

English: Unlocked Literal Bible for Galatians

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Galatians

1 ¹Paul, an apostle—not an apostle from men nor by human agency, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—²and all the brothers with me, to the churches of Galatia:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,⁴who gave himself for our sins so that he might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father:⁵to him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶I am amazed that you are turning away so quickly from him who called you by the grace of Christ. I am amazed that you are turning to a different gospel,⁷not that there is another gospel, but there are some men who cause you trouble and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel other than the one we proclaimed to you, let him be cursed.⁹As we have said before, so now I say again, "If someone proclaims to you a gospel other than the one you received, let him be cursed."¹⁰For am I now seeking the favor of men or of God? Am I seeking to please men? If I am still trying to please men, I am not a servant of Christ.

¹¹For I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I proclaimed is not man's gospel.¹²I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it. Instead, it was by revelation of Jesus Christ to me.

¹³You have heard about my former life in Judaism, how I was persecuting the church of God beyond measure and that I was trying to destroy it.¹⁴I advanced in Judaism beyond many of those who were my own age, from out of my own people. That is how extremely zealous I was for the traditions of my fathers.

¹⁵But when God, who had set me apart from my mother's womb, and who called me through his grace, was pleased¹⁶to reveal his Son in me, so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood.¹⁷I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me. Instead, I went to Arabia and then returned to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas and I stayed with him fifteen days.¹⁹But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.²⁰In what I write to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.

²¹Then I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia.²²I was still not known by face to the churches of Judea that are in Christ.

²³They only heard it being said, "The man who once persecuted us is now proclaiming as good news the faith he once tried to destroy."²⁴So they glorified God because of me.

2 ¹Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.²I went up because of a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I spoke privately to those who seemed to be important, in order to make sure that I was not running—or had not run—in vain.

³But not even Titus, who was with me and who was a Greek, was forced to be circumcised.⁴The false brothers came in secretly to spy on the liberty we have in Christ Jesus. They desired to enslave us,⁵but we did not yield in submission to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

⁶But those who seemed to be important (whatever they were does not matter to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed important added nothing to me.⁷On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to those who are uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to those who are circumcised.⁸For God, who worked in Peter for the apostleship to those who are circumcised, also worked in me to the Gentiles.

⁹When James, Cephas, and John, who had a reputation as pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles and they should go to the circumcised.¹⁰They requested only that we remember the poor, the very thing that I was eager to do.

¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned.¹²Before certain men came from James, Cephas was eating with the Gentiles. But when these men came, he stopped and kept away from the Gentiles. He was afraid of those who were demanding circumcision.

¹³Also the rest of the Jews joined in this hypocrisy. Even Barnabas was led astray with them by their hypocrisy.¹⁴But when I saw that their behavior was not following the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of all of them, "If you are a Jew but are living like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

¹⁵We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners;¹⁶yet we know that no person is justified by the works of the law but through faith in Christ Jesus. So we also have believed in Christ Jesus so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law. For by the works of the law no flesh will be justified.

¹⁷But if, while we seek to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? Absolutely not!¹⁸For if I rebuild those things I once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor.¹⁹For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ.¹

²⁰It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.²¹I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, then Christ died for nothing!

¹Some translations include this sentence with verse 20.

3 ¹Foolish Galatians! Who has put a spell on you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly displayed as crucified.²This is the only thing I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith?³Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now going to be perfected by the flesh?

⁴Have you suffered so many things for nothing—if indeed it was for nothing?⁵Does he who gives the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith?

⁶Just as Abraham "believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness,"⁷in the same way, understand, then, that those of faith are the children of Abraham.⁸The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you all the nations will be blessed."⁹So then, those of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

¹⁰All who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; and so it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all the things written in the book of the law, and do them."¹¹Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because "the righteous will live by faith."¹²But the law is not of faith; rather, "The person who does the works of the law must live by them."

¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"—¹⁴so that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

¹⁵Brothers, let me speak in human terms. Once a man-made contract is established by law, no one can set it aside or add to it.¹⁶Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his descendant. It does not say, "to descendants," referring to many, but instead to only one, "and to your descendant," who is Christ.

¹⁷Now what I am saying is this: The law, which came 430 years afterward, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God, to nullify the promise.¹⁸For if the inheritance comes by the law, then it no longer comes by promise. But God freely gave it to Abraham by a promise.

