

Christ Set Us Free:  
A Study through the Book of Galatians  
The Curse of the Law, Galatians 3:10-14

Argument from the empowering Holy Spirit

Galatians 3:2-3 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Argument from the life of Abraham, chronological argument

Galatians 3:6 Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.

Galatians 3:7-9 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the nations will be blessed in you." So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

Abraham born, Genesis 11

Abraham born, Genesis 11  
Abraham called, Genesis 12

Abraham born, Genesis 11  
Abraham called, Genesis 12  
Abraham believed, Genesis 15

Abraham born, Genesis 11

Abraham called, Genesis 12  
Abraham believed, Genesis 15  
The rite of circumcision, Genesis 17

Abraham born, Genesis 11  
Abraham called, Genesis 12  
Abraham believed, Genesis 15  
The rite of circumcision, Genesis 17  
The birth of Isaac, Genesis 21

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Abraham believed, Genesis 15  
The rite of circumcision, Genesis 17  
The birth of Isaac, Genesis 21  
Offering of Isaac, Genesis 22

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Offering of Isaac, Genesis 22  
The Mosaic Law, Exodus 20

Peanut butter cookies and a glass of milk

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Arguments from the meaning of the cross

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them."

Galatians 3:22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Romans 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Galatians 3:11-12 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "The righteous man shall live by faith." However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "He who practices them shall live by them."

Galatians 3:13-14 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God...and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known."

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 "If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance."

Numbers 6:22-23 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

Numbers 6:24-26 The Lord bless you, and keep you; The Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.'

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“The LORD curse you, and abandon you; The LORD turn His face from you, and be merciless to you; The LORD frown on you, and give you war.”

Quote for John R. W. Stott

At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God’s throne. Most shrank back from the brilliant light before them. But some groups near the front talked heatedly – not with cringing shame, but with belligerence.

‘Can God judge us? How can he know about suffering?’ snapped a young brunette. She ripped open a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. ‘We endured terror...beatings...torture...death!’

In another crowd, a pregnant schoolgirl with sullen eyes. ‘Why should I suffer?’ she murmured, ‘It was not my choice. I was assaulted.’

Far out across the plain there were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering He permitted in His world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light, where there was no weeping or fear, no hunger or hatred. What did God know of all that humanity had been forced to endure in this world? For God leads a pretty sheltered life, they said.

So each of these groups sent forth their leader, chosen because he had suffered the most. A Jew, an African sold into slavery, a person from Hiroshima, a horribly deformed arthritic. In the center of the plain they consulted with each other. At last they were ready to present their case. It was rather clever.

Before God could be qualified to be their judge, He must endure what they had endured. Their decision was that God should be sentenced to live on earth – as a man!

‘Let Him be born a Jew. Let the legitimacy of His birth be doubted. Give Him a work so difficult that even His family will think Him out of His mind when He tries to do it. Let Him be betrayed by His closest friends. Let Him face false charges, be tried by a prejudiced jury and convicted by a cowardly judge. Let Him be tortured.

At the last, let Him see what it means to be terribly alone. Then let Him die. Let Him die so that there can be no doubt that He died. Let there be a great host of witnesses to verify His humiliation.’

As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the throng of people assembled.

And when the last had finished pronouncing sentence, there was a long silence. No one uttered another word. No one moved. For suddenly all knew that God had already served His sentence.  
John R. W. Stott

“Every time we look at the cross, Christ seems to say to us, ‘I am here because of you. It is your sin I am bearing, your curse I am suffering, your debt I am paying, your death I am dying.’  
Nothing in history or in the universe cuts us down to size like the cross.” John R.W. Stott

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