

THE
LIBERTY
OF THE
SONS OF GOD
LESSONS
ON
GALATIANS

By
A. S. Copley

“And because ye are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” (*“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”* KJV)—Chapter 4:6.

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FORECAST

The lessons given herein were first spoken by the writer in Oak Hill Tabernacle, Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1914. Then they appeared in Grace and Glory in six issues, a few copies of which were bound and sent forth to bless others. The profit they rendered created a demand for them. Therefore we reprinted the lessons, somewhat revised, which the Lord made a great blessing to many hungry hearts.

That edition was exhausted several years ago; but calls come in again and again for the book. Hence, we are putting forth the second edition, knowing the incalculable good that it will accomplish. Sister Mary M. Bodie has written the interesting introduction.

—The Author

Note from Publisher:

Grace Assembly is privileged to publish and post this commentary on our Web Site, www.graceassembliesandiego.com. We believe these commentaries rank among the best for Bible students who desire to learn about the Word of God and the Pauline Revelation. These commentaries were written during the early days of the latter rain outpour of God's Spirit and they continue to provide enlightenment to the reader. These are the original writings of the authors. Grace Assembly has not made any changes or additions to these writings other than format changes for the convenience of the Bible student. In the left hand column we have added the King James Bible version as it applies to the commentary on that page. Where the authors have referred to scripture references without quoting the scripture in the text, we have added the scripture as a footnote. In some places the authors have referred to Bible versions other than the King James. Since Grace Assembly holds to the King James Version as the preserved text, we, therefore, have added in the text the same scripture from the King James Version. We trust these ancillary changes will be helpful to the Bible student.

Galatians KJV

1:1 “Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

1:2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

1:3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and *from* our Lord Jesus Christ,

1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

1:5 To whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons on Galatians

The Introductory

By Mary M. Bodie

“Paul an apostle (not of men neither by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead) and all the brethren which are with me unto the churches of Galatia.”

Galatia was a Roman province situated in the central portion of Asia Minor. The inhabitants were not Greeks, but Gauls, a fickle, effervescent people, very demonstrative, but lacking stability in the natural; which characteristic was also manifest in the spiritual.

Galatia means “milky,” which is most elucidating and instructive. It declares the Galatians’ character of childishness, being able to take only the milk and not the meat of the Word, expressive of folk under law.

Division One. Chap. 1:1-5—Salutation. Paul is the writer of this letter and he includes others of the brethren who were with him at the time. He declares at the outset that he, Paul, was the authorized apostle, the Sent One, not of men, but by God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. He mentions “the brethren that were with him” as lending weight to that which he is about to write.

“Grace be unto you and peace from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.” Paul introduces all of his epistles except Hebrews with this phrase, “grace and peace” and ends all of them with “grace be unto you.” Grace is his great theme. It occurs seven times in this letter.

“Who gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil world (age) according to the will of God and our Father to whom be glory forever.”

Christ giving Himself up to the cross for us is the basis of all of God’s power to us. It was in the will of God that Jesus went to the cross, in order that we might be set free, loosed from all the power of this evil age. Furthermore it was the will of the Son in dying that we might be delivered from all the entanglements of this evil age. And it is its very religiousness that makes it so devilish. “The Jews’ religion” has superceded the grace message which is the special issue in this letter. Legality robs God the Father of His glory in giving His Son to the shameful death of the cross. It robs Christ of His glory of redemption. It spoils God’s plans for the manifestation of His grace, in which God is especially glorified. He created wonderful angelic beings that have never

sinned and never will sin, but that only magnifies His power. It is in saving sinning humanity at His own expense that God gets the greatest glory. “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself—not imputing their trespasses unto them”—2 Cor. 5:19. He must save His sinning creature, man, tho’ He must take on an earthen body to die. Man needed grace, not law, for he was weak and helpless, therefore God bestows His greatest favor upon the most unworthy of His creatures. Hence we need not try to reform and be good by our own efforts for God does not save angels, but sinners —and He is glorified thereby.

Men are especially senseless as regards spiritual matters. The devil has blinded them to God’s real character and salvation. His mercy is an unknown quantity and quality to them Satan keeps even the saints blinded to the real essence of Paul’s Gospel. They need a revelation to understand that God not only saves the wicked, but that He helps the helpless. If men are conscientious they are forever endeavoring to propitiate God, for they realize their sinful state. They try to make themselves better by their own works, not realizing that it is their condition of wretchedness and sinfulness that makes them eligible for God’s salvation. When we were young we enjoyed singing “I want to be an angel and with the angels stand,” and later we tried to be good so that God could save us, but alas, we never became good enough to deserve His salvation. Finally when we lost all hope and gave up trying to be religious we heard the Gospel and were saved.

God never speaks of GRACE in connection with angels, Grace is loving pardon for wretched criminals, lost guilty humanity. And the reason that the majority of folk miss salvation is because they want to deserve God’s favor, instead of accepting it as a gift. He has declared that it is the ungodly man, who does not merit anything, but just simply believes Him, that He justifies. He pronounces him righteous. God wants to exhibit His own attribute of Grace, which is the reason that He saves lost and ruined humanity. He freely pardons any member of this bankrupt race who is willing to be made an object of His charity, a beggar dependent upon His bounty.

Therefore the first lesson men need to learn is that the human race is a wreck, irretrievably ruined and born this way, with judgment hanging over their heads, no chance whatever, but in God’s grace. Generally, at first, men rebel at this only alternative. They will endeavor to clean up, reform, make restitution, join the church or take any other means to be saved. They will even give their money, do anything rather than own up that they can do nothing. And every preacher of legality, human culture or an ethical religion, is keeping men in darkness and

sending them to hell.

Now these Galatian believers had accepted God's verdict as to their need. They received Paul's Gospel and were saved. But some legalists came around later after Paul had gone on his missionary journey planting churches where Christ was not known, and moved them away from his teaching. This was the reason that he wrote this letter to call them back to the GRACE way of salvation, which teaches that God saves men Himself and saves them forever. He does not do a half-way job. It is a finished work. From the moment a sinner turns to God, accepting His mercy in the Gift of Christ as his Saviour, he is God's child and His Father is looking after him. That saved sinner is as sure of heaven as tho' he was already there. He is not counted as being in Adam, but in Christ. And regardless of his failures and sins, he that is trusting in God's mercy and not in his own works is safe and secure. As the poet has so beautifully voiced the truth.

“My name from the palms of his hands, Eternity will not erase. Impressed on His heart it remains, In marks of indelible grace. Yes. I to the end shall endure, As sure as the earnest is given; More happy, hilt not more secure The glorified spirits in heaven.”

God never gives a sinner up that comes to Him. It is unthinkable! If He did so, He would be acknowledging that He was weak and a failure, that He was not able to save the poor fallen creature that trusted in Him. Satan would thus be proved the stronger than Christ. Imagine such a contingency! It could not be thought of for a minute. God's honor is at stake in this matter. Just take Him into account and you will change your theology. It is not a little thing to charge Christ with such dishonor—to say, that He is not able to do as He has promised—that He, the living One who has died for the sinners' offenses and has risen for his justification is not able to keep him. It is unthinkable, preposterous and devilish to say or believe such a travesty of God's faithfulness. Let us not accuse Him of such a breaking of His Word and His oath—two immutable things—whereby we might have a strong consolation who have fled for refuge to Jesus—*Heb. 6:18. He is the Saviour and He is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him—**Heb. 7:25.

Division Two. Chap. 1:6-9—Theme. The Gospel of Grace. Paul allows no competitor, or rival-religion on the platform of this age. His Gospel has the front place on the stage; and he is the chief speaker, the

*Hebrews 6:18 “That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.”

**Hebrews 7:25 “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

authorized loud talker and steward of the mysteries of God for the church. He refuses any admixture of law conditions in any form or phase, even the most subtle, as seen in Peter's case—Chap. 2:11-4. The very least of law destroys the character of grace. These are opposites in every way.

These Galatians were believers. Paul designates them his “little children”—Chap. 4:19. Some folk think the Gospel is not for the saints, but only for sinners. They are mistaken. It is Good News for all men, saved and unsaved. Paul is amazed at these Galatians. He was their spiritual father. He had preached to them the Gospel which he defines in 1 Cor. 15:3-8. It has four basic facts or planks. One. “Christ died for our sins.” Two. “He was buried.” Three. “He arose the third day.” Four. “He was seen” on six definite occasions; namely first “by Cephas: then of the twelve; after that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; afterward of James and then of all the apostles. Last of all He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.” To believe these foundation facts is to be saved, the apostle declares—*1 Cor. 15:2. There is nothing, absolutely nothing of our doings to be added to the one superb and only sacrifice of the Christ of the Cross.

The Galatians had received Paul's message of grace, but later when some folk came from James with the Jew's religion they were influenced and fell from grace. The majority of Christians imagine that the phrase, “fallen from grace” applies to believers who have committed some immoral, wicked deed—but that is not the case. It applies to believers, moral, religious folk who have taken up “the Jew's religion,” as a means to perfect themselves. It is these Christians who have “fallen from grace.” They have quit the faith-way of salvation and have taken up the works-way, doing instead of trusting for justification and sanctification.

Paul was surprised at these Galatians. He marveled how quickly they had fallen from their high standing in grace—perfect and complete in Christ—to the lower way of works. It was another message to which they were listening but NOT ANOTHER GOSPEL—for there is no other Good News for sinners or saints as we are instructed by the Apostle. The grace message is the only Gospel of salvation. What is there of Good Tidings to tell weak, helpless, sinful humanity, defiled and corruptible, that they must do something, or keep some laws, rules and regulations to be saved, or keep saved? That is not good news. That is bad news for saint and sinner, because the old creation is as prone to do evil as the sparks fly upward. Man is lawless by nature, therefore cannot obey God's law. To tell them that they must do something to please God is to stir up that lawless element in their being into open revolt. They may want to do that which God demands (and if they are saved they will) but they are unable to do, or not

1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

*1 Corinthians 15:2 “By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

do, that which is commanded. They exclaim even as Israel, “All that the Lord hath spoken, we will do” (Ex. 19), not realizing their own helplessness and yet be unable to obey in all that they determine to do. Paul gave us his experience, and ours also, along this line—Rom. 7:15-25. Our only hope lies in the Gospel of grace. This message provides a salvation for mankind without works. It is a by-faith way of escape from the thralldom of sin and the power of death.

1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

1:9 As we said before, so say I now again, if any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Furthermore Paul, chief speaker and preacher of this Grace Gospel declares that any other message brings “trouble” instead of blessing and is a perversion of his Gospel—Chap. 1:7. He dares to say that even “if an angel from heaven came with any other Gospel, let him be accursed.” His language is most emphatic. He goes further, declaring vehemently that even if he could do such a dastardly deed and return with any other message than that he brought in the beginning, “LET HIM BE ACCURSED.” And again, he dares to bring down a curse upon the head of any preacher who does not bring the Glad Tidings of grace. “As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other Gospel unto you, let him be accursed (anathema) of God.”

He does not mince his words, for he has a serious matter to discuss. It is not a little nonessential item of which he is speaking, tho’ men may so esteem it, and declare that it is of little consequence what is taught as to the manner of the perfection of believers. Some say, if we arrive inside the pearly gates what difference does it make if more or less self-effort is added to the way of our sanctification. So the reason—but Paul insists that it is a most vital question. The apostle is so concerned as to the matter that he writes a special letter to get these Galatians back under GRACE. He uses the most positive affirmations in its favor, and is just as positive in his denunciations against all who teach otherwise. “If an angel from heaven comes to you with any other message” (“*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you*”—*V. 8 KJV*) turn away from him. “If I” should be so astray, so deceived, so demented as to come to you with something different do not listen to me. Curse me and send me away. If anyone high or low, rich or poor brings another way of salvation than the grace message, heed him not. There is no other Gospel, Paul warns them most solemnly. Faith is the only way.

God has made it possible for men to be saved on the simple condition of faith. That is grace. Likewise in the matter of being kept saved. The Lord is the Shepherd. We must trust Him and not endeavor by our feeble works to merit anything. We must let Him perfect us on the same basis—that of grace. God has provided all this for us in Christ. He has been made “in the wisdom of God—righteousness, sanctification and redemption.” (“*who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*”—*1 Cor. 1:30 KJV*) That is, God in

His wisdom has perfected a plan whereby all men, that avail themselves of the provision, may be justified, sanctified and glorified by His power alone; the cross being the basis of the plan, the Holy Spirit being active Agent. Thus “no flesh shall glory in His presence...he that glorieth let him glory in the Lord” (*“no flesh should glory in his presence... He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” KJV*)—1 Cor. 1:29, 31.

The Gospel which Paul preached ascribes all the glory to God. If man could save, or sanctify himself, he would praise himself—and he would have a right to do so. Heaven would be filled with all manner of inscriptions of glory to man. Each one would have his own little or big horn and would be blowing about himself, telling what a good or great fellow he was and what he had done to make the grade and reach heaven. But that will not be the case. No one will have any song of praise for himself. Christ will have the center place among the redeemed of all ages. That heavenly throng will all with one accord praise God and the Lamb for the plan of redemption.

These Galatians in their endeavors to perfect themselves by law were manifesting their ignorance of the grace message. They had not learned that all the glory for man’s salvation was to fall upon God, that His plan for their justification and sanctification was sufficient for time and eternity. They had not learned that Paul and his Gospel were separated from all the other preachers and their preaching. It was a new message, a different proclamation than ever had been heard—and it is different still from almost everything heard today. It is “not after man,” is the reason. It never originated in his little legal mind. He never could have conceived such a marvelous plan, so unique, so entirely distinct from all his thoughts. It never would have entered his mind to imagine that an offended God would send His beloved Son to die upon a rugged cross for those who had sinned against Him even His very enemies. How did Paul learn of this heavenly, holy Gospel? It was by a REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST. Acts 26:16 declares that the Lord said, “To this end have I appeared unto you, to appoint thee a minister and a witness both of the things wherein thou hast seen and of the things wherein I will appear unto thee.” (*“for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;” KJV*)

Paul tells us that he Paul, wrote this letter to the Galatians. In fact he wrote 14 of the 27 books of the New Testament. We read, Paul to the Romans; Paul to the Corinthians; Paul to the Colossians; Paul to the Thessalonians; Paul to Timothy; Paul to Titus; Paul to Philemon. Hebrews is the only epistle that is not prefaced with his own name, and there is a reason for its absence. He was not sent primarily to the Hebrews.

FACTS ABOUT LAW

The Law was given 430 years after Abraham was justified by grace thru Faith, wholly independent of works, or human effort. Abraham had no law to keep and was not placed on probation, as was Adam before he fell. In walking by faith, he became “the friend of God,” not by keeping any law whatever.

“The Law was not given for a righteous man (he needs no law); but for the lawless,” etc. (*“that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient...” KJV*)—1 Tim. 1:9. In Christ, “we are not under the law, but under grace” (*“for ye are not under the law, but under grace,” KJV*)—Rom. 6:14. Therefore, sin shall not have dominion over us. Neither does the Law have dominion over us in Christ.

The Law spent its strength and finished its work on us in executing Christ Jesus on the cross in our behalf. There “our old man was crucified with Him” (*“that our old man is crucified with him,” KJV*)—Rom. 6:6.

The Ten Commandments do not express all the will of God. They were the written will of God for a particular people for a certain limited period of time.

The Law is not a rule of conduct for believers. Paul said, “As many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God”—Gal. 6:16. What rule? Answer, the rule of the new creation under grace, brought forth by the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus; not by the rule of circumcision, or law.

The Law was added because of transgression. It was a schoolmaster until Christ, that we might be justified by faith—Gal. 3:19,24. “The Law entered that the offence might abound”—Rom. 5:20. As a schoolmaster, it whipped the transgressor into obedience; but he kicked against it, thus proving his inability to keep it. “The Law was weak thru the (sinful) flesh” (*“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh,” KJV*)—Rom. 8:3.

The Law could not give life to a sinner, nor save him. It is not a savior, but a judge. “If there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the Law”—Gal. 3:21.

The Law School is out since Christ came. The Schoolmaster, the Law, has been dismissed; and is never hired again except by legalists. “Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone that believeth” Rom. 10:4.

The Law was a ministration of condemnation and death, and unbearable sight; hence it was done away—2 Cor. 3:6, 9, 11.

The Law was an unbearable yoke to Israel; and to lay down the Law for others to keep is tempting God Acts 15:10. It is also called “witchcraft” (*“bewitched” KJV*)—Gal. 3:1.

Legality is like a leach that sucks the blood and drains the life of its victims.

Legality wears a high hat, bespangled with icicles, a long imposing beard and heavy calfskin shoes, and is very finikin about his company, lest he be defiled.

As water and oil will not mix, so law-keeping and grace cannot walk, together and be agreed. One, or the other must vacate. Grace being modest and yielding, peacefully withdraws and seeks rest elsewhere.

Legality, conceit and self-righteousness usually dwell together in the same pious (?) house—air conditioned, damp, dark and dangerous. “Daisy Don’t” is the mistress of the home, and stern rules of order are the wall mottoes.

“Beware of the concision” (Phili. 3:2); that is, those who cut down, cut to pieces, cut off others. Legality draws lines, or sets bounds and cuts others off from fellowship. It makes divisions. It prescribes by-laws and tries to rob brethren of the liberty they have in Christ. “O foolish Galatians! Who hath bewitched you?”

Paul In God’s Will

“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me is not after man; for I neither received it of man, nor was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ”—Chap. 1:10,11.

