

THE CURSE OF THE LAW

INTRODUCTION: The Apostle Paul states right up front that the law brings a curse and this is why it failed miserably in making individuals righteous. The death of Jesus Christ changed things completely. To live by faith in Christ, brings upon us all the great and precious promises of the Word of God, while eliminating the horrific curses accompanied with the law.

Galatians 3:10-14

I. THE FAILURE OF THE LAW *vv.10-12*

A. Cursed is the one who breaks one point of the law.

1. A curse is a spoken judgement to bring doom and barrenness.
2. By breaking one point of the law, a person would bring judgement upon themselves. *Deuteronomy 28:15*
3. Being under the works of the law automatically brings the curse of the law. *Deuteronomy 27:26*

B. The law could not bring justification. *v.11*

1. The law had one major job and that was to bring about the knowledge of sin. *Romans 3:20*
2. The law of Moses was given to the Jews to keep them separate from the nations around them.
3. The law solidified man's need for a Savior. *2 Corinthians 5:21*

C. The law is of works and not faith. *v.12*

1. Everything within the law was works oriented.

2. Once the Jews began to adhere to the law, they were obligated to fulfill it.
3. This is why we see a continual cycle of faithfulness to the law and then neglect of it.

II. THE FULFILLMENT OF CHRIST v.13

A. Christ redeemed us from the curse.

1. At the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, a payment was implemented for sin committed. *Genesis 2:16-17*
2. The law perpetuated the knowledge of sin and animal sacrifices were implemented as a foreshadow of Christ's sacrifice. *Hebrews 10:3-4*
3. It was the blood of Christ that would satisfy the required payment, which could only be accomplished by the One who knew no sin. *Hebrews 9:13-14*

B. Christ became a curse for us.

1. Being executed on a tree was the sign of a person who had been cursed as the result of violating the law. *Deuteronomy 21:22-23*
2. The ultimate curse for man is complete separation from God, which is why Christ sensed being forsaken by God.
3. So, Christ hanging on the cross was symbolic of him being rejected by man and by God. *Matthew 8:20*

C. Christ did this willingly. *John 10:17-18*

1. Christ made the choice to give himself up.

2. This was the plan implemented at the fall of man. *Genesis 3:14-15*
3. In doing so, He satisfied the righteous requirement for death and redeemed man from the curse of the law. *Romans 5:19*

III. THE FRUIT OF FAITH v.14

A. Christ's death released blessings upon the Gentiles.

1. In the law, the blessings of God are simply relegated to the Jews.
Deuteronomy 28:1-2
2. Now, because of Christ's work, the blessings are available to all mankind.
3. This takes us all the way back to Abraham, who was so abundantly blessed, that God would also bless those who blessed him.

B. Christ's death released the era of the Holy Spirit.

1. In Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was not something received by faith, but simply given by God's divine providence.
2. Christ's death, resurrection and ascension ushered in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 2:17, John 16:7*
3. Now we can receive the Holy Spirit by simply asking in faith.
Luke 11:13

C. Christ's death brought a shift away from the realm of works into the blessing of faith.

1. It's important to note that Paul is making the argument that it's really been that way all along.

2. Christ opened the floodgates of salvation by grace through faith.
John 1:17, Acts 13:38-39
3. Because of Christ, we now have the benefit of enjoying the blessings of God without the fear of curses.

CONCLUSION: Paul refutes the Judaizers teaching that we could somehow work our way into a place of holiness while avoiding the curses. He emphasized that it has all been through the work of Jesus and not adherence to the law. Faith alone brings upon us the blessings of Abraham and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.