¹⁹What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the descendant of Abraham would come to whom the promise had been made. The law was ordained through angels by the hand of an intermediary.²⁰Now an intermediary implies more than one person. But God is one.

²¹So is the law against the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.²²But the scripture imprisoned everything under sin so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until faith should be revealed.²⁴So then the law became our guardian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.²⁶For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁷For as many of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹Then if you are Christ's, you are Abraham's descendants, and heirs according to promise.

4 ¹I am saying that the heir, for whatever time he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is owner of the entire estate.²But he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father.

³So also, when we were children, we were enslaved to the elemental principles of the world.⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent out his Son, born of a woman, born under the law⁵so that he might redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, who cries out, "Abba, Father."⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then you are also an heir through God.

⁸But at that time, when you did not know God, you were made to be slaves to those who are, by their natural powers, not gods at all.⁹But now that you have come to know God, or rather that you are known by God, how is it that you are turning back to the weak and worthless elemental principles? Do you want to be enslaved all over again?

¹⁰You observe days and new moons and seasons and years!¹¹I am afraid for you that somehow my labor with you may have been for nothing.

¹²I beg you, brothers, become like me, for I also have become like you. You did me no wrong.¹³But you know that it was because of a disease of the flesh that I proclaimed the gospel to you the first time,¹⁴and though my physical condition put you to the test, you did not despise or reject me. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself.

¹⁵Where then is your blessing now? For I testify to you that, if it were possible, you would have torn out your own eyes and given them to me.¹⁶So then, have I become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?

¹⁷They are zealous to win you over, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out so you may be zealous for them.

¹⁸It is always good to be zealous for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you.

¹⁹My little children, again I am suffering the pains of childbirth for you until Christ is formed in you.²⁰I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you.

²¹Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law?²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave girl and one by the free woman.²³One was born by the slave girl according to the flesh, but the other was born by the free woman through promise.

²⁴These things may be interpreted as an allegory, for these women represent two covenants. One of them is from Mount Sinai and she bears children into slavery. This is Hagar.²⁵Now Hagar represents Mount Sinai in Arabia; and she represents the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.

²⁶But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.²⁷For it is written,

"Rejoice, you barren one who does not give birth;
cry out and shout for joy,
you who are not suffering the pains of childbirth;
because the children of the desolate woman are more numerous
than those of the woman who has a husband."

²⁸But you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.²⁹At that time the one who was born according to the flesh persecuted the one born according to the Spirit. It is the same now.

³⁰But what does the scripture say? "Send away the slave girl and her son. For the son of the slave girl will not share in the inheritance with the son of the free woman."³¹Therefore, brothers, we are not children of a slave girl, but of the free woman.

5 ¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not again be subject to a yoke of slavery.

²Look, I, Paul, say to you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will not benefit you in any way.

³I testify again to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.⁴You are cut off from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you no longer experience grace.

⁵For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.⁶In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has value, but only faith working through love.⁷You were running well. Who prevented you from obeying the truth?⁸This persuasion does not come from him who calls you!

⁹A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough.¹⁰I have confidence in the Lord that you will think nothing different. The one who is troubling you will suffer the judgment, whoever he is.

¹¹Brothers, if I still proclaim circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the stumbling block of the cross has been removed.¹²As for those who are disturbing you, I wish they would cut themselves off!

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. But do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, through love serve one another.¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You must love your neighbor as yourself."¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh. For these oppose each other, so that you cannot do the things you want.¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, rivalry, dissension, divisions,²¹envy, drunkenness, drunken celebrations, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith,²³gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law.²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become boastful, provoking one another, envying one another.

6 ¹Brothers, if someone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Be concerned about yourself, so you also may not be tempted. ²Carry one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴Each one should examine his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in someone else. ⁵For each one will carry his own burden.

⁶The one who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷Do not be deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man plants, that he will also reap. ⁸For he who plants seed to his own flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction. The one who plants seed to the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the household of faith.

¹¹See what large letters I write to you with my own hand. ¹²Those who want to make a good impression in the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. They do this only to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³For not even those who circumcised themselves keep the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh.

¹⁴But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but what counts is a new creation.

¹⁶To all who walk according to this standard, peace and mercy be upon them, even upon the Israel of God.

¹⁷From now on let no one trouble me, for I carry on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.