Division Three. Chaps. 1:10 to 2:21. Theme—Paul’s Defense of His Apostleship and Gospel. The Apostle was no ordinary messenger of the church. He is not even classed with the other Apostles, but was in a distinct rank by himself. He is to the church of our Lord Jesus Christ what Moses was to Israel. He is the leader. He went before. He received his call, commission and revelation from the Lord, independent of men. God arrested him when he was persecuting the brethren, haling them to prison and witnessing against them. His conversion was of absolute grace on God’s part. The lord appeared to him (as he was on his way to Damascus in high-handed rebellion against God and His Son) and knocked him to

1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

1:11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

1:14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

the earth—Acts. 9. He arose a new man, with a new message for men and a new name. Saul, “the asked for,” figuring man’s choice, becomes Paul, “the little,” representing God’s choice, the unpopular one.

Saul was self-righteous, proud and strong in himself. He was superior in many ways to those of his time and age. He was a legalist of the first grade, fanatical in his zeal for the “Jew’s religion,” but the mighty God had a work for him. He took hold of that unlikely material and changed him. He turned him right about-face and made him just as zealous and earnest for grace, the true way of salvation, as he had been for law. He put him to the front of the new order of things. The 12 kingdom apostles were earnest and loyal men. They had walked and talked with the Lord for three and a half years. They had their place and message as the Apostles of the Lamb; but the kingdom was set aside for the time being; hence they too were set aside. God had another purpose to put over; a new message to be preached; a new people gathered; not only Jews, but Gentiles were to constitute this heavenly body the church; therefore He needed a new messenger. And then came Paul.

Unto none of the twelve Apostles did the Lord reveal the great body of doctrine for this age. It was Saul of Tarsus who was chosen to be the steward of the glorious truths connected with the Lord’s death, resurrection and ascension. All the mysteries of the church, the great body of truth concerning that great body of people, were committed to Paul. Most of the New Testament has been given to us by him. Take Romans to Philemon out of the Bible and what have you? To no other Apostle were these great secrets revealed. They had to learn them from Paul.

The letter to the Galatians corrects the folly of trying to perfect ourselves in the flesh, in view of the fact that we are without strength. If there had been any hope in man doing anything for himself, God would have given him the chance. He had repeatedly done so; but after Christ came and died on the cross, that was the end of all man’s doings. His glory passed away when Christ was nailed to the tree. It was “Ichabod” for man.

By the way, Paul is the only one of the Apostles who speaks of the cross. In fact there are many great truths which only Paul gives us. In the second chapter of this letter, we are distinctly told that James, Cephas and John were to go to the Jews, while Paul was to go to the Gentiles. The testimony to the Jewish nation was soon ended after Paul was railroaded into office. During this age, there is no distinction between Jew and Gentile. Paul is the one who finally sets them aside (*Acts 28:28) and opens his great epistle to Rome, the Gentile center of the world with these

*Acts 28:28 “Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and *that* they will hear it.”

words, “There is no difference” between Jew or Gentile; “for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,” and now “whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,” since the same Lord is “Lord of all” (“*Lord over all*” *KJV*)—Romans 3:22,23 and 10:12. Only nationally was the Jew set aside for the age.

God is sovereign. He does as He chooses and does not enquire of man as to whether he likes His doings or not. He chose the nation Israel who were His special treasure in the earth for a specified time; but when they rejected His Son and His authority, He brought to pass another purpose which had been hidden in His counsel from a past eternity. He is saving folk by the preaching of the cross, and gathering them out of every nation, kindred and tongue, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to constitute a heavenly company. He also chose Paul to be the great herald of the Gospel for this age, the essence of which is that the believer is justified freely from all things—*Acts 13:39.

And this word “freely” is “DOREAN,” Greek, which always bears the meaning “without a cause,” therefore we may say, that God justifies the man that believes without finding any reason in the man except his faith in the work of Christ. That is what gives Paul’s Gospel its unique, distinct place. It is so different from all other ways and means to be saved. There is nothing else like it in the world. Man would never have conceived such a message in his best moments. It is absolutely foreign to his reason. He never would have thought it out. It is far beyond his natural conception of things. God gave it to Paul from heaven; therefore he had to defend it and contend for it all the days of his life. And we are following in his footsteps. We dare to believe the Word of God and stand for this marvelous message of emancipation from sin’s guilt and thralldom.

Immediately after the Apostle began his missionary journey with Barnabas, false teachers followed him and sought to hinder his work, bringing the saved Gentiles under law. In other words, to get them to take up the Jew’s religion to keep saved. Is that not ridiculous? No marvel he later calls these Galatians “foolish,” for yielding to such bewitchment—Chap. 3:1. God had handed over Judaism to the Jew. It was their religion. He had a new message for the church. Judaism was old and was passing away with its shadows. The Substance had come—**Heb. 8:13. The Jew’s religion meant no more to Paul than a heathen religion, and such it should be to us, as far as its connection with salvation is concerned. The message

*Acts 13:39 “And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

**Hebrews 8:13 “In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away.”

or ritual and Law given by Moses to the nation was a distinct religion for them; likewise the Gospel of grace to the church, the body of Christ, is a distinct message to them. Because of ignorance religious teachers are continually mixing them together in their interpretation of Scripture and practical experience of the believer.

Those Judaizers had informed the Galatians that the Jew's religion was not out of date and made them believe that Paul was at fault that he was an apostate Jew, denying the faith of the fathers and not in good standing with the Jerusalem church. Therefore the Apostle must defend his former manner of life. He declares that he had been a consistent member of Judaism, obeying implicitly all its precepts and laws. He had gone beyond others in his zeal and determination to excel, and that was the reason that he persecuted the church of God and wasted it. He was an example to the Jewish youth. They looked upon him as a great leader and thus he “profited in the Jew’s religion above many...being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”

“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me by His grace to reveal His Son in me...immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood”—Vs. 15,16. Herein are marvelous statements. God’s sovereignty is emphasized in Paul's separation from Judaism (his mother’s womb) and calling to His service. Separation means “marked out for a purpose,” while called signifies “bringing about the purpose.” And the latter in V. 16 is declared to be the revelation of Christ in him. Saul of Tarsus was set aside. He had received a knockdown blow on the road to Damascus when he was on his way to bring some of the Nazarene’s followers bound to Jerusalem, putting them to death if possible—Acts 9. But God changed Saul’s life in a moment of time. When he arose he was no longer the Pharisee and persecutor of the church; but the preacher and pestilent fellow—*Acts 24:5. Paul was his name. Saul was dead. He had been crucified and henceforth Christ lived (Chap. 2:20), and he was to preach Him, not as a mere doctrine, but as a Person, a living vital Person. The man that preaches such a Gospel is bound to be a living voice to others.

Paul did not confer with the “big boys” in Jerusalem. That would have been the natural thing to do; but he was not walking in the flesh now. He was doing the unnatural thing. His revelation was a divine message, different from anything heard before. It was absolutely independent of all human teaching. It was a new message; therefore why confer with even the best men, the highest of theologs if you have

1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace,

1:16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

1:17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

*Acts 24:5 “For we have found this man *a pestilent fellow*, and a mover of sedation among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:”

something that they have not heard. This fact is greatly stressed here in order that the “faith of Christ” should be seen to be distinct and apart from Judaism, the Law, or any human merits, or religion. It cannot be mixed with anything; but stands even as its Author and Finisher, absolutely apart from anything else. Therefore God’s man hears the voice of the Spirit and moves on to Arabia, the place where Moses dwelt and Elijah fled for encouragement—1 Kings 19.

1:18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

Horeb in Arabia was the mountain which God glorified by appearing upon it and giving the law to Moses. It was there that Paul went to iron out the perplexities that had arisen in his theology. We can understand that he should be perplexed and desire to understand the difference and distinction between Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion of which he had lately caught a glimpse. He had been a lover of law. Horeb with its shadows had been hard-hit by his new revelations and he went there to study Moses. His stay there was not marred by any conferences with men. God met with him and revealed further light. He returned to Damascus more than ever convinced, and afterward went up for a visit with Peter fifteen days. He also met James, the pastor and leading elder of the Jerusalem church; but they made no change in his theology.

1:19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

1:20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

1:21 Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia;

Paul is most emphatic tho’ concise in his statements. He declares that he did not lie. He desired that the Galatians take him into their hearts and believe in his sincerity and honor; and believe that he was the God-appointed Apostle and teacher of the Gentiles. He knew if they realized his place in the economy of things, as the One in authority for this age, as having his message entirely from God, as a new revelation, they would heed his words and judge all other doctrines by his Gospel. Therefore he was vehement and insistent in telling them how it all was at that epoch. “Before God” he speaks. He declares that his Gospel had no connection with any other so-called good news and that he had no credentials, calling, or commission from any man, or set of men. The Lord appeared to him, not only to convert him, but to make him a personal witness of His glory and a special minister for this dispensation—*Acts 26:16-18.

1:22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:

1:23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.

1:24 And they glorified God in me.

*Acts 26:16-18 “But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and *from* the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

Chapter Two

2:1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with *me* also.

2:2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

2:3 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

2:4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

2:5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

2:6 But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed *to be somewhat* in conference added nothing to me:

“Then fourteen years after, I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas and took Titus with me also. And I went up by revelation”—Chap. 2:1, 2. We noticed earlier that Paul’s Gospel is a revelation of Christ in the believer, therefore it is all of God. We cannot perform this great transformation. Now in our study we are shown that the Lord sent him to the Jerusalem church, but not until 14 years after he had been in Arabia and returned to Damascus, was he allowed of the Lord to confer in regard to doctrine with the Kingdom Apostles. His Gospel was distinct and separate from all previous revelations, and the special teaching for the church and the Lord would keep it thus. But the time had come for him to meet the other leaders and communicate the news which had been revealed to him. The Lord wanted harmony as to the way of salvation. He had prepared the hearts of the Apostles for this meeting of which Paul was a necessary part.

This convention was the first and only gathering of the ministers of the church, recorded in Scripture—Acts 15. The results of that meeting are outstanding and up-standing and cannot be ignored. Paul’s place, as the Apostle to the Gentiles, and His Gospel, given by revelation, were recognized and endorsed. He was given the right hand of fellowship, and the Jerusalem church went on record as to the grace way of salvation. They set to their seal that God was no respecter of persons and that salvation was by faith alone. Peter’s experience in the house of Cornelius was cited as an example of God’s grace. Paul did not compromise the Truth in the wry least; even Titus, a Gentile, was allowed to sit in conference, tho’ he had not been circumcised. That was a great victory for Paul’s Gospel, when those brethren of reputation from Jerusalem agreed with Paul—Gal. 2:4, 6. The Apostle was not cowed one iota. He had gone up to Jerusalem for this very purpose. The Spirit of God directed him and the results of that conference were satisfaction then, and have been so for the age. He gave place to none of the older Apostles, that the Truth of the Gospel might be kept pure and continue with the people—V. 5.

He declared, “those who seemed to be somewhat in conference,” added nothing to him, but contrariwise; Paul added something to them. Those who seemed to be pillars, James, Cephas and John, were impressed with his marvelous experience as he related it to them. They perceived that a special grace had been given to him for a special purpose and special dispensation, and they left hands off. They were not envious of his charge. They had their place in God’s economy and they were not trying to run His business, as so many do today.

When God raises up a man now, many of the other folk who

2:7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as *the gospel* of the circumcision was unto Peter;

2:8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

2:9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we *should go* unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

2:10 Only *they would* that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

2:11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

have been fed and blessed by the grace given this one are jealous and envious and seek to hinder and hurt that one. But the Lord always defends his chosen man; for he still makes choice of certain ones. That is His divine right, and who dare rise up and say Him, “Nay?” Who dare question His ruling and authority? God is still on His throne; “and all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing, and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?”—Dan. 4:35.

In our chapter (Gal. 2), we notice especially, as we read it carefully that Paul our Apostle is endeavoring to disconnect himself from those other apostles at Jerusalem, tried and true as they had been proved. Later he shows up the chief one in a most serious fault of faith and consequent conduct; and that was an unusual procedure, that he should act in such a manner at that time, when beset by critics and false teachers. It was most strange that he should dare set himself apart from the other Apostles and claim that his apostleship and ministry was distinct from theirs at such a crucial hour; but Paul was no shilly, shally fellow. He stood before God and walked with Him and knew that he was God’s man for the age. Furthermore he was led of the Spirit to so speak; and his utterances were backed up by dynamic power and became Scripture.

Notice some of his bold statements. In chapter 1:15-22, he most confidently asserts that he had a message from heaven, a new message from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. It was not from man, he insists; for he was not acquainted with any of the churches of Judea. It was the good pleasure of God to choose him that He might reveal His Son in him, to the end that he should preach Him among the heathen. What a contrast to all the religions in the world, with their laws and dogmas of doing. O it is so wonderful! and no marvel that Paul dared the devil and all men. His message was a Person revealed as the Savior and Keeper of all believers, the Son of God. What have men to offer after God has given His Son? O they have to go way back and sit down when Paul’s message comes on the platform. It is unique, stupendous and altogether sufficient and satisfying.

The Two Natures

“But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed”—Chap. 2:11. In Peter’s life, we find recorded two positive proofs of the two natures in a believer. The first occurred before he was anointed with the Holy Spirit; the second occurred afterwards, even after he had known the power of the Spirit for a number of years. Just before Christ was crucified, Peter failed egregiously. He boldly affirmed that he would not deny his Lord; but he did, and cursed and swore, because his affirmation was made in his own strength. God

2:12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

2:13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

2:14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before *them* all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

2:15 We *who are* Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,

2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

2:17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

permitted that shameful lapse to show him and us the necessity for him and us to have been crucified with Christ. Then after Pentecost, after he was filled and empowered with the Spirit, Peter must further learn the weakness of the old creation and to “know no man after the flesh.” (“*know we no man after the flesh:*”—2 Cor. 5:16 KJV) Peter, tho’ the chiefest of the twelve apostles and anointed with the Holy Spirit, must fully learn to “walk in the Spirit,” and thus “not fulfill the desires of the flesh,” (“*not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*”—Chap. 5:16 KJV) (not even the desires of his religious friends, the Jews). In this second failure of Peter, which was far worse in God’s sight than the former, we have a striking example of a child in grace endued with power from on high. If Christ had been formed in him (see chap. 4:19), he would not have lapsed back under law to please the Jews. You cannot get a full-grown man back under law. “As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God”—Rom. 8:14. Hence, in order to bring these Galatians into actual experience of full-grown sonship in Christ, Paul writes this epistle and yearns in prayer over them. To accomplish this, he must also offset the damaging effects of Peter’s foolish compromise with error, for the influence of his “dissembling” went to Galatia. Therefore, Paul relates his experience with Peter and why he reproved him. “He was to be blamed.”

Note here twelve points of blame, or censure against Peter for turning from grace to law—He “withdrew” from the Gentiles; he “separated himself;” he “feared” the law-keepers; others “dissembled with him;” another apostle, even “Barnabas was carried away with their dissimulation;” thus they “walked not uprightly;” thus, Peter “compelled the Gentiles to live as do the Jews;” he “built again that which he had destroyed;” he “made himself a transgressor ;” and thus he “made Christ the minister of sin.” What a blow to Calvary. What dishonor against Jesus Christ. What a reflection against Pentecost. Little do we grasp the wickedness of turning from grace to law-keeping again. Let me ask, When did Peter “fall from grace,” when he denied his Lord before His death, or when he practically denied the meritorious death of Christ after Pentecost? Find the answer in chapter 5:4.

The most startling, the most terrible result of Peter’s conduct in Antioch was, that it had the effect of making “Christ the minister of sin;” for the Apostle asks, “If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin?”—V. 17. Peter had before claimed that he was justified by faith in Christ alone. Now by his law-keeping he was virtually saying that he was not yet justified, but was still a sinner, tho’ he believes on Him. But if Peter must keep the law to become righteous, that was equivalent to saying that Christ ministered sin to him instead of righteousness; “for if righteousness is thru

2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

law, then Christ died in vain.”—V. 21. It is not then true that “thru the obedience (unto death) of One (Christ), many shall be counted righteous” (“*so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous,*” *KJV*) (Rom. 5:19); but they are still counted sinners, because if He does not, on account of His death constitute believers righteous, He must, by His very failure, make them transgressors. Oh, how dreadful! But thank God! it is emphatically true, that “a man is NOT justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ.” We thank God therefore, for

The Glorious Ground-Work.

“For I thru the law died to the law, that I might live unto God. I have been crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, yet not I; but Christ liveth in me.”

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us (for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree”)—Chaps. 2:19, 20 and 3:13.

Here is the foundation. May the dear Lord help the reader to see it. In the beginning, God said, “In the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (“*for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*” *KJV*)— Gen. 2:17. That was a warning. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die”—Ezek. 18:4. That was law. The wages of sin is death—*Rom. 6:23. That is law. And here the apostle declares that “I thru the law died to law.” (“*For I through the law am dead to the law,*”—V. 19 *KJV*) How did he do that? By making a consecration? Never; because he died to law before he was born. Well, that sounds like the Quaker who said that he was a Quaker before he was born. No, that is not Paul’s meaning. The former spoke in a riddle; but the Apostle spoke the truth. Jesus, the holy, harmless, perfect One, the Son of God came from heaven, took upon Himself human flesh and took the sinner’s place. He voluntarily assumed the headship of the old creation, and thus took upon Himself its sin and sickness and shame. Hence, “He was numbered with transgressors,” by divine justice, and as a transgressor died, not for Himself, but for those whose sins He assumed. “He tasted death for every man.” (“*he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*”—*Heb. 2:9 KJV*) He fulfilled that first stem edict,— “in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (“*for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*”—*Gen. 2:17 KJV*) But more than that. Christ not only died in our stead; but we died with Him. His death for us was our death in His. “Our old man was crucified with Him” (“*our old man is crucified with him*” *KJV*)—Rom. 6:6. The law which executed Him for us, executed us in His execution—“I thru law, died.” (“*For I through*

2:18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

2:19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

*Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

the law am dead to the law,”—V. 19 KJV) And of course, when a man is dead, he is dead to law. The law has no more jurisdiction over a dead man after he is buried. Hence, the believer in Christ is forever dead to law. He lives, as raised from the dead, unto God alone. “We are not under law, but under grace.” (“*ye are not under the law, but under grace.*”—Rom. 6:14 KJV) Here is a criminal. The law says that he must be hung; and so they hang him. Is he not dead to the law? Can the law touch him any more? Nay! Its claim is satisfied against the criminal. He is dead. But what put him to death? The law. That is Paul’s meaning in saying: “I thru the law died to law.” (“*For I through the law am dead to the law,*”—V. 19 KJV) The law of God has no more claim upon us who believe on Jesus. We are dead to it and all its claims, having died once for all in the death of Christ, our Substitute.

