewardess what has happened and that no one has the parachute on. So the 2nd stewardess says, *“I’ll take care of this!”* She gets on the PA and calmly says, *“Ladies and gentlemen we have an announcement that you need to pay attention to so turn off all your electric devices and put down your books.”* *“The Pilots of flight 777 have discovered a fuel leak that will cause us to have to abort our landing. In their wisdom they have provided parachutes for every passenger onboard the flight today. Furthermore they have made sure that there will be ships in the area where the plane will be going down to pick up every passenger so that no person’s life will be lost.”* *“We will be*

instructing each and every passenger on how to put on the parachute and how to leave the plane safely.” “We ask that you remain calm and follow the instructions that we give you exactly.” “Now how many of you dear folks want a parachute today, please raise your hand?”

Vs. 23-25 Before we came to faith in Christ, Paul says, the law kept guard over us in a protective custody. It revealed God’s heart; showing is the right way to live, a way to govern humanity. It also provided an avenue by which we would come to Jesus as we stopped trying to justify ourselves and instead allowed Jesus to declare us right with God as we simply trusted in His finished work. The law gives a reward and a punishment to works; it remits nothing, pardons nothing, and instead calls all to reckoning. **Satan would have us prove ourselves holy by the very thing God gave to prove us sinners!**

Notice that the words “*to bring us*” in verse 24 are italicized which means that the translators inserted them to clarify the sentence. The original Greek reads, “*Therefore the law was out tutor until Christ*”. Once we have come to a relationship by faith in Jesus, we no longer need to live under our tutor. The tutor did not simply teach a child he was the child’s guardian, watching over the child and his behavior. The idea is more of a nanny, since the tutor could discipline the child. The word tutor literally means “child conductor” and by use of this word Paul is saying **two important things:**

- a. The Jews are not born through the law, but rather that they are brought up by the law. The tutor was a slave given the responsibility to be the child’s guardian and if needed the disciplinarian. But even with those responsibilities **the tutor was not the child’s father** and only the father could give life the tutor just regulated life.

- b. The work of the tutor was **preparation for the child's maturity** and once the child became an adult, they no longer needed the tutor. The law was just preparation for Israel of the Messiah as the ultimate goal of God was the coming of the Son. In verse 26 Paul uses a word translated sons that literally means "adult sons" as God's plan for His children is maturity.

III. Vs. 26-29 Graduation

Vs. 26-27 The Judaizers had taught the gentile believers that they weren't fully followers of Jesus until they became followers of the Law but Paul says that they were full sons of God through faith. What did those adult men who had undergone circumcision at the insistence of the Judaizers think of that true statement? Paul doesn't say that we are baptized into water but that we are "BATIZED INTO CHRIST". Water baptism is where a person is immersed into water, so we place our faith in Christ we are immersed in Jesus. Paul uses a decidedly Roman analogy as he writes "*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ***". When the Roman son became of age where he was seen as an adult he would be given a "*toga virilis*" which signified that he was now a grownup son enjoying full citizenship with all the rights and responsibilities of an adult and was to no longer be treated like a child in his father's house.

Vs. 28-29 Since the Judaizers pushed class distinctions based upon obedience to the law Paul emphasizes equality through faith. At that time, the Rabbis quoted a morning prayer of the Jews where the Jewish man would thank God that he was not born a Gentile, a slave, or a woman. Here Paul makes good use of that by showing what faith has done.

1. **Neither Jew nor Greek**: As far as spiritual position before the throne of God there is no difference between Jew and Gentile. Thus **no prior religious benefit!**
2. **Neither slave nor free**: In Christ before the throne of God there is no difference between those that were free in society and those who were slaves. **No prior economic benefit!**
3. **Neither male nor female**: The equality in Christ even reached through the division of the sexes and established no difference before the throne of God between male and female. **No prior gender benefit!**

I still remember the dreaded “*red pencil*” the teacher would use on my English papers as she would take my paper and mark it all with the misspelled words, poor punctuation, and bad grammar. That’s what teachers do, they point out mistakes that need correcting. Ah but now that I’m in Christ I still have as many mistakes as I once did. Recently a gracious lady came and asked if she take all my notes and correct all my mistakes on my behalf. She isn’t circling them in red pencil she is fixing them so that those that go on line to read the notes won’t get distracted with my mistakes and instead will get blessed at the perfection of the word. That’s what Christ has done and why we no longer need the law!