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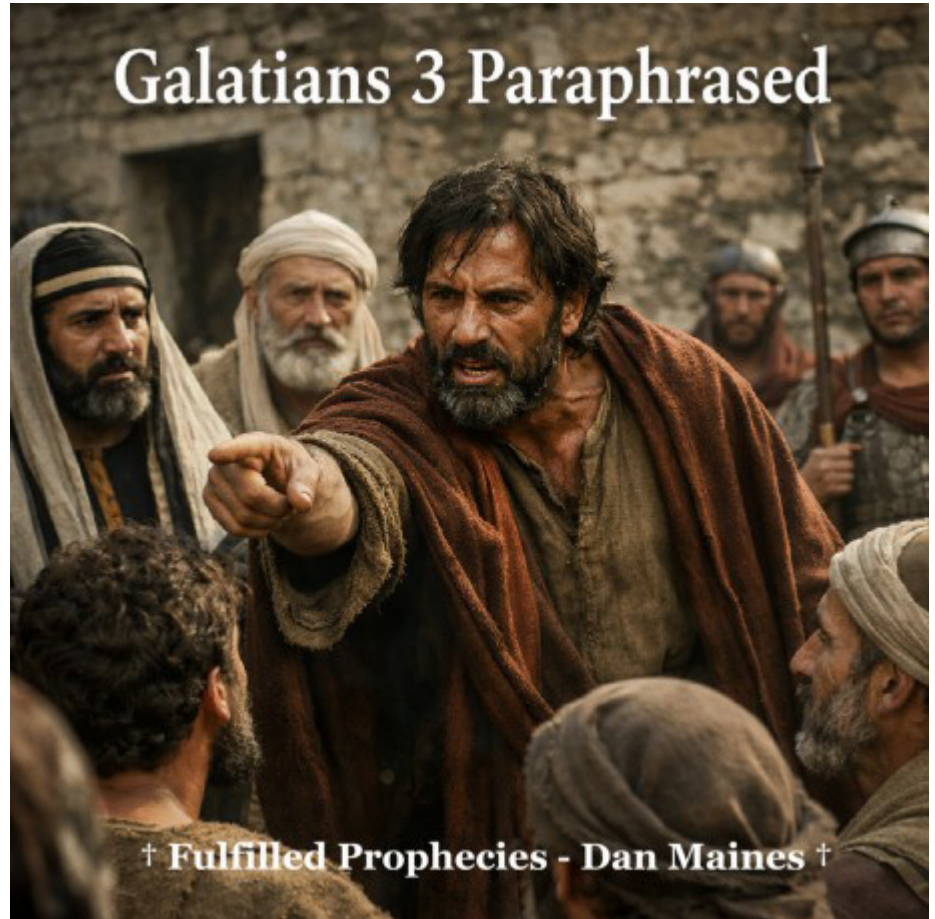
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Galatians 3 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Galatians 3 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Galatians 3 shows Paul correcting believers who were being pressured to return to the Law of Moses as the source of righteousness.

† He reminds them that the Spirit and salvation came through faith in Christ, not through keeping the Law.

† The chapter proves that God's promise to Abraham always pointed forward to Christ and the inclusion of the nations.

Galatians 3:1

You foolish Galatians, who has deceived you? Jesus Christ was clearly presented to you as crucified, yet now you're acting as if you forgot it.

† Paul confronts their spiritual confusion because they were abandoning the simple truth of Christ's finished work (Romans 3:28).

† The gospel they heard centered on the cross, not on returning to the Law of Moses (Hebrews 10:10).

† Irenaeus wrote that the early church recognized Christ's sacrifice as the end of the old sacrificial system.

Galatians 3:2

Let me ask you one thing. Did you receive the Spirit by obeying the Law, or by believing the message you heard?

† The Spirit was given when they believed the gospel, not when they followed Mosaic rituals (Acts 10:44).

† This shows that faith was always the entrance into God's covenant blessings (Ephesians 1:13).

† Clement of Alexandria taught that the Spirit comes through faith in Christ rather than legal observance.

Galatians 3:3

Are you really this foolish? After beginning your life in the Spirit, do you now think you'll finish it by human effort?

† Paul exposes the contradiction of starting with faith but trying to complete salvation through works.

† The new covenant is based on the Spirit, not on written legal codes (2 Corinthians 3:6).

