

### (3) Galatians: Freedom from Religion

Galatians: 3:1-22

📖 John 3:16 (NIV) “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

📖 John 1:12 (NIV) “...all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—”

#### Freedom comes when we look at the **SON**.

📖 Galatians 3:1 (NIV) “You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.”

1. The cross clearly portrays that **full payment was made.** 📖
2. The cross clearly portrays that **God’s love is settled.**

📖 Hebrews 12:2–3 (NIV) “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

#### Freedom comes when we look at the **SPIRIT**.

📖 Galatians 3:2–5 (NIV) “I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? <sup>4</sup> Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing? <sup>5</sup> Does God give you His Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?”

1. Has the Holy Spirit **come to live inside of you?**
2. Has the Holy Spirit **comforted you in your suffering?**
3. Has the Holy Spirit **caused the miraculous to happen?**

📖 Romans 8:16 (NIV) “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

#### Freedom comes when we look at the **SCRIPTURES**.


📖 Galatians 3:6–10 (NIV) “Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” <sup>7</sup> Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> The scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” <sup>9</sup> So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. <sup>10</sup> All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”


1. The Scriptures say that **righteousness is credited.**
2. The Scriptures say that **the Law is cursed.**

📖 John 8:56 (NIV) “Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”

📖 Galatians 3:11–14 (NIV) “Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” <sup>12</sup> The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.” <sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” <sup>14</sup> He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to

*Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”*

 *Galatians 3:15–18 (NLT) “Dear brothers and sisters, here’s an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case. <sup>16</sup> God gave the promises to Abraham and his child. And notice that the Scripture doesn’t say “to his children,” as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says “to his child”—and that, of course, means Christ. <sup>17</sup> This is what I am trying to say: The agreement God made with Abraham could not be canceled 430 years later when God gave the law to Moses. God would be breaking His promise. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God’s promise. But God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise.”*

 *Galatians 3:19–22 (NLT) “Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave His law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people. <sup>20</sup> Now a mediator is helpful if more than one party must reach an agreement. But God, who is one, did not use a mediator when He gave His promise to Abraham. <sup>21</sup> Is there a conflict, then, between God’s law and God’s promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. <sup>22</sup> But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God’s promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.”*

You’ve likely encountered the expression: **“Christianity is a relationship, not a religion.”** What is the difference between the two? Is it an important distinction? We learned today that religion can get in the way of a relationship with God. What is getting in the way of you seeing God? Who is blocking your view of Jesus? What does the cross say about your worth? What is the Holy Spirit revealing? Do you need to lose your religion and start believing the Bible?

