

Message Notes

The Law is a Curse?

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – *Good News and Bad News*

This week's Message:

The Law is a Curse?

*Could the Abrahamic Promises
come through the Law?*

Galatians 3:10-14

1. BAD NEWS – part I

If you rely on law, you're under a curse

Galatians 3:10

Deuteronomy 27:12

Galatians 5:2-3

James 2:10

2. BAD NEWS – part II

In fact, the Law itself testifies that it is by faith

Galatians 3:11

Romans 1:16-17

3. BAD NEWS – part III

Perhaps law and faith can mix? NOT!!

Galatians 3:12

Leviticus 18:4-5

2 Corinthians 5:21

4. GOOD NEWS – part I

Sweet Redemption! Jesus becomes a curse...for us!

Galatians 3:13

2 Corinthians 5:21

5. GOOD NEWS – part II

*Jesus provides the way for the Abrahamic Promise
to come to us*

Galatians 3:14

Gospel Application – *Crocheting or Weaving
the Gospel into your life?*

Galatians 3:10-14

¹⁰All 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." ¹¹Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." ¹²The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." ¹³Christ 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." ¹⁴He 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.

Deuteronomy 27:12

¹²When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin. ¹³And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali.

Galatians 5:2-3

²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Leviticus 18:4-5

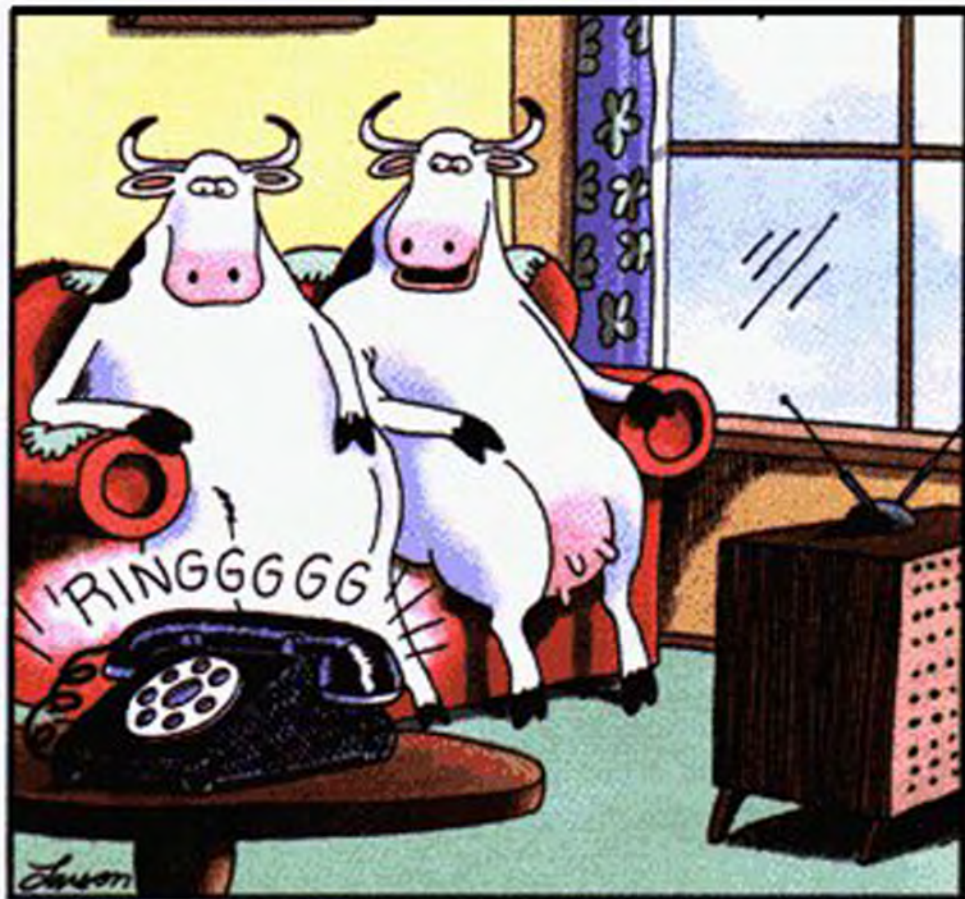
⁴You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the LORD your God. ⁵Keep my decrees and laws, for the man who obeys them will live by them. I am the LORD.

