



2016: Week 18

Sunday, May 1st 2016

"Christ Became A Curse For Us"

Galatians 3:13–14

"¹³ 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' ¹⁴ 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."

When a person does something nice to you, it feels pretty good, doesn't it? It might be when a person presents you with a gift or goes out of their way to help you or says something nice that encourages you. Such gestures have ways of putting smiles on our faces and uplifting our hearts. What can possibly even be more powerful, however, is when a person bears one of our heavy burdens, so that we don't have to do bear it alone. Let's say that you have a chore, or a responsibility, or a consequence that is weighing upon you. It can be incredibly significant when another person comes into your situation and bears that particular burden with you. It's a whole lot easier going through a difficult time when you know that someone is there going through it with you. What's incredible about Jesus is that He didn't just come to bear a burden *with* you— Jesus came to bear a burden *for* you. Jesus didn't just say "you do your part, and I'll do mine." What He essentially says is as follows: "I've got this taken care of! I'm paying your debt, and I'm also offering you new life. Your curse is now my curse. Your burden— it's Mine. *Will your trust me to take care of it for you?"* Our study this week in Galatians 3 is a powerful reminder that God justifies us not on our own works, but rather by faith in Christ's work.

1. **READ Galatians 3:1–5**

- Why does Paul say that the Galatians are "foolish" and "bewitched"?
(*Hint: Remember the context of the entire book. Refer back to 2:16, 21 for help.*)
- What does it mean for a person to have "begun by the Spirit" (v.3)?
- Because believers have "begun by the **Spirit**", Paul reminds the Galatians that the means by which they will grow and mature as believers is also by the _____.
- How does a believer mature by the power and influence of the Holy Spirit?

2. **READ Galatians 3:6–9**

- What does it mean to be a "son (or daughter) of Abraham" (v.7)?
- How are "all the nations" blessed in Abraham (v.8)?

3. **READ Galatians 3:10–14**

- To whom does Paul categorize as "under a curse" (v.10)?
- How did Christ "become a curse for us" (v.13)?
- Are you still under a curse now? If you are no longer under a curse, then how do you think God wants you live?

FAMILY PRAYER: Praise God the Father for His wonderful plan of salvation. Thank Jesus for becoming a curse for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to help, influence, and lead you towards growth as a believer.