† Eusebius recorded that early Christians understood the difference between life under the Spirit and life under the Law.

Galatians 3:4

Have you experienced so many things for nothing? Surely it wasn't all wasted.

† The Galatians had already suffered for their faith in Christ rather than submitting to Jewish legalism (Acts 14:22).

† If they returned to the Law, their earlier suffering for the gospel would lose its meaning.

† Tertullian noted that early believers often endured persecution for rejecting the Jewish system.

Galatians 3:5

So when God supplies the Spirit to you and performs miracles among you, does He do it because you obey the Law or because you believe the message?

† The miracles among them confirmed the gospel of faith (Mark 16:20).

† These works weren't tied to legal obedience but to the preaching of Christ.

† Early Christian writers testified that miracles followed the proclamation of the gospel.

Galatians 3:6

Just as Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness.

† Abraham was declared righteous by faith long before the Law was given (Genesis 15:6).

† This proves justification never depended on Mosaic law.

† Irenaeus said Abraham's faith foreshadowed the faith believers place in Christ.

Galatians 3:7

Understand this, those who live by faith are the true children of Abraham.

† The real descendants of Abraham are defined by faith, not bloodline (Romans 4:16).

† God's covenant promise always extended beyond ethnic Israel.

† Clement of Alexandria taught that believers from every nation become Abraham's family through faith.

Galatians 3:8

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the nations by faith and announced the gospel beforehand to Abraham saying all nations will be blessed through you.

† The promise to Abraham always included the nations (Genesis 12:3).

† The gospel wasn't a new idea, it was the fulfillment of that ancient promise.

† Eusebius described the spread of Christianity among the nations as the realization of Abraham's promise.

Galatians 3:9

So those who believe are blessed together with Abraham who believed God.

† Abraham's blessing is shared by everyone who has faith.

† The blessing refers to righteousness and covenant acceptance before God (Romans 4:9).

† Early Christian writers consistently interpreted this blessing as fulfilled through Christ.

Galatians 3:10

Everyone who depends on the works of the Law is under a curse because Scripture says anyone who doesn't continue in everything written in the Law is cursed.

† The Law demanded perfect obedience, which no person could maintain (Deuteronomy 27:26).

† Instead of producing righteousness, the Law exposed sin (Romans 3:20).

† Tertullian explained that the Law revealed human weakness and the need for Christ.

Galatians 3:11

It's clear that no one is justified before God by the Law because the righteous will live by faith.

† Paul quotes the prophet Habakkuk to show faith has always been God's method of justification (Habakkuk 2:4).

† The principle of faith existed long before the Mosaic covenant.

† Irenaeus taught that the prophets themselves pointed forward to justification through faith.

Galatians 3:12

The Law isn't based on faith. Instead it says the one who does these things will live by them.

† The Law operated on performance and obedience (Leviticus 18:5).

† Anyone who failed in one part became guilty under the entire system.

† Clement of Alexandria wrote that the Law disciplined Israel but couldn't give eternal life.

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us because Scripture says anyone who hangs on a tree is cursed.

† Jesus took upon Himself the penalty that the Law pronounced (Deuteronomy 21:23).

† His crucifixion removed the curse hanging over humanity.

† Early Christian teachers consistently proclaimed the cross as the place where the curse was broken.

Galatians 3:14

He did this so the blessing given to Abraham might come to the nations through Christ Jesus and so we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

† The blessing promised to Abraham now flows to all nations through Christ.

† The gift of the Spirit proves the promise has been fulfilled (Acts 2:38).

† Eusebius wrote that the worldwide spread of the gospel showed this promise unfolding.

Galatians 3:15

Brothers and sisters let me use an everyday example. Even a human covenant once confirmed can't be canceled or changed.

† Paul uses legal language to show the reliability of God's promises.

† Once a covenant is ratified it isn't casually altered.

† Early Christian teachers pointed to God's covenant faithfulness as proof of the gospel's certainty.

Galatians 3:16

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his offspring. Scripture doesn't say offspring meaning many but offspring meaning one and that one is Christ.

† Paul shows that the ultimate fulfillment of the promise was Christ Himself.

† Jesus is the true heir of the Abrahamic covenant.

† Irenaeus wrote that Christ is the promised seed through whom the nations are blessed.

Galatians 3:17

The Law which came four hundred and thirty years later doesn't cancel the covenant God had already established.

