

“Jesus Became a Curse for Us!”

Galatians 3:10-14

The curse of the law and its answer in Jesus

1. Those who are under a Curse

- (1) **All who rely on the works of the law!** *“For all who rely on the 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.’”*
- **All who are “of the works of the law”**
= all who seek their justification in this way

(2) Why under a curse?

-1- Because such an endeavor sets one on an impossible course, doomed to failure!

- **Deut. 27:26** Righteousness cannot be achieved by way of law-keeping!
 - The law demanded perfection! Those who fail to keep all of its demands are under a curse!
 - It was never intended to be a means whereby one could make himself right with God!

-2- Because faith, is the “keystone” principle of the life of the righteous!

- **Habakkuk 2:4** *“Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’*
- **Thus it was with Abraham!** vv. 6-9

-3- Because these two ways of seeking to be right with God are entirely contrary to each other.

- **They cannot be mingled!** *“But the law is not of faith, rather, ‘The one who does them shall live by them.’”*
 - The law is not of faith!
 - The law does not speak of faith, but of *doing*.

(3) “Under a curse” in what sense?

- Objectively – The curse of judgment! Because every demand of the law must be satisfied!

- All men outside of Christ – the “religious,” and the irreligious – are bound to keep the covenant of works, whether they realize it or not!
- All men outside of Christ will be judged strictly and exhaustively by their works!

- Subjectively – Consigned to a life of psychological agony, guilt, and self-deception!

Attempting to be saved by works sets one on a path of anxiety and insecurity.
One can never have a sense of being accepted of God; only a sense of guilt

2. Jesus: The One who alone could remove the Curse!

- (1) **Christ redeemed us from the curse!** *“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’”*
- **In view here:**
 - The ransom of those appointed to die.
 - At issue: the satisfaction of violated justice.

(2) Christ became a curse for us!

- **Substitution!** Christ became a curse for us.
He became “a cursed one in our place” cf. 2 Cor. 5:21

- “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.” Deut. 21:23

In Israel, the shame inflicted upon a condemned and executed criminal:
His dead body was hung upon a wall or a tree as an emblem of shame.
Such a person was then called “God’s accursed.”

- We deserved the shame; Jesus took that shame upon Himself!

(3) Because of Christ Jesus, we receive Blessings instead of curse!

- **The blessing promised to Abraham is realized in Christ** *“so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.”*

- The fullness of salvation blessings are provided in the Person of the Spirit cf. Rom. 8:9ff

- Received through faith!

- So the Galatians, when they heard Christ preached and believed! (vv. 1-3)
- Entirely apart from any works or merit!

Further Application: