

## Message #12

## Galatians 3:25-29

What did Paul mean in II Corinthians 5:17 when he said, “If anyone is in Christ Jesus he is a new creation”? Does that mean if you invite Jesus Christ into your life today, tomorrow morning when you get up and look into the mirror, your face and your physique will have totally changed? Does that mean if you invite Jesus Christ into your life one day, you will instantly become another person the next day? You won’t recognize your own name. You won’t recognize your friends and family. You won’t remember where you live. Does it mean that you will no longer have to pay your bills? Does it mean if you go out in public no one will recognize you? What does it mean that you will become a new creation the moment you believe in Jesus Christ? **What it means is that everything in your relationship with God instantly changes from God’s perspective.** Once you place all of your faith in Jesus Christ to save you, you enter into a brand new relationship with God and your status instantly and completely changes in the mind of God. Everything in your relationship with God is brand new.

That is precisely the point Paul wants to develop in this text. What Paul says in these verses is this:

**REGARDLESS OF WHO THE PERSON IS, OR REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE PERSON HAS DONE, ANY PERSON WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS CHRIST HAS A BRAND NEW STATUS IN THE MIND OF GOD THAT FOREVER CHANGES THE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

Now we want to carefully point out the key to this status change, which is described by three prepositional phrases: “faith **in Christ Jesus**” (v. 26); “baptized **into Christ**” (v. 27); “all one **in Christ**” (v. 28). **This is the dominant point of these verses.**

Now how does one get into Jesus Christ? How do you get baptized into Christ? The way one gets into Christ is by believing on Jesus Christ and by inviting Christ into your life to be your Savior. You do not get into Christ by trying to keep the O.T. Law. The moment you invite Jesus Christ into your life to be your Savior, you are calculated by God as being in Him.

Once you come to the point where you truly believe that only Jesus Christ can save you from your sins and once you ask Him to do that, you will be forever and instantly changed in the mind of God; and your status, by God’s estimation, will never be the same again.

Jews were brought up by the O.T. Law. That Law regulated their lives. As we saw last time, the ultimate goal of that law was to point to their need of Jesus Christ. It was to show them that they needed Christ to come to save them. Those Jews should have seen those types and symbols in the Law that pictured Christ’s saving and sacrificial work. In fact, in Luke 24:27 we learn that Jesus went to the Law of Moses and the prophets and showed how those things pointed to Him. But the Jews missed the primary purpose of the Law. They thought and still think that they may be saved by keeping the O.T. Law. But that does not save or change anything.

But when a person believes on Jesus Christ, that status is forever changed. There are five status changes that are described in these verses for one who believes on Jesus Christ.

**STATUS CHANGE #1** – One who believes on Jesus Christ is no longer under the Law. **3:25**

**Do not miss what is said here; until a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ that person is under the Law.** Every time a person violates any of the O.T. commandments, there is a record kept in heaven by God and that file is storing up wrath (Romans 2:5). **That O.T. Law will condemn you, but it will not ever justify you or save you. But once one comes to faith in Jesus Christ, one is set free from the Law and is no longer under it.** The only way to get out from under that law is to believe in Jesus Christ.

Do you grasp what is said in **verse 25**? No person who has believed on Jesus Christ is under the Law any longer. No believer in Jesus Christ is to live life under the supervision of the O.T. Law because we are no longer under the Law supervision.

From 1939 to 1945, Adolph Hitler went on a brutal rampage to kill innocent Jews. In six years he killed six million Jews. Finally in 1945, Hitler and his regime were destroyed and the Jews were finally free. Now can you imagine some Jew who had been set free saying I would rather go back under the tyranny of Hitler? Can you imagine some Jew saying I want to go back under the death sentence instead of being free? You would respond and say you are out of your mind.

That is precisely the issue that is at stake with people who want to go back under the O.T. Law. They are out of their minds. To go back under the O.T. Law is to go back under a death sentence. The Law does not make you alive to God and kills you. The Law is tyrannical and Jesus Christ can set you free from it.

Now the Galatians were being swayed by a bunch of religious con artists who were telling the church that they needed to believe in Jesus Christ and keep the O.T. Law. **Paul says the moment you believe in Jesus Christ you are no longer obligated to the Law and you are no longer under that O.T. Law.**

Martin Luther said you can always tell those who live under the Law. They have no liberty. They have no joy. They have no vibrancy. There is deadness to them. But as Luther also said, “if you look unto Jesus Christ, there is now no law.” There is freedom.

That law was a “tutor” or as some translations put it a “school master.” The actual Greek word is paidagogos, which literally referred to a guardian or guide or trainer of children (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 333).

In the Roman world, a trusted slave was like a nanny. It was his job to get the child up and see that he was fed and then lead him by the hand to school. The paidagogos led the child to the teacher and turned that child over to the teacher. Once the guardian turned the child over to the teacher, his job was done.

That was the purpose of the Law. It was a paidagogos whose purpose was to take every sinner by the hand and heart and bring him to Christ. The purpose of the Law was to lead the sinner to Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Law was never to save sinners.

One theologian said, "You cannot come to Christ to be justified until you have first been to Moses to be condemned. But once you have gone to Moses and acknowledged your sin, guilt and condemnation you must not stay there, but must let Moses send you to Christ."

The Law's job was to take you to the Savior so you could be set free. Can you imagine some slave who had been set free saying I want to keep living like a slave? Are you kidding me? Once you have been set free, you are free. Christ has set you free from the Law so stop living like some slave to it.

**STATUS CHANGE #2** – Once you believe on Jesus Christ, you are forever a son of God.  
**3:26**

Now the Greek word used here for sons is one that speaks of being a full legitimate son of God, with all of the son-ship benefits of being in the family.