“I have been crucified with Christ,” (V. 20) tells the kind of death we died. It was a crucifixion, the most ignominious death that the worst criminal could die. The Apostle does not mean that he was crucified when he made a consecration, or laid all on the altar. You hunt in vain for such language in his writings. He was crucified over nineteen hundred years ago, at the same time when we were, viz; when Christ was crucified—even “crucified with Christ.” When saints truly see this basic truth, they no longer talk piously (?) about “a daily crucifixion” “a crucified life,” “a crucifying of self,” and kindred folly, all of which is equivalent to saying that Christ’s death for us was insufficient, that His redemptive work was unfinished. Oh, shame on such blasphemy against the cross of Christ. Observe the exact words. They are in the past perfect tense—“I have been crucified with Christ” R. V.—Rom. 6:6 corresponds precisely with this—“Our old man was crucified with Him.” (“*our old man is crucified with him*” KJV) The “I” of the former agrees with the “old man” of the latter. The “I” is the individual old creation; the “old man” is rather the first Adam, our former sinful head. Hence, Jesus, by assuming the place of the first Adam, and dying in his stead, put to death the head and body of the old creation in toto and each individual in particular. On this basic fact, we should, with the Apostle, shout triumphantly: “I have been crucified with Christ.”

Nor is that all, tho’ many stop here and see only their death with Christ, which call scarcely be more to them than a theory, or Bible doctrine. There is another shout coming—“Nevertheless I live.” There is the truth to be especially emphasized, for only as we actually count ourselves alive in Christ, can we effectually count the old “I” dead. This living “I” is the new “I,” a new creation. And lest anyone suppose that this is the “old man” improved, or even raised from the dead, Paul exclaims: “Yet no longer I; but Christ liveth in me.” (“*yet not I, but Christ liveth in*

2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

me:”—V. 20 KJV) He reckons the old creation absolutely dead, and reckons on a new, sinless life absolutely apart and distinct from the old, and having nothing in common with it. “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” KJV*)—2 Cor. 5:17. People fail continually, lapse into sin, are overcome by the flesh, because they fail to see this truth, or seeing it, are afraid to swing out into its vast domain. This is made still clearer and more emphatic by the rest of the verse—“And the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Even tho’ he is a new creature, he takes no credit for believing. His dependence is absolutely upon Him who loved him and died in his stead.

An Appeal to Personal Experience

Chapter 3:1-5

“O senseless, Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was evidently set forth among you, crucified?”

3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Every religion of self-effort is here termed “witchcraft.” Truly, self-righteous, or law-keeping, has a bewitching effect on people. Its face looks so holy, its voice sounds so sacred, its walk appears so upright that it appeals to the flesh. It sings with deep feeling. “Nearer My God to Thee.” “Let Me die.” “Oh, to be nothing, nothing, etc.” But God pronounces all that witchcraft. And why? Because it does not glorify Jesus to call Him a good man, a beautiful character, while denying His sacrificial death. He cannot save except by means of His death. Law-keeping, self-righteousness, self-perfection, all of these deny Calvary. That is why the Apostle’s first question indicates that his readers were acting as if Christ had not been “set forth among them as crucified,” (“*set forth, crucified among you*”—*V. 1 KJV*) Law-keepers today speak and write sharply against Christian Science (falsely so-called), not realizing that she is simply the youngest daughter of Legality. Christian Science is Christ without the Cross, even as Rome, his oldest daughter, is the Cross without the living Christ. The one is no more to God than the other.

“This only would I learn of you: received ye the Spirit by the works of law, or by the hearing of faith?”—*V. 2.*

3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The Holy Spirit put six probing questions to believers, which personal experience must answer plainly in favor of divine grace in every honest heart. The former question implies that the Galatians knew that they were not obeying the truth; for it embraces them that follow. If you note carefully the testimony of those under law, their final (unconscious perhaps) admission is that they were saved thru faith, if saved at all. And likewise, no matter how much fixing up, or fasting, or struggling, or waiting, seekers have indulged in, they always received the Spirit by simply believing the word of promise. And if they have made any progress in the Christian life, it has always been wholly as they walked in the Spirit. And miracles are wrought in the same manner. “Faith is the victory.” Being born of the Spirit, we have a new life, a spiritual life, from the beginning to the end, from earth to glory. Our growth and perfection do not come by fleshly effort, but by simple constant faith in Christ’s work for us once at Calvary and His continuous work in us now thru the Word and Spirit.

3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

3:4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain.

When we turn to God from idols and from the world, and accept

3:5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The Grace of God and His salvation and the Gift of the Spirit by faith, we suffer reproach and shame, and the loss of friends and perhaps of position and goods. Hence, the Apostle asks: “What is the use of suffering for believing on Jesus if ye must be made perfect by works of law?” He shows that that is logical folly. He also means to say that when we suffer for the truth, our suffering is not in vain. “If we suffer with Christ, we shall also be glorified together with Him.” (*“if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”—Rom. 8:17 KJV*)

The Covenant of Promise

Chapter 3:6-29

“Even as Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness” Let us consider closely Abraham’s faith—its basis progress and result. Turn to Josh. 24:2—“And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the Lord; Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah the father of Abraham and the father of Nachor; and they served other gods.” (*“And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.” KJV*)

3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Perhaps you never knew that Abraham’s ancestors were idolaters, and that Abraham himself was such when he heard the call of God. Ah! This is the man whom the Lord chose to be His friend. To this man, He made a sevenfold promise (*Gen. 12:1-3), the principle one of which is found in this third chapter of Galatians—“In thy Seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,” (*“and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”—Gen. 12:3 KJV*) Why do I call your attention to these facts? That you may see the sovereign grace of Jehovah in making a marvelous covenant with a man who was utterly unworthy, and that salvation and all the divine blessings are absolutely by faith in that sovereign promise, and wholly apart from any works whatever. In this chapter (V. 17), we learn that such a promise was made to Abraham 430 years before the Law was given thru Moses. Abraham believed God, was counted righteous before God, and was “called the friend of God” 430 years before the Law. That was Grace, sovereign divine Grace, independent of, and without any consultation with, or consent from Law.

There are seventeen “I”s of the Lord in Joshua 24—“I took your

*Genesis 12:1-3 “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

father Abraham;” “I sent Moses;” “I brought your fathers out of Egypt;” “I destroyed the Amorities,” etc. By this He sought to prove His sovereign unmerited favor to Israel, that they had not done one iota to merit His blessings. All were bestowed wholly by grace. We are overwhelmed with the marvels of God’s grace, and increasingly persuaded that it is impossible to emphasize it too much. Men are perpetually putting limitations upon the grace of God. Grace alone is the only limitation to grace.

Mark it well, that Abraham was not a good man when the Lord called him. He was an idolater. Today he would be called “a sinner of the Gentiles.” (*“sinners of the Gentiles,”—Chap. 2:15 KJV*) There was nothing in Abraham that demanded, or merited God’s call, no more than in any other man. His dire need necessitated God’s grace. Doubtless he felt his need and saw his opportunity, and when he heard the call of Jehovah, he simply believed Him. “And his faith was counted to him for righteousness. And the Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the heathen thru faith, preached before the Gospel unto Abraham, saying: In thee shall all nations be blest.” Perhaps you did not know before that the Scripture has eyes and foresight, and that the Scripture “preached.” That puts the Word of God on a par with Himself. To receive it is to receive Him. Abraham believed these amazing promises of divine favor; and his faith, not his works, not his quitting of meanness, not anything apart from simple faith in God’s Word, but his faith alone was accounted to him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God because of his faith in God. Reader, if you wish to be a friend of God, simply believe and receive His grace, even as the following verse indicates—“So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”

The Curse on Failure

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, Cursed is everyone that continueth not in ALL things which are written in the book of the law to do them”—Compare Deut. 27. This is the meaning: If you purpose to earn salvation by your works, you must earn it ALL by keeping ALL the law. If you are a law-keeper, you must keep the whole law, or you become a violater of all the law. Hear James, “Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, is guilty of all” (*“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” KJV*)—James 2:10. The strongest chain is broken if only one link is broken. If you mean to be a law-keeper, either to get saved, or to keep saved, or to perfect yourself, you must rigidly observe every “jot and tittle.” You must not gather sticks on the Sabbath; but eat your meals cold: you must keep back one tenth of your earnings,

3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

3:9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

3:12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

“for the tithe is the Lord’s;” (“*And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's.*”—Lev. 27:30 *KJV*) and GIVE to the Lord a tenth of the remaining nine tenths. You must cut your hair and beard a square fashion. If one of your family, or assembly should dabble in spiritism, you must put him to death. Read Leviticus. Do not presume to keep God’s holy, just, rigid law unless you keep it absolutely; otherwise you are under the curse. To do the best you can, is but to be under the curse; for the best that any man has done was to fail, because “neither our fathers, nor we were able to bear” a yoke of law, exclaims Peter—Acts 15:10.

And suppose you would observe the whole law perfectly; you would be nothing more than a servant, a law-keeper, not a son of God; you would still be a part of the old Adam, the old creation, of the earth earthy, without any new creation life, or heavenly life; no new birth. You could have no fellowship with the Father, the privilege of sons only; you could never receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit, the inheritance of sons only; you could never see inside of heaven, not even enter the kingdom of God on earth—“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (“*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” *KJV*) —John 3:5. Oh, that believers might see it. Legality is a cold, hard bar against Christian privileges and pleasures. “In thy presence” (not in any law-keeping), “is fulness of joy.” “If there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law”—V. 21. Then there would have been no need for the Last Adam and His cross. But there was need; and that need was great. Justice demanded a righteousness that man could never reach by works of law. Justice demanded death as the righteous penalty for a broken law. Justice is absolute in its demands. It knows, and hence shows no pity. Therefore, the remedy—

Divine Grace Displayed

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written: Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree.” Compare Deut. 21:23. The law declared that we must die, because we had sinned—“All have sinned; and the soul that sinneth it shall die.” But Christ took our place, assumed our guilt by voluntarily identifying Himself with the old creation, even taking the headship thereof. As substituted head of the ruined race, “numbered with the transgressors” and “counted a curse for us,” (“*counted a curse to him.*”—*Proverbs 27:14 KJV*) He died in our stead, died the kind of death that we deserved to die. He met the penalty due us, in our behalf. And we died with Him; that is, the curse that fell on Jesus on our account, fell on us in falling on Him. We died in His dying.

We paid our full penalty in His death. Justice is therefore satisfied, and the voice of justice, is hushed forever to them that believe the Gospel. “He that died (viz, Jesus and everyone who receives Him) has been justified from sin” (“*For he that is dead is freed from sin,*” *KJV*) (Rom. 6:7), by Christ’s death. Hence, the grave could not hold Him; but “He was raised for our justification” (“*Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification,*” *KJV*)—Rom. 4:25. Sin no longer rests on us who believe. The Greek is very strong here —“He was raised on account of, not simply in behalf of, our justification,” even as before “He was delivered on account of our offences.” (“*Who was delivered for our offences,*”—*Rom. 4:25 KJV*) Because Jesus took our place as a transgressor, He had to go to Calvary. He could not escape the cross. Likewise, because He paid our penalty and loosed us from our sins provisionally—“justified by His blood” (Rom. 5:9)—He had to be raised from the dead. Our justification demanded His resurrection. Oh, this is wonderful! What grace began, it must complete. I say then, that law is silenced forever to faith. “Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth”—Rom. 10:4. Hallelujah!

3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

“In order that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles.” What is that blessing? The very blessing that he received thru faith in God’s word of grace. He received “righteousness.” Divine righteousness was imputed to him the moment he believed what God said. Gentiles are from the same ungodly, idolatrous stock, have the same great need, and are accounted righteous when they believe on Jesus, as truly as was Abraham; hence, they are called “Abraham’s seed.” “Salvation is of the Lord,” and salvation is “by grace thru faith” (“*by grace are ye saved through faith*”—*Eph. 2:8 KJV*) for both Jews and Gentiles, is the teaching throughout the whole Bible.

One Greek word in *Romans 3:24 will bring blessing to your soul, if you will take it. It is ‘dorean,’ translated ‘freely.’ In John 15:25, the same word is rendered, ‘without a cause;’ Jesus says to His disciples, ‘They hated me without a cause.’ There was no cause in our Lord why men hated Him; the cause was in their own hearts—their sin. Just so, God justifies the sinner ‘dorean,’ without a cause in the sinner why he should be justified,—the cause being in God, in His love” —(N). That is grace.

We wonder that anyone can read these pages and sayings of Paul, and still insist on being saved in any measure by works, or on being made perfect by the flesh. Surely, such do not read attentively, or believingly. Surely, many do not want to know the truth of divine grace. And yet, here is more grace—

* Romans 3:24 “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:”

“That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith”—V. 14. By faith, the 120 tarried in Jerusalem and God fulfilled His promise, which Israel had received by faith (*Acts 2:1-4); and likewise, He poured Him out on the Gentiles who, by faith, listened to and received Peter’s word as the words of God—**Acts 10:41-46. The promise of the Spirit was received by faith; and now we receive the fact of the promise fulfilled and receive the Spirit Himself by faith. By faith in Jesus, the ungodly is freely justified from all his past sins. By faith in Jesus the believer is anointed with the Holy Spirit and power. By faith we are freighted with the presence of God. By faith in Jesus, we are healed in body. “The just shall live by faith.” Those who will be translated, will be translated by faith. All we ever are, or have is thru faith in God’s word of grace. We cannot take one acceptable step in salvation, or service, in growth, or progress, except thru faith. This is the faith chapter of this epistle. Faith occurs here 12 times.

3:15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet *if it be* confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

3:17 And this I say, *that* the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

3:18 For if the inheritance be of the law, *it is* no more of promise: but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise.

The Pre-eminent Covenant

“Brethren, I speak after the manner of men. Though it be but a man’s covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto”—V. 15. If I enter into a contract with another, that contract is binding. No man can add to it, nor take anything from it. And if in the eyes of law, legal documents are binding and unchangeable; how much more is God’s promise binding which was made to Abraham? Continuing the argument, Paul adds: “The law which was 430 years after, cannot disannual so as to make of none effect the promise, for if the inheritance be by law, it is no more by promise: but God did grant it to Abraham by promise.”

How very little these facts are considered. How wont the people are to put Moses before Abraham, though Abraham was “430 years” before Moses. The covenant of grace was before the covenant of law, 430 years. Grace was 430 years ahead of law. If works of law are essential to salvation, then Abraham and his offspring were only partially saved for

*Acts 2:1-4 “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

**Acts 10:41-46 “Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, *even* to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

430 years. Nay! Nay! Not so! God not only gave His promise to Abraham; but He confirmed it unto Christ. “Confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things (both His Word and oath), in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold on the hope set before us”—Heb. 6:17-18. This divinely-made, divinely-oath-confirmed covenant cannot be annulled by any after-coming law, even tho’ that law be God-given. Moses can never set Abraham aside, nor give him a second place. God gave him the priority; and Moses must do the same always. Grace can never be displaced, nor superseded by law. She was first on the scene, always demands the highest honor, and will always have the first place. Why did James say: “Moses hath in every city them that preach him?” (“*For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him,*” *KJV*)—Acts 15:21. Because the people misunderstood the meaning and purpose of law, and because they wish to merit something by self-effort, be it said to their shame. Therefore, let us consider the following pertinent question and answer.

Purpose of the Law

“Why then the law? It was added for the sake of transgression, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made—ordained thru angels in the hand of a mediator. Now, a mediator is not of one; but God is one”—V. 19.

3:19 Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

3:20 Now a mediator is not a *mediator* of one, but God is one.

3:21 *Is* the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

If the law was not intended to make us righteous, nor keep us right (see chap. 1:21. and 3:3), why then was it given? This is a very significant query. Thank God, the answer is full and clear. “It was added.” Mark that fact. Yes, it was added 430 years after the Grace-covenant was made to Abraham. Mark that fact too. Why was it added? To help his followers by purifying them? NO! “It was added for the sake of transgression.” (“*It was added because of transgressions*”—V. 19 *KJV*) The common version says, “Because of transgression;” not of course because the people had transgressed, for there could be no transgression till a law was given to be transgressed. “Sin is not imputed (put to the account) when there is no law”—Rom. 5:13. In the above answer, the word rendered “because” is “*hyarin*” in Greek, which means grace, favor, kindness. Therefore, this is exactly the meaning—The law was added “for the sake of transgression, in favor of, for the furtherance of transgression, in behalf of, for the very expansion of transgression,” that the need of grace might be fully seen.

Generally, people think that God gave man His Law as a guide to rectitude, to curb him and make him live right. It is supposed to have been given to stop transgression, to check sin, to correct the sinner and be

3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

to him a rule of action. But the above Scripture teaches just the contrary. In Rom. 5 and 7 we read that “the law came in that the offence might abound,” (*“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:”—Rom. 5:20 KJV*) not to curb it, but to make “sin appear sin, that sin might become excessively sinful by the commandment.” (*“But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.”—Rom. 7:13 KJV*) “The law was not given for a righteous man, but for the lawless;” (*“that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient,”—1 Tim. 1:9 KJV*) that is, for those who refuse the grace of God, to show up, bring out to the full, their incorrigible lawlessness that they might learn the need of grace. “By the law is the knowledge of sin;” but never deliverance, or justification from sin. The law made sin manifest, “for without the law sin was dead.”

School is Out

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith”—V. 24. God appointed this schoolmaster over His people that they might learn the need of grace. It does not “bring us unto” Christ. Note that the phrase, “to bring us,” is in italics; that means that it is not in the text. The word rendered schoolmaster means “attending, or training boys,” hence, an instructor. Such was the purpose of law. God wanted His people to learn by experience that by nature they were law-breakers and not law-keepers. Instead of the Schoolmaster’s corrections and curbing putting a stop to their offences, they only brought them out, “made the offense to abound,” exposed “the lawlessness” of the flesh—1 John 3:4. For fifteen hundred years, God’s child-trainer, the Law, was magnifying transgression, swelling it up, making it to abound, making a theater of it, putting it on exhibit, as the inevitable product of unregenerate man. Israel had the most propitious environment to live holy (if that were possible) by a code of rules, which were “holy, just and good.” The law was given, not in stern justice, but even “in the hands of a mediator,” Moses; yet it proved to be “a yoke...which neither our fathers, nor we were able to bear”—Acts 15:10. The Schoolmaster blushed that he could not make men walk uprightly; for he “was weak through the flesh”—Rom. 8:3. Man was found utterly helpless, hopeless, “every mouth stopped, all the world brought under the judgment of God.” (*“that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”—Rom. 3:19 KJV*) The Schoolmaster, tho’ “holy, just and good,” could justify none, but was compelled to announce that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”—Rom. 3:19-23.*)

Today justice exclaims of the worst criminal: “He must hang! hang! HANG!” Similarly, the last stern relentless utterance of God’s holy Law was: “He must crucify, crucify, CRUCIFY!” for the thrice-repeated venom of the Jews—“Crucify Him,” expressed the extreme deservings of their wicked hearts, which belched forth the seven-times heated lava of hatred against the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Son of God must suffer that very shameful death to satisfy the claims of justice and hush the voice of law forever. The Schoolmaster performed his work unto, or until Christ, and did it well. Why impose on him a task which God never called him to do, and which he cannot do?

A Mediator's Hand

The law was “ordained in a mediator’s hand.” (*“ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.”—V. 19 KJV*) The law is absolute in its demands, because it is “holy just and good,” and cannot endure sin. It would have cut down the transgressors with one ruthless stroke, if Moses had not mediated—*Ex. 32:10, 11, 32. Thus Grace intervened and made Law her servant until Christ came, even as Hagar was the hand-maid of Sarah. “Now a mediator is NOT of one; but God is one.” (*“Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.”—V. 20 KJV*) God is not divided. His law agrees with Himself. But a mediator supposes at least three parties. In order to spare the offender and still keep in harmony with the offended law, the gracious God must interpose a mediator. However, Moses yonder was only a typical mediator; “for there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man, anointed Jesus” (*“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,” KJV*)—1 Tim. 2:5, 6. Here are three parties as plainly stated as can be, in both these citations. First, “a mediator is not of one;” (*“is not a mediator of one,”—V. 20 KJV*) that is, a person can not mediate between himself and an offender. There must be a second person in full accord with him, yet distinct from him and acting in his behalf. He must also have something in common with the third party. Such indeed was Jesus. He maintained the justice of God, met its claims; but also showed pity and met the need of the third party, the sinner. “God (who is one) was in the Anointed One (one person in the other) reconciling the world unto Himself” (*“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,” KJV*)—2 Cor. 5:19. The transgressor became the reconciled one; God was the Reconciler; and the Son of God Jesus Anointed, was the Mediator, or agent of reconciliation. Are there not three persons? The teaching of

*Exodus 32:10, 11, 32 “Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. And Moses besought the Lord his God, and said, Lord, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?...Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.”

salvation, or perfection by law-keeping, destroys the mediatorship of Christ; for if life and growth come thru law, then His mediation is not needed, even as law-keeping annuls the Cross; for then His redemption is not needed. “If righteousness come by the law, then Christ died in vain.” (*“for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”—Chap. 2:21 KJV*) On the other hand, the so-called “one God” theory either destroys itself, or destroys the plan of redemption, because there can be no mediation without three parties; and there can be no redemption without the definite intervention of Jesus between God and men. Oh, the sublime grandeur of the Divine plan of redemption. Oh, the rich beauty and entrancing splendor of the three distinct personalities, Father, Son and Spirit, in the One Godhead—the Second subject unto the First; the First and Second operating thru the power and agency of the third; and meanwhile the fulness of the Three “dwelling in the Second bodily.” Why quibble about what we cannot understand? Why not accept plain statements and enjoy expressed facts, instead of drawing wild conclusions? I repeat it, if the “New Issue” is true (it is not a new issue; the Jews fought a plurality of persons in the Godhead John 5:18,19 and Matt. 12:24,28,32); then the mediatorship of Jesus is annulled and there is no redemption for us; but if He is our Mediator, then the “New Issue” doctrine falls to pieces, because it denies the tripersonality of the Godhead, thus rejecting the two distinct personalities of Reconciler and Mediator, or of Father and Son.

Our Freedom in Christ

“But the faith having come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster; for we are all the sons of God thru faith in Christ Jesus”—Vs. 25, 26. How glad the children are when school is over and they can go out free. The Schoolmaster has no more jurisdiction over them. They are free. They do as they please as far as the Schoolmaster is concerned. His tutorship over them has ceased forever. They are now subject only to the gracious liberty of their parents. Just so, we are free from the Law in Christ Jesus, having died to it and its claim in His substitutionary death. Hence, “Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone that believeth”—Rom. 10:4. But if the people, even saints, do not believe in the completeness and sufficiency of Christ’s redemption, but insist on earning salvation, or perfection by their works, there is no “end of the law;” they will still have a law to keep, and they will have to keep that law with absolute precision, which is utterly impossible—*Acts 15:10.

But oh, when we really see our liberty in Christ, how free we

*Acts 15:10 “Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?”

3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

feel. What a happy, easy, delightful life we enjoy. Yes, as far as the voice of the law is concerned, we do as we please. It has no more to say to us, nor about us. It served its term over us. We graduated under its tutorship at Calvary, the end of the old man. What a glorious “commencement” in our resurrection with Christ. Yes, now we do as our Father pleases, because we live by faith in the presence and power and victory of the Holy Spirit in us; “the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us who walk NOT AFTER THE FLESH, but after the Spirit” (“*That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*” *KJV*)—Rom. 8:4.

Note an important fact here. The parents of the children and the schoolmaster are never together. When the children are under the charge of the tutor, they are absent from the parents; and when they are under the care of the parents, they are absent from the tutor. They cannot be under the jurisdiction of both at the same time. Unmanageable confusion will reign. That is, we cannot be under the rule of Grace and Law at the same time. Indeed, in Christ, “ye are not under law, but under grace” (“*for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*” *KJV*)—Rom. 6:14. Law and grace are not to be found in the same house; “for after that faith is come, we are no longer under the schoolmaster.” (“*But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*”—*V. 25 KJV*) For this reason, law-keepers have no fellowship with grace-kept believers. The first are working, fretting, criticizing, anxious; the latter are resting, rejoicing, praying, believing. Sooner or later, one of these parties must pack trunk and travel.

School-life Verses Home-life

Notice also the contrast between school-life and the home-life. This is no small item. School begins promptly at a set hour, and every pupil must be on time. Absence, or tardiness is punished. There are certain rigid rules of order and discipline that everyone must observe—no loud talking, nor running around, nor leaving the room without permission. All must sit erect and either listen to the tutor, or give diligent heed to the study in hand. At recess, all march out in unison, keeping step and moving exactly at the command of the schoolmaster. That is law. Furthermore, their conduct and works are weighed by a rigid scale and credits, or discredits given accordingly. Everything is rigid, frigid, firm, precise, regular and legal. Every “jot and tittle” is required. Nothing escapes the searching notice of the schoolmaster. Severe penalties are attached to disobedience to any of the rules of school. Most certainly it is so; for that is law. Oh, friend, do you not see it? What an unfeeling, critical, cynical, frigid, unsatisfactory, selfish life, self-righteousness imposes. Oh, how

glad I am that the Pacific Ocean of God's love revealed at Calvary lies between me and such a life. Hallelujah!

On the other hand, how different from school-life is the home-life. The children are each a part of the family. There is no set hour for retiring, nor arising. There is no exact minute for dinner, no certain length of time, nor certain quantity to eat. The children go out and in, walking or running, at their pleasure. They read, or shout, or sing at will. They are children. They are at home. They are free. Their rule of action is in themselves individually. Wise parents seek prudently to direct the pent-up impulses of the children for their own happiness and usefulness. They do not attempt to bring them under a rigid regime. That is not a typical home where Daisy hears, "Daisy don't," so constantly that she comes to think that "Daisy don't" is her name. That savors of law. Children in a rightly-regulated home are under the law of love—the perfect law of family liberty—*James 1:25.

Such is the radical contrast between the legal-life and the grace-life. Law makes stern, rigid demands, disobedience to which entails severe penalties, that cannot be evaded. Grace does not confront us with certain rigid frigid, precise commands, the meanwhile standing over us with a four-foot hickory. Grace occupies us with boundless blessings and beauty, promising plenty for our poverty, food for our hunger, raiment for our nakedness and shelter from cold and heat. The law sternly roars, "Keep, Obey," Grace lovingly exclaims, "Receive, believe, enjoy, KEPT." The law declared, "Dying thou shalt die;" but grace shouts, "Blessing, I will bless thee, and thou shalt be a blessing." (*"I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:"—Gen. 12:2 KJV*) Is not this the parent heart? What deed is too great for a father to do for his son? How unceasingly he seeks to make him happy and prosperous. What immense amounts of money parents spend for their children if they have it. How highly and completely they seek to educate them. Why? They are showing their children parental favor. How can anyone have a lesser view of our heavenly Father? How slow saints are to learn this great lesson concerning His grace toward His children. The whole Bible is "the Word of His Grace"—Acts 20:32. Even the law was only given to serve the children of Grace, and not to be served by her children. "The sabbath was made for man," (on which to rest and worship God), "and not man for the sabbath," to serve the day as a slave. Hallelujah!

A holy, happy, hilarious impulse of liberty instinctively possesses us when we are born of the Spirit. At once we feel like sons, for

*James 1:25 "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

sons we are. With limitless freedom, we would praise God aloud, and boldly “declare what great things the Lord hath done for us.” Law never enters our thought. But our old self-life, now posing to be religious, or some impractical legalist springs a pious (?) caution—“Don’t go too far now. Be careful, lest you fall. Now you must watch your thoughts and steps.” Immediately a legal fear quells that joyous child-like, buoyant freedom. The newborn babe gets occupied with his walk and living, and loses sight of his Savior. Oh, the devilish cruelty of judaism, or self-righteousness. Just as wise would be a strong man who would stand before a babe one hour old and command it to watch its walk—“Be careful, you might roll out of the crib; you may die.” Such fall out of mother's arms; you might is the cruel wisdom and blind logic of law-keeping for “babes in Christ.”

Reader, let me ask you: “Who was there to guide Abraham all the sixty-two years of his faith-life?” There was no law, for that came nearly half a millennium later. I will tell you—God Himself who pledged His constant presence. What word had he? The word of promise plainly spoken. Who have we to guide us today? “The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of the truth, who has come to abide forever, and guide us into all the truth and show us things to come.” He dwells in our bodies His temples—*1 Cor. 6:10. What word have we? The same word spoken to Abraham, written down together with all the revealed will of God—“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (our family love-rules), that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good work.” (*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”—2 Tim. 3:17 KJV*) As was written of Jacob, so of everyone who simply trusts God—“So the Lord alone did lead him, and no strange god with him” (*“So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.” KJV*)—Deut. 32:12.

Peter’s Two Failures

Grace, divine grace, absolute grace; that is, undeserved salvation absolutely for nothing, is man’s hope. That was proven and made possible by Jesus’ death in man’s stead on the cross. Wonderful! helpless, hopeless, despairing sinners welcome this sweet message of grace.

With all due regard for his office in God’s program and for his effectual ministry, we must call attention to Peter’s two blunders; for the

*1 Corinthians 6:10 “Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

Spirit recorded them for our instruction.

People, even believers, throw up their hands in shrieking horror at Peter's denial of Jesus. They say that he backslid, or fell from grace. No, he did not do either. They exclaim, "How terrible that was! What a shame, what a reproach it brought on the cause!" Has anyone yet pointed out the reproach, or the shame? Not one. What makes people ashamed of Peter's conduct that day is the fact that he only acted out what is in the old creation, and breaks out in some manner in everybody. Why did they not excommunicate him from the apostleship and put him on six months probation, or suspicion? Peter was in God's care. He could have prevented that outbreak, tho' Peter could not. But He sought to prove to Peter, and to us, that tho' he was "Petros," a stone, yet he could not keep himself; but was dependent absolutely upon Christ, "the Petra," the Rock. By insisting on washing his feet a few hours before, Jesus had sought to teach Peter his helplessness; but now He had to let him fail that he might learn his helplessness by shameful defeat. As long as we are self-sufficient we will not take Christ. Hence, Peter did not backslide. He was simply overcome by "the sin in the flesh," which he had not counted powerless by counting himself helpless, or dead. He did not fall from grace; but he fell from his own high pinnacle of self-sufficiency, exactly to where grace could help him. Ami Grace did help him—"The Lord turned and looked upon Peter...and Peter went out and wept bitterly"—Luke 22:61, 62. "If we sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous One." (*"And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"*—1 John 2:1 KJV) The God of grace expects nothing better from the self-life; neither does He blame the new life for the failure—"It is no more I that do it; but sin that dwelleth in me, that is in my flesh" (*"it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me."* KJV)—Rom. 7:18,20. Then when we cease trying to be firm and faithful of ourselves, but take Christ to be firm and faithful in us, we no longer fail Him.

In Gal. 2:11-14, we saw the time when Peter did "fall from grace," when with his eyes open to the truth, having a knowledge of his own weakness by personal experience, he catered to the Jews and by his actions said that he was not saved except he would keep the Law. Thus he walked not uprightly; he made himself a transgressor; he thus made Christ the minister of sin. See chapter 2:11-17. The Christ who had saved him and called him into service and filled him with the Spirit, was "become of no effect unto him; he was fallen from grace" (*"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace,"* KJV)—Chap. 5:4. Now here is an astonishing fact. This was a far greater sin than denying the Lord; yet we never hear of people being horrified by it. This latter was denying the power of Christ's death. It was

saying that Christ Himself must keep the law, and thus be saved. The logic of Peter's conduct in Antioch would demoralize the universe. It was a charge against God's justification of all those who believe His grace. Yet outwardly, Peter was that day the holiest man in the city, because he refused to eat with the Gentiles; but in God's view, he was a transgressor, "fallen from grace."

Peter denied his Lord because he was overcome by sin in the flesh, whose weakness he had not learned; but here he deliberately denied the cross, repudiating God's grace, putting himself beyond the reach of grace, under law. This also was due to sin in the flesh, the sin of compromise and dissembling, to which he knowingly yielded, because the Christ-life in him was yet of child size, and he had not really taken Christ to live in him, as his all-sufficient life. Well for Peter that God did not treat him according to his actions in the flesh, but according to his unchangeable standing in Christ. Well for all saved people who are still under law, that our Father sees them in Christ, tho' He can do nothing for them, cannot show His matchless grace, because they insist in doing for themselves. They will be saved as by fire; but their works will be burned, if they do not learn, like Peter, that they are fearfully mistaken.

O Friend, remember that the law condemns, works wrath, is the minister of death, was not given for a righteous man; but it was added to show up sin. The law cannot justify, nor purify, nor make fruitful; it cannot give life, nor sustain, nor feed life already given. It has absolutely nothing to do with life. The law ended its own mission and silenced its own voice in slaying the Son of God as our Substitute over 1900 years ago. O Friend, Grace alone can save. Grace alone can keep. Grace stands with infinite arms and cries, "Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich"—2 Cor. 8:9.

"For ye are all the sons of God thru faith in Christ Jesus" (*"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."* KJV)—V. 26. This is an unanswerable reason for our freedom born law. Who has any jurisdiction over a son but his father? What schoolmaster, or law dare raise its voice against him? NOT ONE! Likewise, no one has any jurisdiction over a saint except our heavenly Father. Therefore, we need to be very sure of being led by the Lord before we put our hands on another saint. Even the voice of law, tho' it was God's voice against the transgressor, dare not speak; because it "was made, or enacted," not for the righteous; it was "added;" it "came in" subsequently to the grace covenant; and hence, its voice was forever hushed in the death of Christ. We are free in Christ as Christ, our Elder Brother Himself. Note the next verse. "For as many of you as into Christ were baptized, Christ ye did put on." And who

3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

is Christ? Whose son is He? Ah! He is the doubly-worthy victorious Son of God. He grappled with the law, which exclaimed, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die,”

And death by dying slew; Brought up a vast creation, new,
Which law can never more pursue. By faith we put on this free, victorious Christ when we are saved. In Him, “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male and female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” All caste is broken; all nationality is put away; we are a heavenly race—“Our citizenship is in heaven” (*“For our citizenship is in heaven,” KJV*)—Philip. 3:20. See the folly of organization, and of trying to make harmony and unity by human devices. Rather let us declare what God says—“YE ARE ALL ONE in Christ Jesus.” Hallelujah! And this is GRACE. And oh, the restful place in experience that faith in these facts brings to the one who actually and practically believes them.