Deuteronomy 21:23

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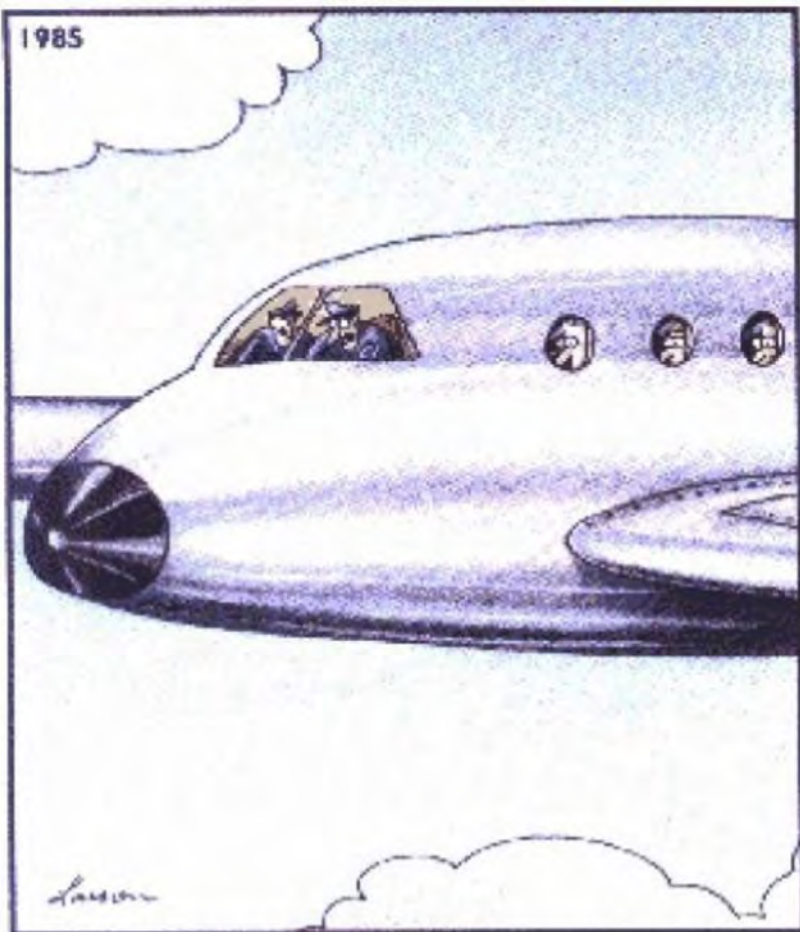
2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

