

# **Sunday School Lesson**

**May 15, 2022**

**FREEDOM AND THE LAW**

**Galatians 3:18-29**

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# Questions for Us Today

- 1.** Do we believe there are rituals we must follow, in addition to our faith in Christ, in order to be righteous?
- 2.** How do we handle things when others challenge our belief and faith in Christ Jesus?

# Sunday School Lesson Objectives

- 1.** To understand what the Apostle Paul was teaching and emphasizing in this segment of his letter to the churches in Galatia.
- 2.** To understand that our belief and faith in the Messiah need not be supplemented by legalistic practices.
- 3.** To understand that there will be people who will challenge our faith in Christ Jesus.

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments**

**May 15, 2022**

- 1. Points of Information: Paul**
- 2. Words to Remember: Galatians**
- 3. Lesson Context**
- 4. Lesson Text**

## **Points of Information – Paul**

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**The Apostle Paul was originally known as Saul of Tarsus. Tarsus was then (and still is) a large Mediterranean city in Turkey. Saul of Tarsus is not to be confused with King Saul (of Israel) in the Old Testament. However, both men (with this name) descended from the Hebrew Tribe of Benjamin. 1 Samuel 9:1-2; Romans 11:1.**

**Paul was a Jew and a Roman citizen by birth. He studied under a well-known professor, Gamaliel. Acts 22:3. Like his teacher and his father Saul/Paul was a Pharisee. Acts 23:6.**

# Points of Information – Paul

**Before his conversion on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:3-19), Saul/Paul was a fervent believer in God who felt wholly justified in his brutal persecution of Christian men and women. Acts 9:1-2; Galatians 1:13.**

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**A young Saul stood by, guarding the clothes of those who stoned Stephen (the first Christian martyr) to death and approving this murder. Acts 7:58—8:1a.**

## Points of Information – Paul

The Apostle Paul was a tentmaker by trade. Acts 18:3. This vocation enabled him to support himself and to have a transportable means of making a living during his extensive travels.

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In addition to being a prolific writer, Paul was a powerful preacher who traveled great distances (in three missionary journeys, by land and water) to spread the Gospel of Christ Jesus and to establish numerous churches. He called himself "an apostle to the Gentiles." Romans 11:13.

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# Points of Information – Paul

66 / 39 / 27 / 21 /13

# **Points of Information – Paul**

**66 Books in the Bible**

**39 Books in the Old Testament**

**9**

**27 Books in the New Testament**

**21 Letters in the New Testament**

**13 Letters written by Paul – almost half of the New Testament!**

## **Points of Information – Paul**

**10**

**Paul was not one of the original Twelve Disciples who became Apostles. Paul's position as an Apostle was based on the fact that he had a direct and personal encounter with the Resurrected Christ Jesus. Acts 9:1-6, 8.**

**Paul was subsequently anointed by the Holy Spirit and baptized. Acts 9:17-18.**

## **Points of Information – Paul**

**The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the churches and believers in Galatia from Antioch, around 49 A.D.**

**11**

**This letter was written to the churches as a correction for false beliefs. Galatians 1:6-10 epitomize this.**

# The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians

## Words to Remember

1. Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ."

2. Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance..."

3. Galatians 6:7 "Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow."

4. Galatians 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

# FREEDOM AND THE LAW

## Context

- The Apostle Paul established churches in multiple Galatian cities, including: Lystra, Derbe and Antioch.
- Paul's teachings were countered by the Judaizers – those who promoted the addition of Jewish practices (like circumcision) as requirements for Christian faith.
- Paul's stern corrections in this letter advised that these additional practices, previously mandated by the Law of Moses, were superfluous – unnecessarily added and not required for true faith in Christ. Galatians 3:1-5 firmly illustrate this.

# FREEDOM AND THE LAW

## Context

- In the first Chapter of his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul immediately questions why and how the believers there could have so soon strayed from what they had been taught regarding the sufficiency of faith in Christ Jesus. Also in this Chapter, Paul reiterates key points about his own background and conversion to become an authorized Apostle for our Lord and Savior.
- In the second Chapter of this epistle, Paul directly addresses the situation with the false teachers – particularly the Judaizers. Also, he comments about the initial mission of Peter to the Jews and his (Paul's) own mission to the Gentiles. In addition, Paul reprimands Peter (and others) for wavering in terms of interactions with Gentiles as well as Jews. Paul speaks of justification by faith, not by the Law.

# **FREEDOM AND THE LAW**

## **Context**

**15**

- **In the first segment of the third Chapter of his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul sternly uses Abraham as a key example of justification by faith, not by the Law.**

# **FREEDOM AND THE LAW**

## **Text**

**16**

**Galatians 3:18-29**

## **Galatians 3:17 (NRSV)**

**My point is this: the law, which came four hundred thirty years later, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.**

**[The Abrahamic Covenant, from God to Abram, is in Genesis 17:1-9.]**

## **Galatians 3:18**

**For if the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise; but God granted it to Abraham through the promise.**

**[The Abrahamic Covenant, from God to Abram, is in Genesis 17:1-9.]**

## **Galatians 3:19-20**

**Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator.**

**Now a mediator involves more than one party; but God is One.**

## Galatians 3:21-22

Is the law then opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law.

But the Scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

## **Galatians 3:23-24**

**Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed.**

**Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.**

## **Galatians 3:25-27**

**But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian,**

**for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.**

**As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.**

## **Galatians 3:28-29**

**There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.**

**And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.**

## Remember this:

- 1.** As the Apostle Paul has told us, our belief and faith in Jesus are all that we need for justification (gaining righteousness) with Our Heavenly Father.
- 2.** We should stand strong in our belief and faith in Jesus, even when others present a challenge.

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