“And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.” Finally, lest we do not yet quite understand our place by God’s grace, the Holy Spirit once more takes us back to the starting point, where God made an oath-bound covenant, absolutely of grace, with Abraham. In that covenant, He declared, “In thy seed” shall the nations be blessed. Verse 16 shows that the promised Seed is one—“He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ.” How wonderful! These two verses together announce the “oneness of Christ.” Compare *1 Cor. 1:13 and **12:12. Our Father leaves no stone unturned that might have hiding under it a sneaking principle of lawkeeping. Every vestige is exposed.

3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

3:29 And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

*1 Corinthians 1:13 “Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?”

**1 Corinthians 12:12 “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: also *is* Christ.

The Exalted Relationship

Chapter Four

4:1 Now I say, *That* the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

4:2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

4:3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

“Now, I say, that as long as the heir is an infant, he differeth nothing from a bondman, though being Lord of all; but is under guardians and stewards until the time before appointed of the father”—Chapter 4:1.

Here the apostle is employing natural and family relationships to illustrate spiritual relationships. How wise is our God. How simple He has put the truth for us. Your child in fact is heir of all that you possess, tho’ in actual experience he possesses nothing: instead he must be nursed, taught and governed, tho’ by right he is governor of all. Hence, applying this principle, the Apostle continues:

“So also we, when we were infants, were in bondage under the elements of the world; but when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, become of a woman, become under law, that He might redeem those who were under law, that we might receive the sonship.” Who were under law? The children of Israel, of course: not the Gentiles; for the law was never given to them. If any Gentiles are under law today, it is because they have voluntarily put themselves under it, a proof that the natural man, the old man, wants to earn the favor of God by doing right, by observing some rules of rectitude, as he supposes. The covenant of Grace was given to Israel thru Abraham. They should have believed God and received that grace-covenant with delight, and been satisfied therewith. Because they did not believe, but wanted to merit His grace—*Ex. 19:8, therefore, the Lord gave them a fiery law. “It was added for the sake of (to show up) transgressions” (“*It was added because of transgressions,*” *KJV*) (chap. 3:19). “The law entered that the offence might abound”—Rom. 5:20. Therefore, Paul says elsewhere, “Knowing this, that the law was not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, etc,” (“*Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient,*”—*1 Tim. 1:9 KJV*) among the ancient Israel of God, and not for Gentiles at any time.

God’s purpose was to beget sons. Christ came to “bring many sons unto glory”—Heb. 2. But He must first redeem those under law from its slavery. To do this, Christ was born of a woman—“God manifest in the flesh.” (“*God was manifest in the flesh,*”—*1 Tim. 3:16 KJV*) “He became under law;” that is, He took the place where the people were by their ignorant choice, that He might bring them where Grace designed they should be. Christ voluntarily surrendered Himself to the law in order to

*Exodus 19:8 “And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord.”

release its captives forever. Did He succeed? Yes, verily; He prevailed gloriously. He “redeemed them;” now “we”—Jews and Gentiles of this age—can receive our sonship. Thank God! “They” had to be freed from law before “we” could be freed from sin.

The Spirit of Sonship

“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba Father”—V. 6. This is a most glorious truth. Its fulness is not generally understood. Most people suppose that salvation only puts us back to the first Adam before his fall, that is, that we are saved from sin and restored to innocence; thus the result of sin is simply counteracted, and nothing more. That falls far short of the truth. That would be an eternal blight on the wisdom and power of God. Nay! verily. We were only creatures in the first Adam; but we are sons in the Last Adam, Christ. We were sinless in the first Adam; but we are “holy in Christ” (“*sanctified in Christ Jesus*”, *KJV*)—1 Cor. 1:2. We were “of the earth earthy” in the first, but we are “heavenly” in Christ. We were “natural” in the first; but we are “spiritual” in the Last. We were “servants” in the first; but we are “lords of all” in the Last. We are not only as the first Adam without sin; but we are “partakers of Christ, partakers of the divine nature,” (“*ye might be partakers of the divine nature,*”—2 Peter 1:4 *KJV*) repulsers of sin.

4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

“The Spirit of His Son.” What spirit is that? It is exceedingly important to know. Ignorance at this point is a dangerous inlet for much error today. Is that spirit the Holy Spirit, called “the Comforter, or Spirit of truth,” whom Jesus promised to send?—*John 14:16, 17. No indeed. Bear in mind that Christ is both human and divine. He has His own Spirit as a distinct personality—a divine human Spirit, for He was “God manifest in the flesh.” (“*God was manifest in the flesh,*”—1 Tim. 3:16 *KJV*) Did He not possess His own distinct Spirit when He stood upon the bank of Jordan and received the Holy Spirit coming upon Him in a bodily shape as a dove?—**Luke 3:22. John 15:26 is significant here—“When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father; He shall testify of me.” Here are mentioned three personalities, as plainly and distinctly as can be. The Comforter “proceeds from” the Father, not from the Son; but He is sent by the Son. And now while the Son is seated with sent by the Son. And now sent by the Son. And now while the Son is seated with the Father

*John 14:16, 17 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

**Luke 3:22 “And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”

sent by the Son. And now while the Son is seated with the Father on His throne in heaven (*Rev. 3:21) the Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus. The Spirit of Christ and the Holy Spirit, or Comforter, are clearly distinguished in Rom. 8:9-16—“Ye have received the Spirit of sonship (or “the Spirit of God’s Son”), whereby we cry Abba, Father.” (*“ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” KJV*) Then the following verse states, that “the Spirit Himself (that is, the Holy Spirit, or Comforter) beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.” (*“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:” KJV*) In verse 9, we read of “the Spirit of God” in distinction from “the Spirit of Christ,” which latter is called “Christ” in verse 10. “If Christ (the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of sonship) be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit (our own spirit, the spirit of Christ in us) is life because of righteousness.” In God’s facts, we are sons, being begotten of His Spirit who witnesses with us that we are children. Then when we learn to be led by the Spirit, we are sons in actual experience—**Rom. 8:14. The Spirit of Christ was guarded and guided by the Holy Spirit. In the power of the latter, not in the power of His own Spirit, Jesus Christ taught and wrought miracles. Likewise, believers walk and work and war in the power of the Holy Spirit, if their Christian life is scriptural and normal. Otherwise, they would move as men, even in the flesh.

“Abba, the Father.” What is the meaning of this phrase? Keep in mind the pre-eminent teaching of the chapter, viz; that believers are sons of God rather than servants. It is not an accident that these same words occur in Mark 14:36. In the garden, Jesus prayed thus: “Abba, the Father, all things are possible unto thee: take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.” Mark records the biography of Jesus as the Servant of God and as the sin-offering, being made sin for all men, Jews and Gentiles. “Ab” is the Hebrew word for father; for example, “Abram.” means high father, “Abraham,” means father of a multitude. “Pater,” is the Greek word for father. Evidently “abba,” is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew. Hence, when Jesus addressed His Father in Gethsemane, He emphasized His Sonship, tho’ He was in the place of a servant; and being the sin-offering, He addressed His Father prophetically as the Father of all that should believe on Him, whether Jews or Gentiles. Now, when we believe on Jesus Christ, we obtain the same spirit of free sonship, and likewise acknowledge God to be our Father, or the Father. We do not “receive a spirit of bondage again unto fear” (*“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear,”*

*Revelation 3:21 “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

**Romans 8:14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

KJV) (Rom. 8:15); “thou art no more a servant, but a son”—V. 7. The new born Hebrew, realizing by the Holy Spirit his relation to God and his liberty in Christ, exclaims; “Abba;” the Greek exclaims; “Pater;” and the Englishman exclaims, “Father.” When saints invariably address our God as God, or the Lord, and seldom, or never as Father, it is evident that they have never received the real spirit of sonship, or having received it, they lost it thru legality, or they are ignorant of their real relationship. Therefore, note the climacteric conclusion.

4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

“Wherefore thou art no longer a bondman, but a son; and if a son, also an heir of God thru Christ”—V. 7, Servants cannot know their masters as sons know their fathers. Servants cannot have the fellowship of sons. Jesus said to the twelve, “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth”—John 15:15. Only sons can know a father’s movements, Servants receive only a reward for their labor, Sons inherit their father’s possessions. Servants only serve. Sons are “lords of all,” having others to serve them. Most Christians vainly suppose that they must serve God in order to keep saved, tho’ they were saved by grate at first. They imagine that God is a hard Master and demands nothing but work, work, WORK. They do not look upon God as their Father, who desires their fellowship and companionship, who longs to keep and guide and instruct them and reveal to them all His blessed will. Hence, their lives are labored, sad and discontented. And like Martha, they complain when, with Mary, others sit down at the feet of our Elder Brother and learn of Him. They never find out the freedom and wealth and enjoyment of sons in this life, nor the eternal fellowship and heirship of sons with the Father in the coming glory. Dear Reader, will you not look into this subject for your own profit and for God’s high honor?

Idolatry, Legality, Slavery

4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

“Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.” Bondage to law is compared to the slavery of idol-worship. If I trust to my own efforts, I make a god of myself. If I attempt to crucify and perfect myself, I am guilty of idolatry, because in that measure God is set aside. The pharisee said, “God, I thank thee (he did not address Him as Father), that I am not as other men are; I fast twice in the week; I give tithes of all that I possess.” He was his own god. The pronoun “I” occurs five times in his prayer. He adored himself. The publican, needy and helpless, exclaimed, “God, be merciful unto me the sinner.” (“*God be merciful to me a sinner.*”—*Luke 18:13 KJV*) Many of God’s children are guilty of this shameful crime—this pharisaical, idolatrous self-effort, trying to keep and perfect themselves by observing the law, trying to please their heavenly Father by leaving home and

surroundings to the school-master, which was dismissed from duty by the cross of Christ. Hence, the following plaintive query of the Holy Spirit, the Teacher.

4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

4:10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

“But now after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire anew to be in bondage?”—V. 9. In the margin these elements are called, “Rudiments,” and in *Col. 2:17 they are termed, “Shadows,” and there we learn that the shadows were displaced by the Substance, which is Christ Himself. The rudiments, or shadows were nailed to the cross. “Ye died with Christ from the rudiments of the world. Why as tho’ living in the world are ye subject to ordinances?” (*“ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,”—Col. 2:20 KJV*) Why return to shadows when the Substance is here? Why be again in bondage to “observing days months and seasons and years?” (V. 10)—here called weak and beggarly elements, or rudiments, or shadows. Why be enslaved by weak rudiments while the mighty fulness and completeness and liberty of sons are here? Reader, are you in any measure subject to these things, or to “eating and drinking,” or shadows of good things which have come in Christ?—**Col. 2:16. Therefore, the Apostle adds in Col. 3, “Seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God; set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” (*“seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”—Col. 3:1 KJV*) That is, set your mind on the substantial things in Christ, not on the shadows. Live as a new creation, as alive from the dead, as born from above, as seated in the heavenlies with Christ, as drawing your strength from on high, and not “as living on earth,” measuring your piety by dieting yourself and by keeping the sabbath day holy, etc. Avoid “a show of wisdom in will worship and humility” (*“a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility,” KJV*) (Col. 2:23); but take Christ for your wisdom and humility. Count yourself “complete in Him”—Col. 2:10.

4:11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

“I am alarmed about you, lest I have labored in vain in your behalf.” (V. 11) Was Paul fearful lest those Galatians might yet be lost, notwithstanding all his teaching and toil? Nothing of the kind. But he knew if they did not go on in grace, they could not grow out of babyhood into fully developed saints. No one can grow by self-effort and law-keeping, which they were vainly attempting to do. The notion that the Christian life means simply to get saved from sin and go to heaven when you die, is the

*Colossians 2:17 “Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.”

**Colossians 2:16 “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*.”

smallest part of salvation. God never intended for us to remain babies, and then go to heaven as babies. Babies are to grow into youth, and youth into manhood in Christ. Read in the first epistle of John, of “children,” “young men” and “fathers.” Paul feared that his Galatian children would fail to grow into manhood. Therefore, he declares that he is in “travail in birth again until Christ be formed in them” (*“travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,” KJV*)—V. 19. As yet, Christ in them was only infantile. See verses 1, 3. To the extent that they remained infants in Christ, his labor would have been in vain. They would not be to him “a joy” (because they were saved from sin), “and a crown” (because they grew to perfection), (*“my joy and crown” KJV*) as the Philippians—4:1.

4:12 Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am; for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.

“Brethren, I beseech you, be as I am, for I was as ye are; ye have not injured me at all.” (Chap. 4:12) How were the Galatians when Paul wrote? They were under law. How had he been before? Under law—Chap. 1:14 and *Phil. 3:5, 6. But having learned that he was “made dead to the law by the body of Christ,” (*“ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ;”—Rom. 7:4 KJV*) he announces his freedom and refuses to be under law any more. Hence, he says to those under bondage, “Be as I am; be free. Be no longer slaves to legality, or to ordinances. Ye are sons; enjoy the liberty of sons.” Then he assures them that they have not hurt him personally by yielding to legality; but they have injured themselves. He who attempts to save himself, or perfect himself by works of law, only destroys himself, because thus he falls from grace (chap. 5:4) and departs from divine help.

4:13 Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.

In verses 13 to 18, the Apostle appeals to their waning devotion to him, for at first they did not despise his infirmity—his weak eyes, but received him as God’s messenger, even as Christ Jesus. What a great grief it is to have saints laud one to the skies and speak in most flattering terms of the Word taught, and write letters of the highest commendation, and then suddenly turn away from the real saving and edifying truth, or spend their means in scattering doctrines directly contrary to what they claimed was scriptural, wonderful and indispensable. Why do they do so? They are yet babes. They are not built up in the truth. Christ is not yet formed in them. They have not yet grown to be “trees of righteousness.” Saplings bend and break; but trees stand and withstand. Children are more likely to yield to pious performers (?) who “zealously affect them,” because carnal zeal is more manifest and brazen-faced than spiritual zeal. The devil resists the latter, but helps on the former, which is untiring in its efforts. What is the purpose of these zealots? Answer, “They would exclude you,” that is,

4:14 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

4:15 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

*Philippians 3:5, 6 “Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”

4:17 They zealously affect you, *but* not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.

4:18 But *it is* good to be zealously affected always in a good *thing*, and not only when I am present with you.

4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

4:20 I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

from the fellowship of the real truth and grace of God. The revised version exclaims, “Nay, they desire to shut you out that ye may seek them.” (V. 17) O the deep-seated selfishness of law-keeping and self-perfection.

The Remedy for Babes

“My little children, of whom again I travail until Christ shall have been formed in you, I was wishing indeed to be present with you now, and to change my voice, for I am perplexed about you.”—Vs. 19-20

Behold the tender loving address of an unselfish father—“My little children.” Paul had begotten them in Christ by preaching the Gospel of grace. He had before travailed in soul for their salvation. Immediately after they were born of the Spirit, he began to travail again, not that they might never be lost but that the Christ-life in them might take shape and grow up in them. We are all sons in fact by birth, tho’ only children in experience; but the Holy Spirit seeks to nurture that new, heavenly life that we may become sons indeed in experience. And as we were saved by grace, so only can we be enabled to “grow in grace, by the word of grace.” Babes in Christ need the “pure milk of the Word.” (“*the sincere milk of the word*”—*1 Peter 2:2 KJV*) But his travail had not yet proved effectual with them. Christ was not formed in them, else they could not have been moved away from the truth. Therefore, the Apostle was at a loss to know what to do for them. If he were present with them, he would change his tender, wooing voice to a sound of alarm, even as he breaks forth in the next verse—“TELL ME!”

O My Friend, this is no small matter. The painful need of the children of God generally is that they see this truth, and truly have Christ formed in them. Is it of small concern to us that here only (and verse 27), the word “travail” is used in Paul’s writings? His travail for their salvation is only implied by the word “again.” Even in his seven other great petitions to God, which saints fail to see because they do not come by this growth-route, the word travail is not used. This is the vital thing, But who is in soul-travail that Christ be formed in believers? Who sees the need of it? We seldom hear, or read of such a doctrine. Frequently it has been said: “We are only a lot of children yet;” but then these very parties go right on neglecting the only one means of growth out of childhood. All earnest Christians seem to be concerned for the conversion of sinners, the healing of the sick and the anointing of believers with the Spirit; but how very few are concerned about the real scriptural growth of the children. This neglect is criminal.