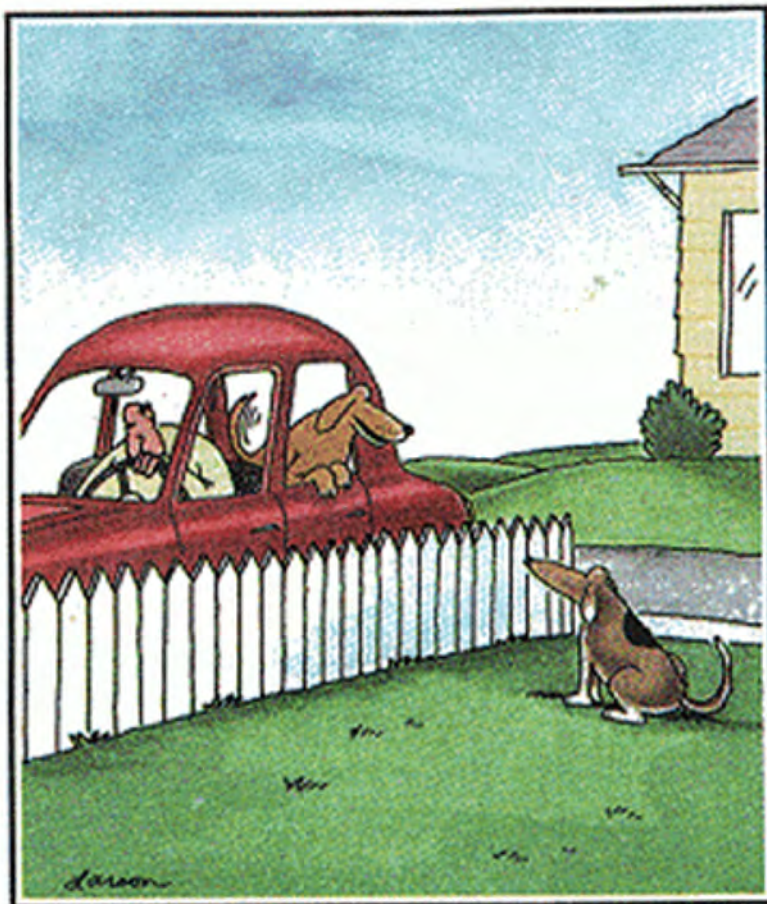


“Well, there it goes again. ... And here we sit without opposable thumbs.”