† The Law came long after the promise to Abraham.

† Because of that it couldn't replace the promise.

† Eusebius explained that the Law was a later stage in God's unfolding plan.

Galatians 3:18

If the inheritance comes through the Law then it no longer comes through promise, but God gave it to Abraham through a

promise.

† Salvation comes from God's promise, not human performance.

† Faith receives what the Law could never produce.

† Early Christian teachers emphasized that grace fulfills the promise given to Abraham.

Galatians 3:19

Why then was the Law given? It was added because of transgressions until the promised offspring came.

† The Law revealed sin and restrained it within Israel.

† It functioned temporarily until Christ appeared.

† Clement of Alexandria called the Law a tutor preparing people for the Messiah.

Galatians 3:20

A mediator isn't needed when only one party is involved but God is one.

† The promise came directly from God while the Law involved mediation through Moses.

† This highlights the superiority of the promise.

† Early commentators viewed this verse as emphasizing God's direct covenant promise.

Galatians 3:21

Is the Law against God's promises? Absolutely not. If a law could give life then righteousness would come through the Law.

† The Law wasn't evil, it simply couldn't give life.

† Only Christ provides righteousness and life.

† Irenaeus said the Law revealed sin while Christ revealed salvation.

Galatians 3:22

Scripture locked everything under sin so the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

† Humanity's universal sin shows our need for the gospel.

† Faith in Christ opens the way to freedom.

† Early Christian writers explained that the gospel resolves the universal problem of sin.

Galatians 3:23

Before faith came we were kept under the Law, guarded until the coming faith would be revealed.

† Israel lived under the supervision of the Law before Christ arrived.

† The Law acted as a guardian protecting the people until fulfillment came.

† Clement of Alexandria described the Law as preparation for the gospel age.

Galatians 3:24

So the Law became our tutor leading us to Christ so that we might be justified by faith.

† The Law pointed forward to Christ.

† Once Christ came its teaching role was fulfilled.

† Early Christian writers repeatedly used the tutor analogy to describe the Law's temporary purpose.

Galatians 3:25

Now that faith has come we are no longer under a tutor.

† Christ's coming marked the transition from the Law to the new covenant.

† Believers now live under grace and faith.

† Eusebius noted that the gospel replaced the former covenant system.

Galatians 3:26

You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

† Faith defines membership in God's family.

† The covenant people of God are united through Christ.

† Early Christian writers celebrated the unity created by faith.

Galatians 3:27

All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

† Baptism symbolizes identification with Christ.

† Believers are covered in His righteousness.

† Early church writers often described baptism as putting on Christ.

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female because you are all one in Christ Jesus.

† The gospel removes covenant divisions.

† Every believer stands equally before God.

† Irenaeus wrote that Christ united people from every nation into one body.

Galatians 3:29

If you belong to Christ then you are Abraham's offspring and heirs according to the promise.

† Believers inherit the promise made to Abraham.

† That inheritance comes through Christ alone.

† Early Christian writers affirmed that the church represents the fulfillment of that promise.

Historical References

† Irenaeus wrote that Abraham's faith pointed forward to justification through Christ.

† Clement of Alexandria explained that the Law functioned as a tutor preparing people for the Messiah.

† Eusebius described how the gospel spread among the nations as fulfillment of the promise to Abraham.

† Tertullian wrote that Christ's crucifixion removed the curse imposed by the Law.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We must never replace faith in Christ with religious performance.

† The gospel still declares that righteousness comes through faith, not through human effort.

† Understanding this protects believers from returning to systems Christ already fulfilled.

† The unity described in this chapter reminds us that God's people are defined by faith rather than ethnicity or tradition.

Q & A Appendix

Q What is the main message of Galatians 3?

A Paul teaches that righteousness comes through faith in Christ and not through the works of the Law (Romans 3:28).

Q Why does Paul use Abraham as an example?

A Because Abraham was counted righteous by faith long before the Law existed (Genesis 15:6).

Q What was the purpose of the Law?

A It exposed sin and acted as a temporary tutor leading people to Christ (Romans 3:20).

Q What did Christ accomplish on the cross according to this chapter?

A He redeemed people from the curse of the Law (Deuteronomy 21:23).

Q Who are the true children of Abraham?

A Those who belong to Christ through faith (Romans 4:16).

† **This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies** †

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† Galatians 3

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Tertullian, Against Marcion

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