

Scripture Consulting Essentials

May 17, 2021

Galatians 3:1-4:31

A Working Translation from *A Journey through the Acts and Epistles*

Galatians 3:

¹ Oh senseless Galatians, for whom Jesus Christ was crucified and set forth by public notice for all to see, who has bewitched you?

² This alone I want to learn from you: Did you receive the spirit by works of the law or by hearing to the end of believing?

³ Are you so senseless? Having begun by means of the spirit, do you now finish by means of the flesh?

⁴ Have you experienced so much for no reason, if *it is*, in fact, for no reason?

⁵ He, therefore, who supplies the spirit to you and works miracles among you, *is it done* by works of the law or by hearing to the end of believing?

⁶ Even as Genesis 15:6: “**Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for justness,**”

⁷ so then know that those *who are* of believing are sons of Abraham.

⁸ The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by believing, proclaimed the gospel beforehand to Abraham: Genesis 22:18: “**All the nations will be blessed in you.**”

⁹ So then, they *who are* of believing are blessed with faithful [*believing*] Abraham.

¹⁰ Moreover, as many as are from works of the law are under a curse, for it has been written, Deuteronomy 27:26: “**Accursed is everyone who does not continue to do all things that have been written in the book of the law.**”

¹¹ Now *it is* evident that no one is justified by law before God, because Habakkuk 2:4: “**the just will live by believing.**”

¹² The law is not of believing, but Leviticus 18:5: “**he who does those things will live by them.**”

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse on our behalf (for it has been written, Deuteronomy 21:23: “**accursed is everyone who hangs on a wood post**”),

¹⁴ so that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, so that we might receive the promise [*what was promised*] regarding the spirit through the [*right way of*] believing.

¹⁵ Brothers, I speak according to the manner of mankind: In the same way that a human covenant has been ratified, *so* no one nullifies or adds to *it*.

¹⁶ Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. It does not say “and to seeds,” as many, but as one, “**and to your seed,**” who is Christ.

¹⁷ Now this I say *regarding* the covenant previously ratified by God: The law, which came 430 years later, does not invalidate *it [the covenant]* so as to make the promise [*to Abraham*] inactive.

¹⁸ As a matter of fact, if the inheritance *is* of the law, *then the inheritance is* no more of promise. However, God had freely given *the inheritance* to Abraham by promise.

¹⁹ So why the law? It was added for the sake of transgressions until the seed of whom He had made promise came, and He arranged *it* through messengers in the hand of a mediator.

²⁰ (Now a mediator is not *a mediator* of one [*party*], but God is one [*of the parties*].)

²¹ Therefore, is the law against the promises of God? May it not be! Certainly, if a law had been given that was able to give life, *then* the justness could have actually been by the law.

²² However, the Scripture enclosed all *things* under sin so that the promise [*what was promised*] by believing concerning Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³ Before the [*foundation for*] believing came, we were confined under the law, closed off from the [*foundation for*] believing that was to be revealed *later*.

²⁴ Wherefore, the law had become our tutor until [*the time of the accomplishments of*] Christ, so that we might be justified by believing.

²⁵ However, since the [*foundation for*] believing has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

²⁶ As a matter of fact, all of you are sons of God through the [*right way of*] believing in Christ Jesus.

²⁷ In fact, as many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

²⁸ There is in *you* neither Judean nor Greek. There is in *you* neither servant nor freeman. There is in *you* neither male nor female. In fact, you are all one in Christ Jesus.

²⁹ Since you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise [*what was promised*].

Galatians 4:

¹ Now I say, as long as the heir is an infant, he is no different than a servant even though he is lord of all.

² Instead, he is under stewards and administrators until the time appointed by the father.

³ So we also, when we were infants, were servants under the basic elementary principles of the world.

⁴ However, when the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son, who came from a woman, who came under the law,

⁵ so that he might redeem those *who were* under the law, so that we might receive the sonship [*making us sons*].

⁶ Because you are sons, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, shouting, “Abba,” *that is*, “Father.”

⁷ Wherefore, you are no longer a servant but a son, and if a son, *then* also an heir by means of God.***

⁸ However, at the time when you did not know God, you served those *things* which by nature are not gods,

⁹ but now after you have come to know God, and moreover have come to be known by God, how can you return again to the weak and poor elementary principles, which you want to serve all over again?

¹⁰ You observe days and months and seasons and years.

¹¹ I am afraid that I may have labored hard for you for no reason.

¹² I urgently ask you, brothers, become like me, for I also *have become* like you. You did me no injustice.

¹³ You know that I proclaimed the gospel to you formerly for the sake of the weakness of the flesh,

¹⁴ and you did not despise nor spit at the temptation in my flesh, but you received me as a messenger of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ So where *is* your happiness? As a matter of fact, I bear witness of you that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me.

¹⁶ Have I therefore become your enemy by speaking the truth to you?

¹⁷ They are zealous toward you, not in a good manner, but they want to exclude you [*from others*] so that you are zealous toward them.

¹⁸ *It is* good to be zealous in a good *thing* always and not just when I am present with you,

¹⁹ my children, for whom I am again travailing in birth until Christ be formed in you!

²⁰ I desire to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under law, do you not hear the law?

²² For example, it has been written that Abraham had two sons, one by the maid servant and one by the free *woman*.

²³ However, the *one* from the maid servant had been born according to flesh, but the *one* from the free by the promise.

²⁴ Those things are an allegory, for these *women* are two covenants. One *is* from Mount Sinai, giving birth to bondage, which is [*compared to*] Hagar [*the maid servant*].

²⁵ Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and it corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for it is in bondage with her children.

²⁶ However, the Jerusalem above is free, which is our mother.

²⁷ Moreover, it has been written: Isaiah 54:1: “**Rejoice, *oh* barren woman who is not bearing. Burst out and cry, you who are not travailing in birth, because the children of the desolate *will be* many more than *the children* of her who has a husband.**”

²⁸ Now we, brothers, are children of promise like Isaac.

²⁹ However, as he who was born according to flesh at that time persecuted him *who was born* according to spirit, so also *it is* now.

³⁰ Nevertheless, what does the Scripture say? Genesis 21:10: “**Expel the maid servant and her son, for the son of the maid servant will not be heir along with the son of the free.**”

³¹ Wherefore, brothers, we are not children of the maid servant, but of the free.