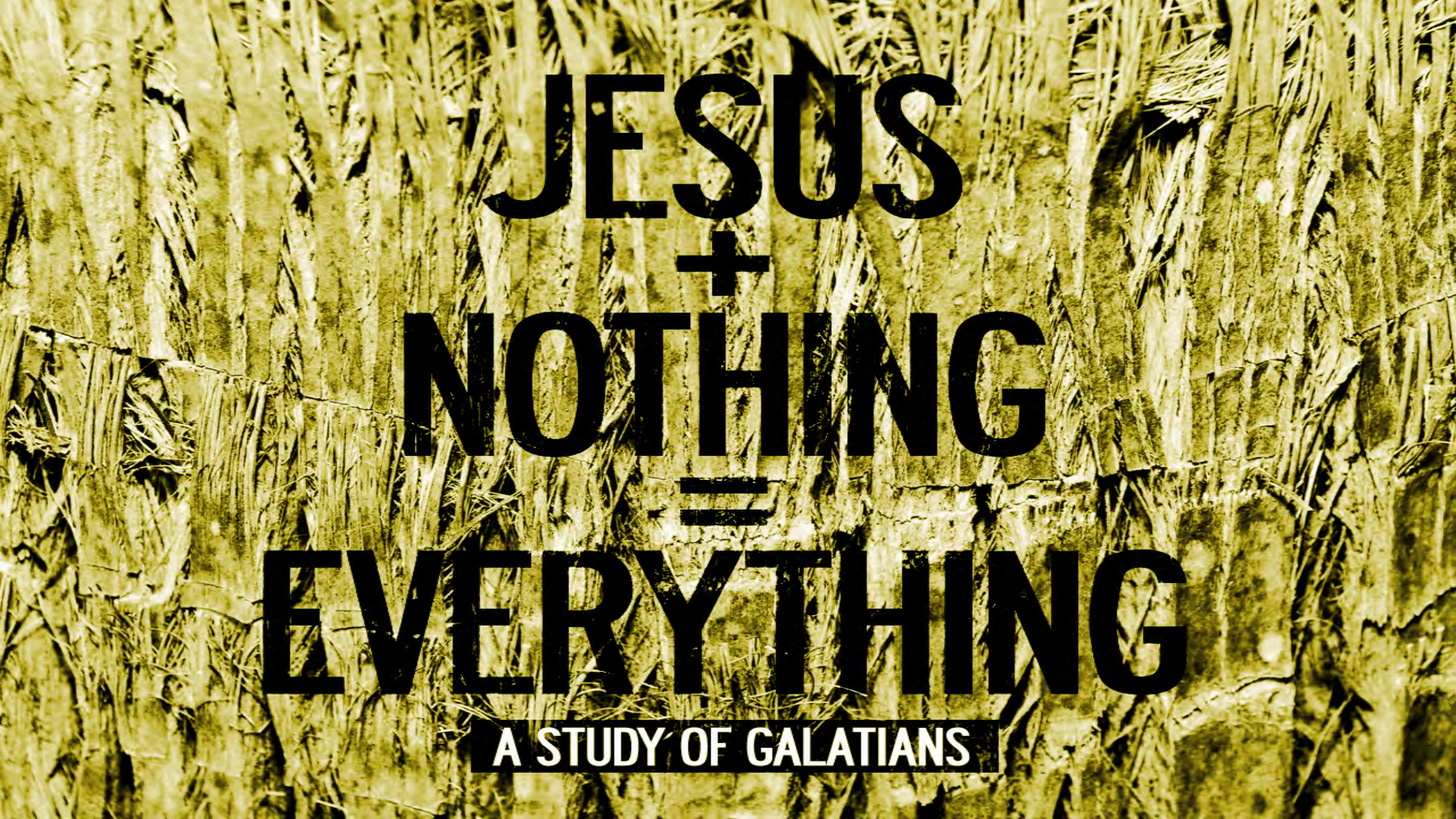
1985



"The fuel light's on, Frank! We're all going to die!
... We're all going to die! ... Wait, wait. ... Oh,
my mistake—that's the intercom light."



"Ha ha ha, Biff. Guess what? After we go to the drugstore and the post office, I'm going to the vet's to get tutored."



**JESUS
+
NOTHING
=
EVERYTHING**

A STUDY OF GALATIANS

How does the grace of God work?

Galatians 2:20

²⁰I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Filing Status:
Single

ME-----LAW-----GOD

Filing Status:
Married

ME & JESUS-----LAW-----GOD

Filing Status:
Married

ME & JESUS-----LAW-----GOD

Galatians 4:4-5

⁴But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Filing Status:
Married

ME & JESUS-----GRACE-----GOD

Filing Status:
Married

ME & JESUS-----GRACE-----GOD

Romans 6:1-4

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¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

2 weeks ago

“I call as my next witness: Abraham”



Galatians 3:6-9

⁶Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁷Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. ⁸The 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.” ⁹So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

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"The Law is a curse?"

*Could the Promises of Abraham
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Bad News