What would we think of a woman who went on begetting children with no concern for their nourishment and development and

education? But is that not what most of us are doing? Pray tell how shall any of us become adults in Christ? surely not by begetting more children and casting them out on the commons. Nor will human circumscriptions supply this need. If Christ is not formed in them by feeding on the word of divine grace, they will only be children still, tho' in a religious correll. Beloved, is Christ forming in you? Are you truly feeding on Him thru His Word and growing up into Him in all things? And have you a deep cry that He be formed in others? Are you joining Paul in his "travail again?" Or are you content to be one of the innumerable company who always close their letters by saying, "Yours in His service, or Yours for lost souls?" The Lord Jesus has a choice ministry for you—even nursing and training children in grace—if you will apply at His "employment bureau," The government found plenty of nurses for service in the late war (1914-18), even from believers; but how very few care to toil to build up the holy ones. Let us give ourselves to prayer for a revival of Pauline "growth in grace." ("*grow in grace,*" *KJV*) Let us start a crusade of hearty "partakers of Christ." Let us vie with one another in feeding on Christ, and then in feeding others on the "pure milk of the Word." ("*the sincere milk of the word*"—*1 Peter 2:2 KJV*) Young motherhood in the natural is unfortunate. Why is this not true in the spiritual? A healthy, hearty, robust mother gives birth to robust children. Hannah was barren and cried and waited long for a son; but when Samuel was born, he proved to be a choice child. Hannah was abundantly repaid for her many days of waiting and vexed patience and hot scalding tears. Oh, how she held him before the Lord in constant prayer for his growth into manhood for God's glory, for "she had lent him to the Lord." ("*I have lent him to the Lord;*"—*1 Sam. 1:28 KJV*) And what was the sequel? "He grew before the Lord. Samuel grew on and was in favor both with the Lord and also with men. Samuel grew and the Lord was with him. The Lord revealed Himself to Samuel." Oh, Hallelujah! It is always so—development results from proper teaching; favor follows growth; and revelation comes to those who accept divine favor.

A Marvelous Allegory

"Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law; do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons—one from the bondmaid and one from the free-woman"—Chap 4:21, 22.

4:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?

If anyone doubts the shadowy and typical purpose of the law and the prophets, or the Old Testament, and their great value in these particulars, this allegory should disabuse his mind. Do you not hear by the voice of the law, by its own teaching, that it cannot save, but that salvation is by grace alone? That is the meaning of the above words.

4:22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.

First, notice that in this narrative, two women of different

4:23 But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.

4:24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

4:25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

nationalities are named as types of opposite truths. The one was an Egyptian, a maid, a bondmaid; the other was a Hebrew, a woman, a free-woman, a mistress, a princess. The word “bondmaid,” should be so rendered every time in this narrative, not “bond-woman,” as in verse 30. Hagar was the one who “hath an husband” (V. 27), for Abraham took her; Sarah was the one truly married to Abraham. Hagar means “stranger, one that fears;” Sarah means “princess.” “But he from the bondmaid according to flesh has been born; but he from the free-woman thru promise.” (V. 23) God had promised a son to Abraham, thru whom “all nations shall be blessed.” (“*all the nations of the earth be blessed;*”—*Gen. 22:18 KJV*) The fulfillment of this promise was delayed many years, until Abraham and Sarah learned to depend absolutely upon God. Having grown tired of waiting God’s time and method, at Sarah’s suggestion Abraham took Hagar, his wife’s handmaid, and to them Ishmael was born (Gen. 16). Hence, he is here said to be “born after the flesh.” Thirteen years later, when Abraham, by his own experience had learned his weakness, God renewed the promise of a son; and when both Abraham and his wife were past age, Isaac was born to them (Gen. 17). This birth was “by promise;” that is, his strength to beget and hers to conceive were both supernatural. Therefore, Sarah “laughed;” and she called her babe “Isaac,” which means “laughter;” Behold the vast difference between the offspring of the flesh and that by divine promise.

“Which things are an allegory; for there are the two covenants,” viz; the covenant of law, given on mount Sinai, and the covenant of grace, announced to Abraham 430 years before the law-covenant, “which is Hagar, for this Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to the Jerusalem which now is and is in bondage with her children,” (V. 25) being then subject to the Roman government. “But Jerusalem which is above,” of which Sarah is a type, “is free, which is the mother of us all;” that is, saints are born from above, born of the Spirit. The heavenly Jerusalem, the city of Grace, from which the promise came, is indeed the mother of all who believe on Jesus Christ, And since she “is free,” all her children are free also, “free born,” born independently of any law.

Four hundred and thirty years after the Lord gave a promise, or covenant of grace to Abraham, He gave a covenant of law (mingled with, or moderated by grace) to Israel, Abraham’s descendants, in order that they might learn their inability to do right of themselves and thus learn the absolute need of divine grace. Hagar was not Abraham’s wife; likewise, faith and law are an illicit union. Their progeny is termed “flesh.” Hager could not bring forth “Isaac, or laughter;” neither can law. Hagar was not mistress; but she was the slave of Sarah the true mistress. Grace is mistress; and law could only be tolerated as her bond-slave. As Hagar was

commanded to return and be subject to Sarah (Gen. 16:9), so the law was with Israel in the hand of a mediator (that is, it was subject to grace) until Jesus met its claims at Calvary. Now the word comes forth to “cast out the bond-maid and her son.” (“*Cast out the bondwoman and her son:*” *KJV*) (V. 30) For Ishmael shall not share in Isaac’s inheritance. Law shall not even be tolerated any longer as a servant of Grace.

Barren, Yet Fruitful.

“For it is written, Rejoice thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not; for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath the husband.” This is quoted from Isa. 54:1. Who was barren? Sarah of course; for Hagar became mother 14 years before she did. Sarah was the desolate one. Hagar had the husband. Through Ishmael, Hagar’s son, was blessed with “twelve princes, and becomes a great nation” (“*twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.*” *KJV*) (Gen. 17:20), yet Sarah’s progeny numbers vastly more. God had before said to Abraham that his descendants should be as “the stars of heaven and as the sands of the sea for multitude.” (“*the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.*”—*Heb. 11:12 KJV*) Ishmael’s seed was wholly natural, or fleshly; Isaac’s seed is both earthly and heavenly. Some spiritual Ishmaelites, that is, people who are under law, are really children of Isaac, because they were born of the Spirit, or saved by grace. Sarah, the Jerusalem above, is their mother. Tho’ legality boasts of its numbers, even as Peninnah did against Hannah (*1 Sam. 1:2), yet grace will have the far greater number, because if men are saved at all they are saved by grace, tho’ legal methods be mixed with the truth in dealing with souls. This also indicates how legality will be disappointed in the end, and how workers will be surprised when they learn at last that their carnal schemes have proven fruitless, that most of their results were only “turning over a new (?) leaf,” a “do better” kind, reforming the old man, “cleansing the outside of the platter.” “Their works will be burned.” Not only SO, many workers themselves will be “weighed in the balance and found wanting.” We are warned against “false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ; and no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light”—2 Cor. 11:13,14.

A Blessed Conclusion.

“Now we, Brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now”—Vs. 28, 29.

*1 Samuel 1:2 “And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.”

4:27 For it is written, Rejoice, *thou* barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is* now.

Beloved, do you see all the truth here? Do you note that “by promise,” and “after the Spirit,” mean the same? Tho’ Isaac’s conception and birth were natural, yet they were absolutely dependent upon supernatural intervention, Abraham and Sarah both being past age. They were “after, or according to the Spirit,” Likewise, everyone who is saved, is a child of promise, born according to the Spirit, born of the Spirit, the offspring of grace thru faith. “Not of works, lest any man should boast.” “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith”—Rom. 3:27. Abraham made a great feast for Isaac the day he was weaned. Ishmael, who was now fifteen years old, mocked Isaac. (*Gen. 21:9). The Holy Spirit calls that “mock,” “persecution” here. The taunts of the offspring of the flesh, the boasting, critical mock of self-perfectionists, of law-keepers, against believers in absolute grace, is here termed “persecution.”

These two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, are types respectively and surely of the offspring of legality and grace. The following prophecy of Ishmael is very true of his religious descendants. “And he shall be a wild-ass among men; his hand against every man and every man’s hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of his brethren”, R.V (*“And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.”* KJV)—Gen. 16:12. “And he died in the presence of all his brethren” (Gen. 25:18), and yet he lives on, mocking, dissatisfied, critical, cynical, uncharitable, cold, self-righteous.

But Isaac, laughing, innocent Isaac. Who would not much rather be an Isaac? If you think that faith in the absolute sovereign Grace of God makes people careless, reckless, wanton, lawless, or “do as you please,” I pray you, take a look at Isaac. Study his character and career. He was happy and free. He was obedient to his father, even yielding to death by his father’s hand, if God had not intervened. And God said of him, “In Isaac shall thy seed be called.” The Isaac-life is the only really independent life, because it is wholly dependent upon God. It is most happy and contented because it is not self-conscious, not self-supporting, not self-seeking. It is occupied with Another and for that Other, even Christ. It is delighted and satisfied with Him. And it spontaneously flows out in warm streams of tender blessing to others, even as the very heart of Jesus. It is the offspring of Grace, and it dispenses grace. Hallelujah! Hozannah to the Highest!

“Nevertheless, what saith the Scriptures?” Behold what a

*Genesis 21:9 “And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.”

4:30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture?
Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the
son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with
the son of the freewoman.

serious and important question. Observe the like important answer. “Cast out the bond-maid and her son; for the son of the bond-maid shall not be heir with the son of the free-woman.” (V. 30)

Legality demands of us to live a pinched life, enjoying nothing except the carnal satisfaction of self-suppression, and self-improvement (?), self-stripping, self-righteousness, designedly “neglecting the body” and glorying in it. But Grace has richly provided all things for our comfort and usefulness. Faith is here instructed to take the full liberty from law and its fruits, which Grace offers. Faith should richly appropriate and enjoy all the provisions of Grace, that we may “do good, be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate.” (*“do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;”—1 Tim. 6:18 KJV*) Our faith must rise and throw off the “yoke of bondage, which neither our fathers, nor we were able to bear” (*“to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear,” KJV*) (Acts 15:10); turn from the “weak and beggarly elements, or rudiments,” viz; the observance of days and months and seasons and years (Vs. 9,10), from eating and drinking and new moons and sabbath-keeping, from a voluntary humility and worshiping of (Gospel) messengers, all of which proceeds from a “fleshly mind...and is after the commandments and doctrines of men”—Col. 2:16-23. All these carnal doctrines, however pious they may seem to be, are signs of real weakness—*Rom. 14:1, 2. Faith turns from them all and rests solely and wholly upon the “Word of Grace;” for in grace, God has “given us richly all things for enjoyment” (*“giveth us richly all things to enjoy,” KJV*)—1 Tim. 6:17.

The reason for the casting out the law and its fruit is evident. The fruit of law, or the results of self-effort, shall not inherit with the fruit of the Spirit. They cannot agreeably mingle here. There is always unavoidable friction between the legal and spiritual; for law-keepers cannot be spiritual. The legal cannot inherit the blessings, the joy, the victory and the glory which the spiritual actually enjoy here. They do not understand us, but are envious of our riches, even as Ishmael did not know Isaac’s real spirit and place; but was envious of his being at the head of the table. Neither will the legal obtain the hereafter inheritance, the reward of love-service, the gracious joint-reign with Christ, because they do not reign here. “Much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness, shall reign in life (this present life) by One, Jesus Christ.” (*“much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”—Rom. 5:17 KJV*) How much more shall their reign in the glory be absolutely as a result

*Romans 14:1, 2 “Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, *but* not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.”

of having appropriated God's grace on earth. "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord"—Rom. 5:17, 21.

4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

Hear the sweet finale—"So then, Brethren, we are not children of the bond-maid; but of the free-woman." (V. 31) From every point of the compass of study, we arrive at the same destination—the law has no claim upon us; its voice is silenced forever. "We are not under law, but under grace." (*"for ye are not under the law, but under grace."*—Rom. 6:14 KJV) We are not saved, or kept, or improved, or made more pleasing to the Lord by our own carnal law-keeping. "The just shall live by faith," not by works. "My ways which be in Christ" (1 Cor. 4:17), are so, because "Christ liveth in me" (chap. 2:20), and not by any unbelieving struggle of my own. The lily grows by drinking; it speaks by abiding; it is arrayed by receiving; it shouts by shining. Jesus declared that its glory surpassed that of the king.

Positives About Grace-People

1. Children of Grace are "Children of God." 2. Children of Grace are born a second time, "born of the Spirit." 3. Children of Grace are heavenly, "born from above." 4. Children of Grace are "called sons, not servants." 5. They are "born free." 6. They are born happy—Isaac means, "Laughter." 7. They are "heirs of God" 8. Children of Grace outnumber those of Law—even "as the sand of the sea, and as the stars of heaven." (*"as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore;"*—Gen. 22:17 KJV) 9. They have no "rudiments, or shadows of the world" to observe. 10. They are "born according to promise, not after the flesh." 11. They never persecute; but they are persecuted by legalists. 12. Children of Grace are "lord of all." Hallelujah! "They rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing and in everything give thanks." (*"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks:"*—1 Thess. 5:18 KJV)

"And now, Brethren, I commend you to God and to the Word of His Grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified"—Acts 20:32.

The Life In The Spirit

Chapter Five

5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

“In the freedom, therefore, wherewith Christ made us free, stand fast, and be not again held in a yoke of bondage. Lo! I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing”—Chap. 5:1-2.

By carefully reading the Word, we find that God never gives an exhortation without previously announcing some ground for that exhortation. That ground is always some wise and full divine provision by which we are enabled to keep the charge. Hence, the word “therefore,” in the above verse, points back to the divine arguments and provisions of the four preceding chapters. In those chapters we have observed at least twelve reasons for standing fast in the freedom of grace.

1. “Called in the grace of Christ” (*“called you into the grace of Christ,” KJV*)—Chap. 1:6.
2. Paul’s twelve powerful proofs that he preached the “Gospel of Christ”—Chaps. 2, 3
3. “Christ set forth crucified among us” (*“Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you,” KJV*)—Chap. 3:1. Then there is no need of self-crucifixion.
4. “Received the Spirit by faith?” (*“Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith,” KJV*)—Chap. 3:2.
5. Miracles wrought by faith, not by works of law—Chap. 3:5.
6. “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us”—Chap. 3:13.
7. “As many as are of the works of the law, are under the curse”—Chap. 3:10. What a solemn statement! Do you wonder why they are not happy?
8. God’s Grace-covenant with Abraham, received by faith alone, signified, signed and sealed by circumcision, 430 years before the law was given—Chap. 3:6-9 and 16-18 and Rom. 4:11.
9. “The law was our schoolmaster until Christ,” but not our savior (*“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ,” KJV*)—Chap. 3:24.
10. “No more servants, but sons” (*“thou art no more a servant, but a son,” KJV*)—Chap. 4:7.

11. “The heavenly Jerusalem, our mother Sarah, is free;” (*“But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.” KJV*) hence, we too are free, being “born according to promise, born after the Spirit” (*“the children of promise...born after the Spirit,” KJV*)—Chap. 4:22-29.

12. Finally, admonished to “cast out the bondmaid and her son” (*“Cast out the bondwoman and her son.” KJV*)—Chap. 4:30.

Why shall Christ profit us nothing if we be circumcised? In the first place, circumcision was never required as a mean of salvation. It was only “a token” of God’s covenant of grace and “a sign and seal of faith” (*“the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith”—Rom. 4:11 KJV*) on Abraham’s part. Then after the law was given, Israel’s legal heart made it a law; classed it with Moses’ law, and demanded its observance in order to be saved. Now since circumcision was but a symbol of death, which was wrought “by the circumcision of Christ” in His death on Calvary (Col. 2:11); its observance today is counted with “the works of the flesh, the works of the law.” It puts us in the Cain-class, which God condemned at the beginning—*Gen. 4:3-7. God’s way of salvation is for our comfort and usefulness. Faith thru the death of His Son, as typified by Abel’s accepted offering; that is, by the shed-blood of another, and not by shedding one’s own blood by circumcision. The one plan of salvation offsets the other. If by work, then Christ’s salvation is useless. Self-effort, especially expressed here by circumcision, is a blasphemous blow at the redemption of Christ. It argues that His plan is not sufficient. Hence, the stern declaration—If you be circumcised; if you attempt to save yourself by water baptism, or by catechism, or by the Lord’s supper, or by keeping the sabbath, or by any means other than faith in the finished and sufficient work of Calvary; “Christ shall profit you nothing.” Then the Apostle repeats what he declared before, that the law-keeper “is a debtor to keep the whole law.” (V. 3) (See notes on chap. 3:10-12).

5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

5:3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

“Christ is become of no effect unto you whosoever of you are justified by law: ye are fallen from grace.” If we claim to be justified by law, we are no longer justified by grace. Accepting another as your mother, is renouncing your real mother. Here we have the correct definition of that, to so many, mysterious phrase, “fallen from grace”. If a believer gets drunk, fights with his neighbor, commits adultery, or such

*Genesis 4:3-7 “And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”

like; he is said to have “fallen from grace.” Certainly that is not the teaching here. Those Galatians were doing just the opposite. They were endeavoring to perfect themselves by not doing these wicked things, but by killing themselves by inches—observing circumcision and days, etc. Thus turned from dependence upon God to their own works of law; they fell from grace. They put themselves where grace could not reach them; viz, under law.

When saints are overcome by their own weakness, it is because of “sin in the flesh.” This domestic foe they have not yet discovered, or if they have, they have not exactly located him, or they have not learned the divine way of victory over him. These do not boast in their own strength; but they deplore their weaknesses and failures. They are not fallen from grace when they fail God; they are just the ones whom grace can help. And grace does help them when they cry to her. Praise God! Those who have learned the sinfulness of sin and the utter weakness of the flesh and are glad for such knowledge, and put all the responsibility of their victory and keeping on the Lord; those are eternally safe.

