



The Curse of the Law

Galatians 3:10-14



What is the blessing of the Abraham Covenant?



The blessing of the Abrahamic covenant is the reality that a person can be declared permanently righteous in the eyes of God by faith in the promises of God.

Today, such faith must be placed the one and only eternal Son of God—the man Christ Jesus and the gospel.

The Eternal Gospel

The gospel is the good news that God is reconciling sinners to Himself eternally through the sacrificial and substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection of the man Christ Jesus through authentic faith in what Jesus, the one and only Son of God, accomplished on a tree 2000 years ago on a skull-shaped hill in the city of Jerusalem.



After describing the blessing of the Abrahamic covenant in great detail Paul transitions to the OPPOSITE of blessing.





¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, **“Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”** ¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather **“The one who does them shall live by them.”** ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— ¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.



Galatians 3:10

- For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written,

Rely



- **Depend upon**
- **Trust in**
- **Lean on**
- **Entrust**



**What are you
Who are you
Relying upon for
your standing before
God?**

Relying On



Option 1	Option 2
Christ	Yourself
Grace	Works
Gospel	Law



Acts 20:24

- But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, **to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.**

Abandon Your Hybrid!



**And lean on Christ alone
to the exclusion of
everything else.**

The hybrid of mixing good works with faith in Christ is manmade religion.



In this way, I have not excluded God, yet I maintain my dignity or worth by involving personal self-righteousness in the mix.



Galatians 3:10

- For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is

written, **“Cursed** be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

Cursed is the



- **opposite of blessed**
- **evil or misfortune that comes as if in response to imprecation or as retribution**

Merriam-Webster



Why is Paul quoting from Deuteronomy 27:26



Deuteronomy 27:26

- “ ‘Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.’
- And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’

Relying On



Option 1	Option 2
Christ	Yourself
Grace	Works
Gospel	Law
Blessed	Cursed



Galatians 3:10 (NET)

- “Cursed is everyone who does not keep on doing everything written in the book of the law.”



Who can do that?

Leviticus 19:18



Leviticus 19:18

- You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, **but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.**



But who is my neighbor?

Luke 10:25-29

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” ²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”





Who could say they
have never broken
the 10th
commandment?



Exodus 20:17

- “**You shall not covet** your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”



Galatians 3:10

- For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written,

“Cursed be everyone who

does not abide by all things written in the Law, and do them.”



How big a deal is cursed?

Let me show the first 3 uses of cursed in the Bible:



1. The serpent, who is the devil, is cursed.
2. The ground is cursed.
3. Cain the murderer is cursed.



Genesis 3:14

- The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.



Genesis 3:17

- And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ **cursed is the ground** because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;



Genesis 4:11

- And now **you [Cain] are cursed from the ground**, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.



Galatians 3:11

- Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for

“The righteous shall live by faith.”

A
PARTICULAR
GROUP OF
PEOPLE

When we read “**the righteous**”
we think of perfect people—holy
people.



1. So are they?

2. In what way are they?



Turn to Matt 25:41

Jesus used

“the righteous, blessed, &
cursed”

in this same passage.



Matthew 25:31-32

- “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.
- Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.



Matthew 25:33–34

- And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Compare Galatians to Matthew



Galatians 3:9

So then, those **who are of faith are blessed** along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Matthew 25:34

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you **who are blessed by my Father**, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.



Matthew 25:33–34

- **inherit** the kingdom
prepared for you from the
foundation of the world.



In the Matthew,

the righteous inherit

- **The earth (5:5)**
- **Eternal life (19:29)**
- **The kingdom (25:34)**

Compare to Galatians 3:18



Galatians 3:18

- For if **the inheritance** comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.



Matthew 25:35–36

- For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'



Matthew 25:37–38

- Then **the righteous** will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?’



The Righteous

“The righteous” are heirs of a righteousness that comes from God by faith.

Yet this alien righteousness can be seen in deeds that can only be described as righteous.



Matthew 25:40

- And the King will answer them,
'Truly, I say to you, as you did it
to one of the least of these my
brothers, you did it to me.'



Matthew 25:41

- “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, **you cursed**, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.



Matthew 25:42–43

- For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'



There is an inseparable linkage between being made (declared) righteous through faith in Christ and being righteous by living out your faith in obedience to Christ.

Thus Matthew 7:16 is true.



Matthew 7:16

- Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?



Matthew 25:44–45

- Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, **you did not do it to me.**’



Matthew 25:46

- And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Two Groups In Matthew 25

Sheep	Goats
Right	Left
Blessed by God	Cursed
Righteous	Unrighteous
Loved their neighbor	Did not love their neighbor
Inherit the kingdom	Will not inherit
Eternal Life	Eternal Punishment
Hear 'Come'	Told to 'Depart'

What would Paul add to this list?

The Two Groups In Matthew 25

Sheep	Goats
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Righteous	Unrighteous
Loved their neighbor	Did not love their neighbor
Inherit the kingdom	Will not inherit
Eternal Life	Eternal Punishment
Hear 'Come'	Told to 'Depart'
Lives by Faith	Relies on works of the Law

The ultimate blessing of the Abrahamic covenant is:



- **Eternal life in the new heaven and new earth**

The final cursing of the Abrahamic covenant is:

- **Eternal punishment in a lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels**



Galatians 3:11

- Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for **“The righteous shall live by faith.”**

**Why is Paul quoting
from the OT?**



Habakkuk 2:4

- “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,
- **but the righteous shall live by his faith.**



Galatians 3:12

- But the law is not of faith,
rather “The one who does
them shall live by them.”



Galatians 3:13

- Christ redeemed us from
the curse of the law
by becoming a curse for us

Redeem Defined



1 a: to buy back: repurchase

b: to get or win back

2: to free from what distresses or harms: as

a: to free from captivity by payment of ransom

b: to extricate from or help to overcome something detrimental

Merriam-Webster



Galatians 3:13

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Galatians 3:14

- so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.