

GALATIANS 7

1. How is trying to obey all of the laws of God like being in prison?

-Because you cannot obey all of the laws of God, you must go to prison.

2. What does it mean that the law of God was our guardian?

-It means that the law of God teaches us that our God is so holy that there is nothing that we can do by ourselves to get out of prison.

3. Although the Gentiles do not have the laws of Moses, what do they have as their laws?

-Inner laws that God has written on their hearts.

4. What are these inner laws which are written on everyone's heart?

-Knowing that there is God.

-Knowing the difference between right and wrong.

-Knowing that doing right is good.

-Knowing that doing wrong is not good.

5. What would be a simple definition of a Christian?

-One who is clothed with Christ.

6. What happens when we try to show ourselves more important than others?

-We hurt our own family, the family of God.

7. Was Abraham saved because he obeyed the laws of Moses?

-No.

-Abraham lived many years before God gave to Israel the laws of Moses.

8. Is the faith that saved Abraham the same faith that saves us?

-Yes.

9. Is the promise that God gave to Abraham the same promise that God gives to us?

-Yes.

10. What does "Abba, Father" mean?

-"Abba, Father" is from the Aramaic language, and is that which little children called their father.

11. What does it mean that we cry out "Abba, Father"?

-It means that we can call God at any time, and God will hear us because He is our Father.

Let's read Galatians 4:7-8

7-So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

8-Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.

- What does it mean that Christians are no longer slaves?
- We are no longer slaves to trying to obey laws.
- We are no longer slaves to trying to earn God's acceptance.
- All religions except for true Christianity are slaves to obeying laws.
- All religions except for true Christianity are slaves to trying to earn God's acceptance.
- People can never save themselves from this slavery.
- Because we can never completely obey.
- Because we can never earn God's acceptance.
- Christ alone can free us from this slavery, and He has completely freed us by His work on the cross.
- Not only are Christians free, but we are also God's children.
- Not only are Christians God's children, but we will also inherit all of our Father's wealth.
- Before we believed in Christ, we were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.
- Who are these who by nature are not gods?

- These are demons who have no power except what we allow them to have over our lives.
- Before we believed in Christ, why did demons and evil have power over us?
- Because we allowed them to do so.
- Because we did not call on God to save us.
- All people who do not believe in Christ are slaves under the power of Satan, demons, and evil.
- It is only when we call on God to save us that God frees us from the slavery of Satan, demons, and evil.
- This is why we cannot save ourselves.
- This is why we cannot obey all of the laws.
- This is why we cannot make ourselves acceptable to God.
- Because we all are born as slaves to Satan, demons, and evil.
- Only the power of God can save us.
- When we do not call on God to save us, we allow Satan, demons, and evil to have power over us.
- When we call on God to save us, however, God frees us

from slavery, makes us His children, and gives us His inheritance.

Let's read Galatians 4:9-10

9-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?

10-You are observing special days and months and seasons and years!

-We Christians know enough about God to believe in Him, but we do not know very much about Him.

-That which we do not know about God is greater than that which we know about Him.

-This is because God is eternal.

-Does God know more about us than we know ourselves?

-Yes.

-God knows everything about us.

-Why is it important to understand that God knows everything about us?

-Then, we understand that God loves us even though He

knows all of our sins.

-Then, we understand that God does what is best for us.

-Is there anything in our lives that God does that is not for our best?

-No.

-There is nothing that God does in our lives that is not for our best.

-If our God only does what is best for us, then why do Christians turn back to their old habits before they were saved?

-If Christ's death on the cross alone can save us, then why do Christians turn back to idols or observing special days and months and seasons and years?

-They only answer is that Christians have forgotten that the blood of Christ alone has saved them.

-For all Christians, there should be no turning back to idols nor observing special days to gain acceptance by God.

-Christ's death on the cross is more than enough to save us and to keep us saved for all of eternity.

Let's read Galatians 4:11

11-I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

-We know that this letter was written to Christians in Galatia and to all Christians.

-Therefore, God and Paul are not talking about the Galatians losing their salvation.

-If the blood of Christ has saved us from sin, death, and Satan, then nothing can take us away from Christ.

-If people in the church reject the Word of God, what does this teach us?

-That they have never believed and been saved by Christ.

Let's read Galatians 4:12a

12-I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you.

-Before Paul met Christ, he was a very strong Pharisee trying to obey all of the laws of Moses.

-Now, however, how did Paul want the Galatians to become like him?

-To give up trying to obey laws in order to be accepted by God.

-How did Paul become like the Galatians?

-By believing in the Lord Jesus and suffering for his belief in Christ.

Let's read Galatians 4:12b-14

12- You did me no wrong.

13-As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you,

14-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.

-When Paul first went to Galatia, many Jews rejected his teaching when they learned that God also wanted to save the Gentiles (Acts 13:45, 50).

-These Jews from Galatia went to Iconium and stoned Paul, dragging him outside the city and thinking he was dead (Acts 14:19).