5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

“For we, in spirit, by faith wait for a hope of righteousness; for in Christ Jesus neither circumcision is of any force, nor uncircumcision, but faith working thru love.” “We,” that is, all who are counted righteous because of accepting God’s grace, are not fallen from grace, even tho’ at times there may appear signs of weakness. By faith, “we have received the spirit of sonship;” (“*ye have received the Spirit of adoption,*”—Rom. 8:15 *KJV*) and our standing as sons is perfect, because God accepts us in Christ (*Eph. 1:6): but we are also “waiting for our sonship, viz; the redemption of our body, for we are saved by hope” (“*waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope:*” *KJV*)—Rom. 8:23, 24. As to our heart, or spirit, we are saved by faith. We have “a new heart, a new spirit.” But as to our body, “we are saved by hope;” for we have not yet received our new bodies; but still tabernacle in “a body of humiliation,” (“*vile body,*”—Philip. 3:21 *KJV*) “a mortal body,” “an earthen vessel.” And tho’ we are counted righteous because we “put on Christ” by faith; yet our full-orbed righteousness cannot be realized and manifested till Jesus comes and “fashions these bodies like unto the body of His glory” (“*fashioned like unto his glorious body,*” *KJV*)—Philip. 3:21. What self-effort hopes to accomplish here and even claims to have accomplished, viz; entire perfection, immortality in this present life—this absolute perfection, we hope thru grace to enjoy after Jesus comes. Then to eternity our triumphant song will be, “Salvation is of the Lord.”

*Ephesians 1:6 “To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

Circumcision Defined

What were the meaning and purpose of circumcision? Like everything which God has ordered, it had its place and relative importance. When the Lord confirmed His promise to Abraham that a son should be born to him, He required him and all his servants to be circumcised as a “token of the covenant.” Abraham obeyed. After this, Isaac was born. Because “Abraham believed God, He counted his faith to him for righteousness.” (*“Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”—Chap. 3:6 KJV*) But the Holy Spirit declares boldly that his faith was counted for righteousness before he was circumcised. That is, he was righteous because he believed God, not because he became circumcised. He observed the rite of circumcision because he was counted righteous for believing God, and as an expression of his faith. “He received (from God) the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had, yet being uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all them that believe”—Rom. 4:9-12. Mark it well then, that circumcision was never intended to be a mean of salvation, not even a shadowy mean. It was only “a token, a sign, a seal.”

Consider Col. 2:9-14, where we learn that circumcision literally means to cut off, hence, to put to death. “In whom ye were circumcised with the circumcision not made by hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, in the circumcision of the Christ.” (*“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:”—Col. 2:11 KJV*) Jesus was circumcised at the age of eight days to fulfill the covenant-token required by Abraham; but that was a plain prefiguring of His actual cutting off by “tasting death for every man” (*“taste death for every man.”—Heb. 2:9 KJV*) on Calvary. This actual cutting off is here called, “The circumcision of Christ.” When Abraham observed that rite, he thereby acknowledged God’s just judgment upon the flesh, that He was forever done with it, and thru the “Son of promise,” the supernatural gift of grace, God would bring in a new line, a faith-progeny. The figurative rite was by human hand: but the real circumcision was by divine power. Our burial with Christ in baptism is here mentioned in the past perfect tense—“having been buried with Him” (*“Buried with him in baptism,”—Col. 2:12 KJV*) because that too was first figurative. Jesus went beneath the crest of Jordan, thus in symbol identifying Himself with us in death, for we too, in figure, went down into the baptismal font with Him.

Circumcision was “a token, a sign, a seal” until the cross, even as water baptism is a token, a sign, a symbol from the cross. The first pointed forward; the last points backward. The former said, “Death to all

flesh shall come thru the death of Christ:” baptism declares more—“Death to all flesh has come thru the death of Christ, and also resurrection to all who believe, to walk in newness of life to die no more forever.” Hallelujah! Hence (lest we behold only the shadow, the figure), sweeping words, “wherein also ye were raised with Him (not by the puny arm of the baptizer, but) through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Him up from among the dead.” (*“wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”*—*Col. 2:12 KJV*) How do people observe the spirit of circumcision today? By being baptized in water in order to be saved, by counting the baptismal water to be the blood of Christ, by demanding that people must speak in tongues, or they are not saved. Some taught in apostolic days that circumcision was essential to salvation—*Acts 15:4. Men are daring enough today to teach that water baptism is essential to salvation. The former was pronounced an unbearable “yoke.” And when baptism is made to serve more than as a loving symbol of our death, burial and resurrection with Christ, it also is “a yoke of bondage.” Those who attempt to perfect themselves in the flesh, trying to kill themselves to sin, seeking a self-crucifixion, or a deeper crucifixion, do in spirit circumcise themselves again. In that sense and to that extent, Christ is of no effect unto them.

“Faith working by love,” (*“faith which worketh by love.”*—*V. 6 KJV*) they cannot understand. In a general way, such people have faith in God, if they are saved; but as to the specifications of a victorious life in Christ, they know nothing, and it seems they do not care to know. There is a kind of so-called faith, a legal faith, a faith working by works, a hollering faith, a long-prayer faith, a strenuous-effort faith, a boasting-in-self kind of faith (if we may call that faith), which cannot see the grace of God. But pure faith shows itself by working the “good works,” to which we “were created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* *KJV*)—*Eph. 2:10*. This is the faith of the Son of God. It works by love if it works at all. This is the “faith that availeth.” Hear it, my Friend. This is the faith that honors Jehovah, that engages the Holy Spirit, that complies with the Word and deeply delights the heart of the Anointed One. It rests wholly and solely and joyously upon the grace of God.

A Good Beginning, But.

“Ye did run well. Who did hinder you that ye should not obey

*Acts 15:4 “And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.”

5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

the truth? This persuasion cometh not from of Him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”—Chap. 5:7-9

5:8 This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you.

Here the Apostle repeats, only in fewer words, what he said in Chap. 3. Their salvation began by believing that Christ died for the ungodly—the full expression of divine grace. They were saved by faith alone, wholly apart from works. In this faith and freedom they went on till some would-be pious fellows came and sowed leaven. Paul asks, Have you considered the real character and motives of those who “did drive you back?” They are not God-like. Their persuasion did not come from the God of grace. That persuasion is “leaven.” Some think that leaven in the parables (Matt. 13) means the Gospel seed sown in men’s hearts. That is far from the truth. Leaven is never used in a good sense in the Bible. Jesus called the “hypocrisy of the Pharisees” (“*Pharisees, hypocrites!*”—*Matt. 23:13 KJV*) and the “doctrine of the Sadusees,” leaven. The natural action of leaven is to puff up; it is a make-believe. Faith working by love does not puff up. “Love buildeth up.” (“*charity edifieth.*”—*1 Cor. 8:1 KJV*) We are warned against the “leaven of carnal glorying and of malice and wickedness” (“*leaven of malice and wickedness,*” *KJV*)—*1 Cor. 5:8*. Paul there exhorts us to “purge out the old leaven.” (“*Purge out therefore the old leaven,*”—*1 Cor. 5:7 KJV*) Here he shows its widespread damaging effects—“a little leaven leavens the whole lump;” that is, a little teaching of law-keeping soon defiles and poisons and puffs up the whole assembly.

5:10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

Verse 10 shows that Paul had learned to “have no confidence in the flesh,” but have full confidence in the Lord touching His people. Compare also *2 Thes. 3:4. He also rested in God’s faithfulness and He would in due time deal justly with judaizers; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord.” Pastors and parents, and all of us need to learn these valuable lessons; viz, that God can work in the saints by His word and Spirit, the good pleasure of His will, and that He will check evil doers and reward them for their deeds.

5:11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

“And I brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? Then is the offence of the cross ceased.” Law-keeping doesn’t provoke persecution. Just begin to walk dignified in your own strength, be very punctilious about your conduct, eating, dress, conversation, and your pious habits in general; then folks will leave you alone; you will have an easy time They will throw “bouquets” at you—“What a fine fellow he is; he lives above reproach, I tell you he is a saint, if there is one anywhere.” Yes, but the gracious Holy Spirit takes a back seat; and over against that carnal commendation stand the blasting words

5:12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.

*2 Thessalonians 3:4 “And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.”

of Jesus Christ—“That which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.” (*“for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.”—Luke 16:15 KJV*)

On the other hand, the preaching of the cross and the living in its victory are foolishness to the natural man. They provoke ridicule and scorn. Preaching Calvary is a stinging offence to the flesh, because it exposes its sinfulness and desert of death. The flesh, whether in believers or unbelievers, is the same. Ishmael, the fruit of self-effort “mocked Isaac,” (*“And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.”—Gen. 21:9 KJV*) the fruit of faith. It is a very solemn fact that the spirit of murder is in law-keepers tho’ most of them do not know it. Instance Cain. He was religious. “Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.” But God could not accept his offering, because there was no blood shed, no expression that he felt guilty, no atonement for his past sins. His offering was the result of his own carnal effort, not that of another. And because the Lord rejected him, but accepted Abel, he enviously slew his brother, whose blood crieth unto God from the ground against every self-savior and self-perfectionist ever since. The offence of preaching Christ crucified never ends.

Perfect Law of Liberty.

“For ye have been called into liberty, brethren; only use not the liberty for an occasion to the flesh: but thru the love serve one another; for the law is fulfilled in one word, even this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”—Chap. 5:13-14

5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

What a limitless largeness we are brought into by being “called you into the grace of Christ”—Chap. 1:6 and 2:4. We are drawn on by “the liberty of the glory” (*“the glorious liberty of the children of God.” KJV*) (Rom. 8:21), while governed by “the perfect law of liberty”—James 1:25 Hence, also what a sure safeguard to that liberty. Critics exclaim; “Well then, you can do as you please.” Statements like that only show that such people do not know the Gospel. They know that they have an incorrigible old man, which if not curbed, will run riot. But they fail to see that believers have a new, sinless, heavenly life, and therefore are a new creation. They do not understand that the same grace that grants this new life boundless liberty, has once for all executed that old incorrigible fellow in the death of Christ; and when we count with God, He assumes the control of the uncontrollable, while the new life enjoys its freedom in Christ, walks “as risen from the dead, even in newness of life.” (*“raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”—Rom. 6:4 KJV*) This new creation never pleases the flesh, hence it never pleases law-keepers. It seeks only to please God; it

seeks to know the will of God.

But being still in a weak body because sin is not actually taken out of us, there will arise clamorings of the old life, when God wisely allows them that we may learn by experience what is in the old creation. Then we are not to yield to those clamorings; but yield to God—*Rom. 6:13. We are not to seek the comfort of the old man, but the comfort of other people. Our freedom in grace has no bounds save the WILL of God himself—not man’s reason, not man’s standard of righteousness, not any fixed rule of rectitude, not human sympathy even for the nearest earthly friend, and not even God’s written law, which “is holy, just and good.” (*“is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.”—Rom. 7:12 KJV*) Jesus broke the law of sabbath-keeping when He “plucked the ears of corn and fed the disciples;” (*“his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn and to eat.”—Matt. 12:1 KJV*) but He was doing His Father’s perfect will in doing so, because His grace-will was before His law-will by four-hundred years.

Consider the law. The ten commandments are a code of cold negations. Eleven times we read, “Thou shalt not.” There are only three positive requirements. Therefore, a life in grace is far more than simply “NOT” doing. It is a spontaneous, joyous, fruitful life flowing out from God upon others, and returning back to Him for His glory. Truly, “all the law is fulfilled in one word, in this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,” (V. 14) The natural man can never do that; neither can the law-keeper. Jesus sums up the whole law by saying, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, etc.” How can that be done? Here is the answer—“The love of God is poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given unto us” (*“the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” KJV*)—Rom. 5:5. “It is no longer I that live; but Christ liveth in me” (*yet not I, but Christ liveth in me,” KJV*)—Chap. 2:20. Wonderful provision! Wonderful freedom!

The Flesh, the Law, the Spirit.

“But I say, Walk in the Spirit and a desire of flesh ye should not fulfill; for the flesh desires against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh, and these to each other are opposed, so that ye may not do the things that ye would wish: but if by the Spirit ye are led, ye are not under law.”—Chap. 5:16-18

The flesh is our element, our home in the natural—“That which is born of the flesh, is flesh.” “They that are in the flesh cannot please

*Romans 6:13 “Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.”

5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

5:15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

5:16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

God.” The Holy Spirit is our element, our home as new creatures in Christ Jesus—“That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” “But ye are not in flesh, but in spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.” (*“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.”—Rom. 8:9 KJV*) See John 3 and Rom. 8:8, 9 and 1 Cor. 15:45-49. Likewise verse 25 teaches that the Spirit is our home—“We live in the Spirit.” Now tho’ the Holy Spirit is our home from the moment of our spiritual birth; yet we learn to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit. Children in grace first walk in the Spirit by being subject to the instruction of adults in the Lord. By thus moving on with the assembly, by and by they learn to walk in the Spirit, not independent of others, but without leaning upon them, yet in fellowship with them. Each for himself walks in, and is led by the Spirit; hence, he is termed a son—“As many as are led by the Spirit of God, are the sons of God” (*“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” KJV*)—Rom. 8:14. Such become the fathers and mothers in the assembly.

By walking in the Spirit, we keep aloof from law. “We are not under law.” (*“for ye are not under the law,”—Rom. 6:14 KJV*) We do not try to keep the ten commandments. We simply move with the Spirit. We do not try to not steal, nor lie. We do not try to love God and our neighbors. Love cannot help loving God and all His will. “Love,” not only does not lie, nor steal, but “thinketh no evil.” We simply trust God. To attempt to do, or not do any part of the law is to step aside from the Spirit-walk, or the faith-life, into the flesh-life.

Why come down from the Spirit-plain,

(Where the law can ne’er obtain),

To the plain of flesh and sin,

Where the law doth victory win?

Works of Flesh.

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, etc., and such like.” The “such like,” unmentioned here, are recorded in Rom. 1, the darkest catalogue of man’s deeds. Observe that over against these 17 works of the flesh are set the nine-fold “fruit of the Spirit”—V. 22. “Works” versus “fruit.” Works of flesh are unnumbered; the fruit of the Spirit is one. Saints often say, “Fruits of the Spirit” as if there were more than one. Ignorance is constantly dividing what God counts one. “One Spirit” produces “one fruit.” Paul’s uniform teaching was, “that they which practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (*“they which do such things shall not inherit*

5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

5:26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

the kingdom of God.”—V. 21 *KJV*) The unregenerate man practices what he is. By no means can he enter the kingdom by his deeds, be they ever so pious, or self-sacrificing. “Ye must be born again,” said Jesus They who practice the works of the flesh are not “Christ’s;” for “they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts” (or passions and desires)—V. 24. That is, they acknowledge that their flesh with its belongings was nailed to Calvary’s cross. This has no reference to present, personal self-crucifixion. We did not crucify the flesh by making a consecration, nor by a daily process of religious suicide. Col. 2:11 makes this plain—“Ye were circumcised, or cut off by the circumcision of Christ,” (*“ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ,” KJV*) and not by your own cutting off. According to God’s infallible ledger, we “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” in the “crucifixion of our old man with Christ.” (*“that our old man is crucified with him,”—Rom. 6:6 KJV*) Our experience of that crucifixion began when we by faith in the fact of it, “put off the old man with his deeds,” and by the same act of faith, “put on the new man,” in accepting Christ as Savior. At that moment, God began to count us a new creation, and we began to “live in the Spirit” of whom we were born. Hence, the Apostle says here, “If (or since) we live in the Spirit (in as much as the Spirit is our home), let us also walk in the Spirit.” (V. 25) Let us be done forever with the flesh—“Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another,” by fleshly zeal and carnal righteousness.

The flesh, with all its works, is at variance with the Spirit; but we are not to enter the fray against it, save only to believe and rest in the power and faithfulness of the Holy Spirit. Then our own flesh, or another’s, can never conquer us. Our attitude to the flesh is illustrated by Israel and Amalek. The latter stands for flesh. God said, “Because the hand of Amalek is against the throne of the Lord, therefore, the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation” (*“For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.” KJV*)—Ex. 17:16. Israel had only to trust God. He did the fighting. Victory was sure to them as they believed Him. Likewise, “the mind of the flesh is enmity against God” (*“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God:” KJV*)—Rom. 8:7. The Spirit desires against the flesh. We by faith hand it over to the Spirit—“Ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body”—Rom. 8:13. Then its power is broken by divine power. Then the law cannot touch us, for we are in the grace-realm. Then the devil cannot harm us, because “our life is hid with Christ in God.” (*“your life is hid with Christ in God.”—Col. 3:3 KJV*) Glory! Glory!

Notice in the above list two kinds of flesh-works: the outward—adultery, strife, drunkenness, etc., and the inward—idolatry, hatred, envying, etc. It is a sad fact that some saints do not understand the two natures in believers, and that our old nature was nailed to the Cross, and that we are new creatures in Christ; therefore, they do not see the true meaning of the works of the flesh in this connection. These same people may apparently have real victory over the outward works of the flesh, but be rampant with the inward works thereof. They throw up their hands in holy (?) horror at the appearance of fornication, drunkenness and murder, the meanwhile rankling with variance, hatred, envy, heresies and the like. They glory in their outward self-conquest, and call down judgment upon those who aim to walk in the Spirit and are learning their own weakness, being perchance overcome by “sin in the flesh.” They term their emulations, “Zeal for God,” and their wrath, “Holy indignation,” and their self-control, “Perfection.” Outwardly, they are pious; inwardly, they are furious. Outwardly, they keep the letter of the law by a painful want of love. They are punctilious about their attitude toward men; but are shamefully out of fellowship with God.