Now carefully observe what Paul does not say. He does not say that you are sons of God by circumcision. He does not say that you are sons of God by works. He does not say that you are sons of God by keeping the Law. He does not say that you are sons of God by religious traditions or by following denominational recommendations. **You are sons of God by faith in Jesus Christ.**

The O.T. Law and its commandments will not ever make you a son or child of God. You cannot get into God's family by keeping the O.T. Law.

Now this is very important doctrine. God is not your Heavenly Father unless you have personally placed all of your faith in Jesus Christ to save you from your sins. You cannot be a legitimate child of God until you come to faith in Jesus Christ. The Apostle John said it this way: "But as many as received Him (Jesus Christ) to them He (God the Father) gave the right to become children of God, even to them who believe in His name" (John 1:12).

Now people can talk about God being the Heavenly Father, but until one comes to faith in Jesus Christ, the God/man Savior, one does not have a true son-ship status. To be a Son of God, one must be as righteous as God and since the O.T. Law shows that we are not righteous we need someone to give us a righteousness we don't have, and that someone is Jesus Christ.

The truth is of the 7 billion people who actually live in this world the percentage is very small, who are actually true sons of God by faith in Jesus Christ. All 7 billion people are condemned by that O.T. Law; but only those who believe in Jesus Christ are truly God's sons.

One becomes a true son of God by believing in Jesus Christ. No one is a son of God by believing in the O.T. Law or by believing in self or by believing in religion or works. One is a son of God by believing totally, only and completely in Jesus Christ.

**STATUS CHANGE #3** – Once you believe in Jesus Christ, you are clothed with Christ. **3:27**

All humans have a spiritual clothing problem in that God sees us clothed with filthy garments because of our sin. In fact, Isaiah said, “For all of us have become like one who is unclean and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away” (Is. 64:6). God sees us all as dirty, filthy sinners who have violated His righteous law.

Now what is so sad about **verse 27** is that most have no clue as to what this verse even means. This text is not a reference at all to water baptism. Harry Bultema said this text is “a billion miles away from a drop of water.”

This text is about a baptism that in the mind of God actually clothes us with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. **The only baptism that can do that is Spirit baptism.** The baptism being described here is Spirit baptism.

This baptism is described by Paul, in I Corinthians 12:13, “For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body.”

Now the verb “baptized” in **Galatians 3:27** is an aorist passive verb. What that means is that there is a specific moment or point of time when one becomes the recipient of the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. That moment is the moment one believes on Jesus Christ. This is the same baptism Paul develops in Romans 6:1-5; Colossians 2:11-14; Titus 3:5.

One of the things that the Holy Spirit does the moment you believe on Jesus Christ is that He baptizes you into Jesus Christ with a real baptism, not a ritual baptism, that actually puts you into the family of God and so identifies you with Jesus Christ that you are linked to Christ’s death, burial and resurrection; and from that moment you are forever clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ and God sees you that way from that moment.

Now listen carefully to this. You can follow the teachings of Confucius, Buddha, Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Plato, or some guru from the East; but following teachings of anyone will not ever clothe you with Jesus Christ. There is only one way to be clothed with Jesus Christ and that is for the Holy Spirit to do a positional work of cleansing and clothing for you and that will only occur when you believe on Jesus Christ.

This is what the real baptism of the Holy Spirit actually is. The passive verb means you have nothing to do with this action at all. This action is passively given to you the moment you believe.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not about jumping up and down in aisles or begging or pleading or crying. It is not about babbling or laughing. It is about positionally being linked to Jesus Christ. That link occurs the moment you believe on Jesus Christ.

**STATUS CHANGE #4** – Once you believe on Jesus Christ, you have a new family status.  
**3:28**

**All of us have an equality of sinfulness; but when we believe on Jesus Christ we also have an equality of righteousness.** Any person, any sinner may have an equal status in Christ. Regardless of a person's sin, color, gender, race, handicap, past, religion, occupation or denominations, any who believe on Jesus Christ are new in the family of God.

Faith in Jesus Christ brings about a new non discriminator status that no social group can ever give. This status comes the moment you believe on Jesus Christ.

From that moment on whether Jew or Gentile, whether rich or poor, whether male or female, whether a slave or free, you have all of the privileges of son-ship when you believe. All the wealth of a child of God belongs to you the moment you believe.

In Numbers 21:7-9, there is a story that Jesus used in John 3 in reference to this. All you had to do to be completely saved was look one time at the standard. Jesus said all you must do is look one time to the cross and no matter how much you have been snake-bitten by sin, you will be saved.

**STATUS CHANGE #5** – Once you believe on Jesus Christ, you are connected to Abraham.  
**3:29**

Once we believe on Jesus Christ, we are justified just like Abraham was justified.

Abraham “believed” and it was counted or credited or imputed to him as righteousness. Abraham was not justified by keeping the Law and neither are we. The moment we believe in Jesus Christ, we are forever in the family of God and we are forever linked to Abraham.

I heard the testimony of an immigrant who came to the United States from another country, which was being dominated by a ruthless dictator. He came to the United States and pursued citizenship and finally the day came when he was declared to be a citizen of the United States. He said it was the greatest moment of his life. He was finally free.

How insane it would be for this new citizen to say I think I will go back under the ruthless dictator. I think I will go back and live my life under a ruthless regime that kills people.

That is exactly what many people are doing today theologically. They are putting themselves back under the ruthless, condemnatory law that is killing them. When you believe on Jesus Christ, you are forever free. You are free from the Law. You are free from condemnation.

You are a citizen of heaven. Do not ever put yourself back under the O.T. Law because it will kill your spiritual life.