-Yet, there were Gentiles in Galatia who believed in Christ, and were saved.

-These were the ones who did Paul no wrong.

-Rather, the Christians in Galatia received him with love, and welcomed him as if he were an angel, as if he were Christ Jesus Himself.

Let's read Galatians 4:15-16

15-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.

16-Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

-If the Christians in Galatia had once loved Paul, how could they have become his enemy?

-Since we know that Paul only taught the truth, we can also know that some of the people in the church at Galatia had never believed in Christ.

-It may be that there will always be a few people in most, if not all churches who do not believe in Christ.

-Who are the enemies of the truth?

-Those who reject the truths of God in the Bible.

Let's read Galatians 4:17-18

17-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.

18-It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you.

-There are many false teachers in the world who want people to believe them and follow their teaching.

-What is one of the main differences between a false teacher and a true teacher of the Word of God?

-A false teacher wants people to follow them, but a true teacher of the Word of God wants people to follow God.

-A false teacher wants people to believe in them, but a true teacher of the Word of God wants people to believe in God.

Let's read Galatians 4:19-20

19-My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,

20-how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

-As a mother loves her children, Paul greatly loved the Christians in Galatia.

-And as a mother gives physical birth to her children, God through Paul had given spiritual birth to the Christians in Galatia.

-Yet, because there were some in the church in Galatia who were believing the false teaching, God and Paul both were in pain much like the pain of a physical birth.

-Whenever God's children believe that which is not true, this causes pain to God.

-If we know that believing that which is not true gives pain to God, this should cause us to ask God to help us to only believe the truth.

Let's read Galatians 4:21-22

21-Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says?

-What is the question here?

-The question is this:

-How can anyone believe that they can keep all of the law because the law itself says that if we break even one law, we fail?

-To help us understand this truth, God through Paul reminds us of the story of the two sons of Abraham.

Let's read Galatians 4:22-23

22-For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free

woman.

23-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.

-When Abraham was 75 years old, God promised to give him a son.

-Ten years later, when Abraham was 85 years old, he still did not have a son.

-Therefore, Abraham's wife, Sarah, asked her husband to take their slave woman, Hagar, as his wife.

-Abraham slept with Hagar, and when Abraham was 86 years old, his son, Ishmael, was born.

-When Abraham was 100 years old, his wife Sarah gave birth to their son Isaac.

-Therefore, Abraham had two sons.

-One son was born by the slave woman, Hagar, and one son was born by the free woman, Sarah.

-How was Abraham's son by the slave woman born according to the flesh?

-Because this was the work of Abraham and his wife who decided that they would help God by taking a slave

woman to give Abraham a son.

-How was Abraham's son by the free woman born according to a divine promise?

-Because this was the work of God alone as Abraham was 100 years old and his wife, Sarah, was barren, and could not have children.

Let's read Galatians 4:24-25

24-These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar.

25-Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.

-As we learn from verse 24 above, the two women, Hagar and Sarah, are the pictures of two agreements.

-The first agreement is from Mount Sinai where God gave His laws to Moses and the Israelites.

-The first agreement is also from the present city of Jerusalem where Jews and others try to obey the law.

-The picture of the first agreement is of Hagar who is the slave woman.

-Hagar and all of her children who are like her are in slavery.

-What is the meaning of the first agreement?

-We are slaves to sin because we can never perfectly obey all of the laws of God.

Let's read Galatians 4:26

26-But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.

-The second agreement is from "the Jerusalem that is above" which is heaven.

-The picture of the second agreement is of Sarah who is the free woman.

-What is the meaning of the second agreement?

-We are free from the slavery of sin because God has freed us.

Let's read Galatians 4:27

27-For it is written: "Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."

-When the Jews were captured by the Babylonians and taken to Babylon, God through Isaiah wrote these words in the verse above (Is 54:1).

-These words were written to encourage all Christians that even though we have difficulties, there will be much fruit one day.

-Sarah was barren, but now she has many children in the faith of Christ.

-Christians suffer, but one day there will be many brothers and sisters in Christ in heaven with us.

Let's read Galatians 4:28

28-Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise.

-How are all Christians like Isaac?

-Like Isaac, it is because of God alone that we were born into the family of God.

-Like Isaac, God Himself chose us to be born into His family.

-Because Abraham was 100 years old, and Sarah was 90 years old and barren, there was no hope for Isaac to be born.

-Because of our sin, there was no hope for us as Christians to be born again.

-Like Isaac, however, God came into our lives, and gave us birth even though there was no hope.

-All Christians are the children of the promise which God gave to Abraham.

Let's read Galatians 4:29-31

29-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.

30-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."

31-Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

-Ishmael, the son of Hagar, persecuted Isaac, the son of Sarah.

-Today also, those who are not of the family of Christ persecute those who are in the family of Christ.

-Just as Hagar and Ishmael were thrown out of Abraham's family, all who do not believe in Christ will be thrown out.