Furthermore, Beloved, there is an inward adultery which accepts another as head, rather than Christ. There is a fornication that assumes the headship which belongs only to Christ. There is an inward uncleanness that sets the affections on the creature. There is inward lasciviousness, extravagance of desire; an inward idolatry—all of which are carnal, though they may seem very pious and wise. I dare say that these are far more abominable in God’s sight than the same works outwardly shown, because the former do not seem to need the grace of God, being hidden from man’s eye; but the latter know their weakness and need. Only those who accept Christ alone as their only life, can understand what I mean by these reflections. Many people are constantly doing fleshly things in a religious garb, supposing to do God service. Vastly most of religious effort today is carnal, not knowing that everything a believer does out of God’s will is fleshly, no matter how pious and prudent it may appear. They cannot do otherwise as long as Christ has not become by definite choice their life. “They will be saved as by fire; their works will be burned.” (*“If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”—1 Cor. 3:15 KJV*)

The Fruit of the Spirit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against these there is no law” (*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is*

no law.”) *KJV*)—Chap. 5:22, 23.

What a constellation of illumination shines about the real believer; for these qualities radiate from his very inner man. There are nine—three times three, divinity multiplied by divinity—the full effulgent exhibition of the character of the three-one “God of all grace,” in a bloodwashed human life. There are not nine fruits, but nine facial expressions of one fruit, nine colors blending in one on one lobe. What only can we say? It is “T-H-E F-R-U-I-T of the S-P-I-R-I-T.” These nine features are inseparable. Where one is, all the others are, tho’ they may not all be manifested at the same moment. They are indeed the certain product of the Holy Spirit in us. How foolish that the natural man, or a believer should attempt by his own effort to produce such fruit. Yet, men are palming off their own human love, patience, goodness, etc., as the fruit of the Spirit.

Observe that they appear in three distinct groups. 1. Love, joy and peace express our attitudes toward God and men. 2. Long-suffering, gentleness and goodness are our attitudes toward men only. 3. Faith, meekness and temperance enable us to make the second three practical. In Isa. 61:3, saints are called, “Trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.” And these trees bring forth fruit because of the fruit-bringing life within them. “Jesus came and sought fruit on the figtree,” (“*a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon,*”—*Luke 13:6 KJV*) that is the Jewish nation (which stands for the very best the old creation can produce); but He found none. Now He seeks fruit only from the new creation. Shall we not feed Him? The heavenly “Husbandman must first be partaker of the fruit.” (“*The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.*”—*2 Tim. 2:6 KJV*) We feed on Christ. The Father feeds on the Christ in us. Shall we not most gladly refresh and rejoice His loving heart? Shall He not henceforth see only Christ in us? How? Following is the answer.

“Cease from your own works as God did from His.” (“*ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*”—*Heb. 4:10 KJV*) Count your old life dead. Count Christ only to be your life, and that very Christ-life continually dependent upon the Father, even as Jesus was—“I am not able from myself to do anything; but as I hear I judge” (“*I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge,*” *KJV*)—John 5:30. Let the Holy Spirit reveal Christ in you more and more, causing you to grow up into Him in all things. “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly;” and you will constantly and unconsciously “bring forth much fruit, even the fruit of the Spirit.”

Positives about the Spirit.

1. Christ crucified is the ground for receiving the Spirit thru faith—Chap. 3:13, 14.
2. The Spirit is ministered by the word of faith—Chap. 3:5.
3. The Galatians began in the Spirit—Chap. 3:3.
4. The Galatians received the Spirit by the hearing of faith—Chap. 3:2.
5. Grace-believers are born after the Spirit—Chap. 4:29.
6. Believers live in the Spirit. He is their home—Chap. 5:25. Comp. Rom. 8:9.
7. Walking in the Spirit gives victory over the flesh—Chap. 5:16.
8. If we are led by the Spirit, law has no jurisdiction over us—Chap. 5:18 and Rom. 8:14.
9. The fruit of the Spirit is nine-fold—Chap. 5:22, 23.
10. The fruit of the Spirit is not subject to law—Above.
11. The flesh and the Spirit are diametrically opposed—Chap. 5:17.
12. Finally and gloriously, “he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting”—Chap. 6:8.

Concluding Counsels

Chapter Six

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

This implies that some of those Galatian Christians were spiritual. They were not all under law. They were to do their part in recovering the legal from legality, or from any offence by which they might be overcome. The spiritual dare not boast of their spirituality. “What hast thou that thou hast not received?” (“*what hast thou that thou didst not receive?*”—*1 Cor. 4:7 KJV*) They too may be tempted; for they still dwell in a mortal body. No matter how spiritual we may become, we can glory in the cross only—V. 14.

6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ,” The law of Christ is to “love thy neighbor as thyself.” A man’s fault becomes to him a burden, a pressure, a grief; especially when he discovers that he is wrong. Satan, of course, is the original cause of that offense. Therefore, the oppressed one needs the help of the spiritual, who are to get under the burden and lift it off. “For if any man think himself to be something, being nothing; he deceiveth himself.” The root cause of being overtaken is one’s own self-conceit. Law-keepers are invariably conceit; for the old man always thinks more highly of himself than he ought. And if the spiritual yield to the conceit of their own flesh, they are also overtaken by a fault. Self-sufficiency is sure to have a tumble. “But let each man prove his own work.” If he is a self-effort man, let him prove by the outcome of his effort that it is acceptable to God. If he is a grace-man, that is, spiritual, let him also prove the acceptance of his work by its outcome. The latter cannot be faulty, cannot depreciate the work of redemption, because he is depending upon the Lord alone. He finds his God sufficient. Hence, “he shall have his glorying in regard to himself alone,” because he trusts Christ only. Let the other do likewise if he can. But how can he, since he is his own God?

6:3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

6:4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

6:5 For every man shall bear his own burden.

“For each man shall bear his own load.” This does not contradict verse 2. The Greek words translated “burden,” in these two verses, are not the same. In the former, the word means pressure, grief, or misery arising from defeat, or failure. In this verse, it means a load, or freight. Each is to help the other bear his grief; but each is to carry his own load, do the work assigned to him. God gives ability for service to him who trusts Him; but He cannot give help to him who trusts in his own

wisdom, or strength. It is not true that “God helps those who help themselves.” He helps the helpless. He is strength to the weak.

Each Saint a Free Dispensary

“Let him that is taught in the Word, communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived. God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.”

6:6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

Not every teacher really teaches “in all good things.” To teach law-keeping or self-improvement, is not good at all. If your teacher instructs you by “the word of divine grace,” you should support him with your substance as a thank-offering to the God of grace. Is giving a duty? Yes, verily. See *Rom. 15:27. Jesus said, “Freely ye have received; freely give.” But it is also a blessed co-operative privilege—“If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal (material) things?” —1 Cor. 9:11. There is scarcely a stronger test of loyalty to truth than giving. “If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon who will commit to your trust the true riches?”—Luke 16:11. He that withholds his money from God’s service does not love God’s truth, no matter how tall his testimony may be.

6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

“Be not deceived.” Not every religious enterprise is God’s cause. Not all that seems pious is really so. Not every preacher and teacher is God-sent. Of course, those judaizers received abundant support from the dear Galatians whom they deceived. Carnal workers always receive more financial aid than spiritual workers. And why? Because their hearers are only babes. They do not know what is truth. Fleshly efforts are pompously pious, spectacular, big, showy, swelled out—“Leaven puffs up.” Such workers also work their hearers for support. The flesh-life being in preponderance in them, they freely respond to the fleshly labors and demands of the workers. But spiritual workers trust Him whom they serve. They receive their appointment and equipment from God; and He is their “Paymaster.” A-many a-man has told me that he would help me if I would tell him my needs. But it is written, “Thou shalt have no other gods before ME.” Those who trust God only, always get what they need, but not what their flesh may want. “God is not mocked.” You cannot expect a reward from Him for helping to propagate error. Many of God’s people are giving thousands of dollars for which they will receive no recompense save the deceived satisfaction of having given something.

*Romans 15:27 “It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.”

6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap: for he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” This is an unchangeable law. Sow wheat, and you reap wheat; sow chess, and you reap chess. Likewise, if you propagate self-righteousness, self-improvement, self-crucifixion, law-keeping, etc., you will reap a carnal harvest. Support the carnal with your means, and there will appear over against your liberality the sad credit—“W-A-S-T-E.” Your hard earnings will go up in smoke; for the building of wood and hay and stubble will be burned—1 Cor. 3:12-16. But if you sow to the Spirit, that is, if you help to propagate the word of grace, whose teaching is “gold and silver and precious stone,” you will receive a reward from God, an eternal reward, “according to your deeds.” (*“according to his deeds:”*—Rom. 2:6 KJV) Reader, remember that the Holy Spirit operates only along grace lines, showing up all the sinfulness of sin and the horridness and depravity of the flesh, and hence, magnifies the cross of Christ, thru which alone we can be saved by faith.

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

The Apostle is not speaking here primarily of salvation, but of compensation for service. If you support carnal institutions, you will not reap damnation, or separation from God; but you will reap corruption. The teaching you support, corrupts, defiles, disintegrates, instead of feeding and building up. You will be “saved as by fire,” (*“he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”*—1 Cor. 3:15 KJV) but your works will be burned. If you scatter the truth, the very beginning of which in experience is eternal life thru faith in Jesus, your harvest will also be of life, even eternal life. Your own spiritual life will grow in giving out the truth to others, and at harvest time, you will rejoice to see the abundant life in those whom you taught here by giving of your earnings. Therefore, two exhortations follow. “And let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.” The harvest day will be on schedule time. Unfainting sowing is the condition of harvest reaping; but faith alone is the condition of eternal salvation—*John 5:24. “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” How can we do good to sinners? Not by reforming them, or educating them, or building almshouses for them. These are not the mission of the Church. How then? Preach Christ unto them. Offer them salvation thru Him. “Men dead in trespasses and sins,” (*“who were dead in trespasses and sins;”*—Eph. 2:1 KJV) must hear the word of life and be born again.

*John 5:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

6:11 Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.

6:12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

But there is an “especially” here which is generally overlooked. Our chief ministry is “unto them who are of the household of faith.” The majority of saints are deceived in this particular. Satan, or flesh exclaims, “Oh, you are lazy; you are just a self-admiration society; you do not care for sinners.” “Oh, they have no power; they are dry; they are all taken up with the word.” Of course such people do not know that they know nothing, but have only a childhood experience. They know God’s word so little that they have no love for it, no sense of the need of understanding it. They have a wry meager idea of the wideness and depth or God’s will. They do not know that the whole Bible was written to the Lord’s people, incidentally describing the nature, career and destiny of the wicked. 13 of Paul’s epistles are addressed to the Church, or to some member of it. Study *Eph. 4:11-14, a portion criminally neglected.

“See with how large letters I have written you with mine own hand.” Because of his weak eyes, intimated in chap. 4:15, the Apostle mentions the size of the characters in his letter to them. Not a large letter, but large characters. This is one of the infirmities in which he gloried. Christ was magnified thru Paul’s weakness. This he sets over against the carnal boast of legalists. Hence, the following verse.

“As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.” By way of review, look at the spirit and motives of judaizers. 1. They are saint-troublers and gospel-perversers— Chap. 1:7. 2. They are “false brethren,” liberty-spies, slave-makers—Chap. 2:4, 5. 3. They are witches—Chap. 3:1. This is God’s view of legalism. 4. They are saint-seekers and door-shutters, all for their own sake. But “love seeketh not her own.” (“*seeketh not her own*,”—*1 Cor. 13:5 KJV*) 5. They are cross-shunners, for the flesh denies our death with Christ; but it would fain be crucified on its own self-erected cross, that it may boast in its own effort. Self-killing brings no persecution. It wears a solemn face, walks uprightly, bows piously and seems very humble and holy. Jesus said, “Verily, they have their reward;” (“*Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*”—*Matt. 6:5 KJV*) that is, they receive the plaudits of other people. But Jesus also declared, “But that which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination with God.” (“*for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.*”—*Luke 16:15 KJV*) 6. They are self-

*Ephesians 4:11-14 “And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

exhibitors—“desire to make a fair show.” (*“desire to make a fair shew”*—*V. 12 KJV*) True humility, salvation by grace, victory thru grace, never seeks to make any kind of a show. It is modest, retiring, seeks the good of others, seeks to exhibit Christ for His sake alone. 7. They are flesh-gloriers—*V. 13*. This is the last of seven sharp shameful inditements against judaizers, or law-keepers.

Dear Reader, do you understand that after all this is only hypocrisy? “For not even they who receive circumcision do themselves keep the law.” And Jesus declared of the Pharisees, that “they say and do not”—*Matt. 23*. Peter had declared long before this epistle was written that judaizers by their teaching were tempting God and putting an unbearable yoke upon the disciples’ necks—**Acts 15:10*. Why then should we yield to them? Why should we attempt to wear the galling yoke of law-keeping? Let us wear only Jesus’ yoke of grace; for He invites us, saving, “My yoke is easy and my burden is light”—*Matt. 11:29*. Wear God’s will as a yoke of “grace to thy neck” here, then you will wear His reward as “a crown of glory” hereafter—*Prov. 3 and 4*. Hallelujah!

6:13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

Concluding Contrast

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.”—*Chap. 6:14*

We have often heard people declare with shouting that they had made a full surrender, that they had laid all on the altar, that they died out to this old world, and hence, were crucified with Christ. That was not Paul’s experience; that is not his meaning at all. That is boasting in surrender, in consecration, in an experience. That is not boasting in Christ, or His cross. That is not deriving any good from Calvary. It is only imitation. And tho’ well meant, yet there can be no gain, but irreparable loss from all such. The Apostle boasts, not in his own cross, but in the cross of Christ, because in Christ’s death he died to the world and the world died to him.

6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

“If One (Christ) died for all, then were all dead”—*2 Cor. 5:14*. Because he gloried in Christ’s experience of death for him, he experienced the power of Christ’s death in his life. He did not boast in a personal experience, but in an all-sufficient, judicial, provisional, accomplished fact. He gloried in an ignominious “must” (*Mark 8:31*), which his own sins had necessitated. He saw that the only way of salvation was life out

**Acts 15:10* “Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?”

6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

of death. He saw that Jesus “was delivered (to death and the grave) on account of our offenses and raised again on account of our justification” (*“Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” KJV*)—Rom. 4:25 And this explains the following verse—*“In Christ Jesus, neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but a new creation.”* As elsewhere stated, *“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation.”* The flesh was once for all crucified, or put to death, in the cutting off of Christ on Calvary—Col. 2:11. It cannot be cut off again by any self-crucifixion, or daily dying, to which circumcision here answers. Nor can anyone boast in not being circumcised; for he has been cut off at Calvary. All boasting is absolutely excluded, except boasting in our death with Christ 19 centuries ago. And only the new creation can join this boast.

Fervent Finale.

6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

“And as many as shall walk according to this rule, peace be unto them and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.” The word here translated “rule,” was the carpenter’s rule, the weaver’s shuttle, the beam, or tongue of the balance, and the key or stop of the flute. It also represented a rule, or standard of excellence. Here it means God’s measuring-rod of salvation, which is none other than “the Word of Grace.” (*“the word of his grace”*—Acts 20:32 KJV) *“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ...by faith without the deeds of the law”*—Rom. 3:24, 28. Peace and mercy from God cannot be expected except we walk according to the “Word of Grace.” (*“the word of his grace”*—Acts 20:32 KJV) This accounts for the unsettled, restless, peaceless, feverish condition among the saints. They are attempting to walk by man’s rule, instead of God’s rule. We walk by His rule by believing it heartily and practically and by constantly “yielding ourselves unto God as those that are alive from the dead, and our members as instruments of righteousness unto God” (*“yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” KJV*) (Rom. 6:13,) and not yielding to shadows and ordinances, as tho’ living in the world—Col. 2:17, 20. And who are “the Israel of God?” All Israelite is one who prevails. He is an overcomer. *“As a prince hast thou power with God and with men and hast prevailed”* (Gen. 32:28)—Gen. 32:24-32.

“From henceforth let no man trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.” Some people give fanciful interpretations of Scripture. Here is a sample. It is claimed that Paul had the nail-prints of Jesus’ death in his hands and the sword-print in his side. That is not at all the Apostle’s meaning. If people believe that, they would seek it as a

6:17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

necessary sign of deep piety. Nay, but if we seek the Lord and yield to God continually, we too will have some marks of the Lord Jesus. Paul's weak eyes thru exposure, his humped back from being stoned and his thirty-nine stripes were indeed marks of the Lord Jesus, even "branded" by the hot iron of trial and persecution. It was the daily dying of Jesus, not his death on Calvary, whose marks Paul bore. The judaizers boast in their mark of circumcision, a daily carnal cutting off by self-effort; but the victorious saints, "the Israel of God," with Paul in the lead, having died once with Christ, now live by the power of Christ dwelling in them chap. 2:20, and pour out their lives by divine enabling, "not counting their lives dear unto themselves." And because Paul bears in his body the proof of being a new creation; therefore, he forbids anyone again troubling him with hypocritical, bewitching self-righteousness; and we boldly join with him in this prohibition. Amen and Amen!

6:18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen."

"Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Anointed be with your spirit. Amen." Observe the different titles of address—"The churches of Galatia," "Brethren," "Foolish Galatians," "Children of God," "Sons," "My little children," and finally and the seventh time, he calls them, "Brethren." In this last, he recognizes their standing in Christ continually, tho by calling them children, he also causes them to realize their actual state that they may, by growth, come up in state to their standing. As usual in Paul's letters, the benediction is grace. Seven times the word grace occurs in this letter. The benediction is peculiar in that it pronounces, "grace with your spirit." Tho' they were many, he recognizes them as "one spirit." Similar are Jesus' words to the disciples—"Let not your heart be troubled," regarding them as having one heart. "Salvation is of the Lord," wholly by grace.