Good News

Bad News – Part I

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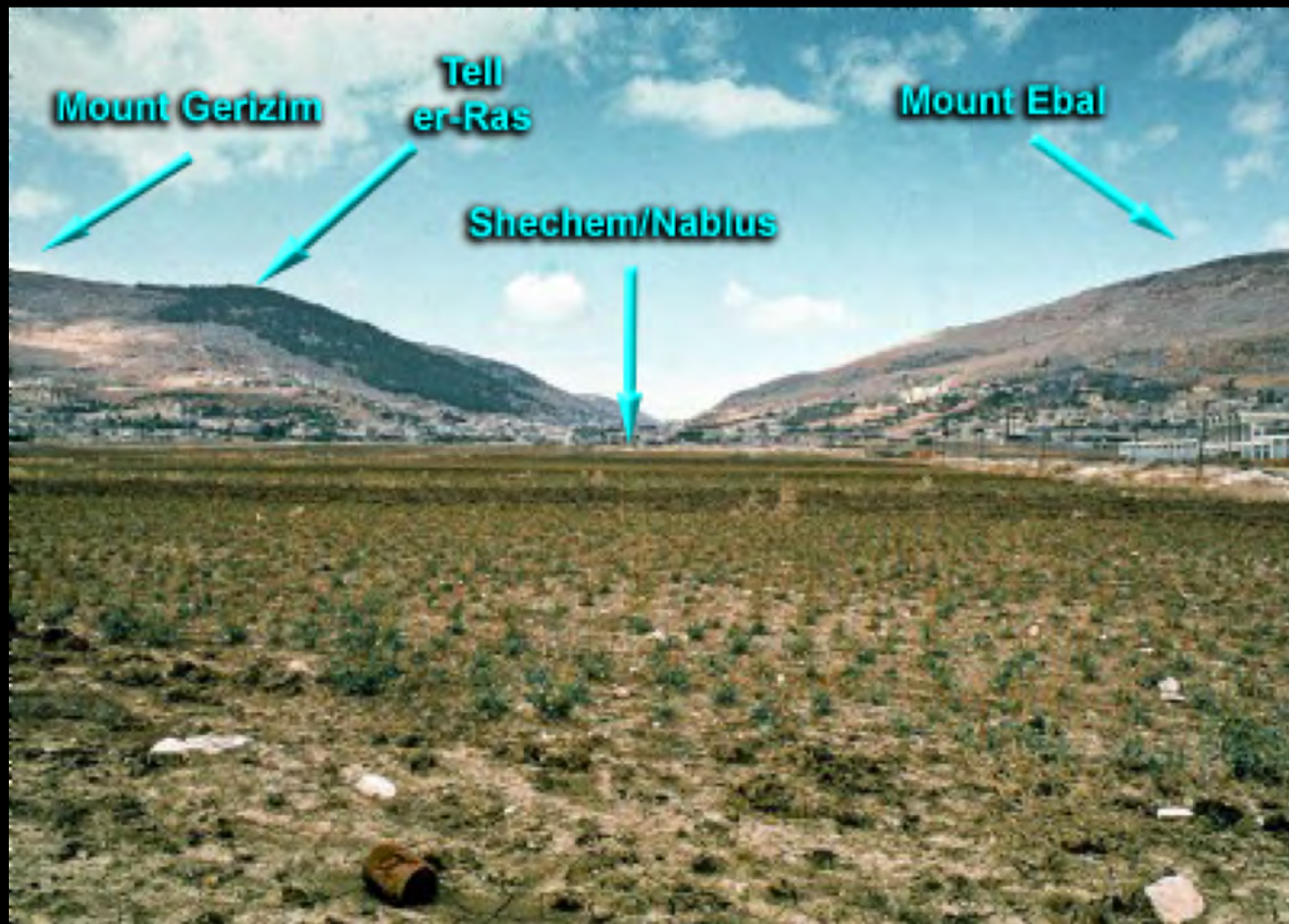
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Mount Gerizim

**Tell
er-Ras**

Mount Ebal

Shechem/Nablus

The answer to such objections has to do with both the universality and radicality of human sinfulness as seen from the perspective of the cross. As the Epistle of Hebrews explains in graphic detail, cultic sacrifices of the Old Testament were never intended to expiate the guilt of sin from any transgressor. They were instituted as a way of “announcing the gospel in advance” to the chosen people who lived before the advent of the Messiah, the true Lamb of God, who took away the sin of the world (John 1:29). The repetition of the temple sacrifices was a daily reminder of their provisionality and inherent



inadequacy. For Paul, Christ was the “end” (*telos*) of the law precisely because he brought to fruition and completion what the law itself could not do (Rom 10:4). This he did by bearing the curse of the law that had justly fallen on everyone who had not fulfilled “everything written the book of the law.” Thus only in the light of Jesus Christ can we understand either the true nature of humanity as God intended it to be or the character of human rebellion in this fallen world. It is not so much that we must paint the world as dark as possible in order to illuminate the glory of Christ; rather it is only in the light of



Calvary that we grasp fully, insofar as God grants to us mortals the ability to understand such mysteries, the holiness of God, the horror of sin, and the depth of divine grace that caused all three to meet in a man on a tree.

~ Timothy George, *Galatians*, vol. 30, *The New American Commentary*
(Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 231)



Galatians 5:2-3

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Good News - Part I

Sweet Redemption! Jesus becomes a curse...for us!



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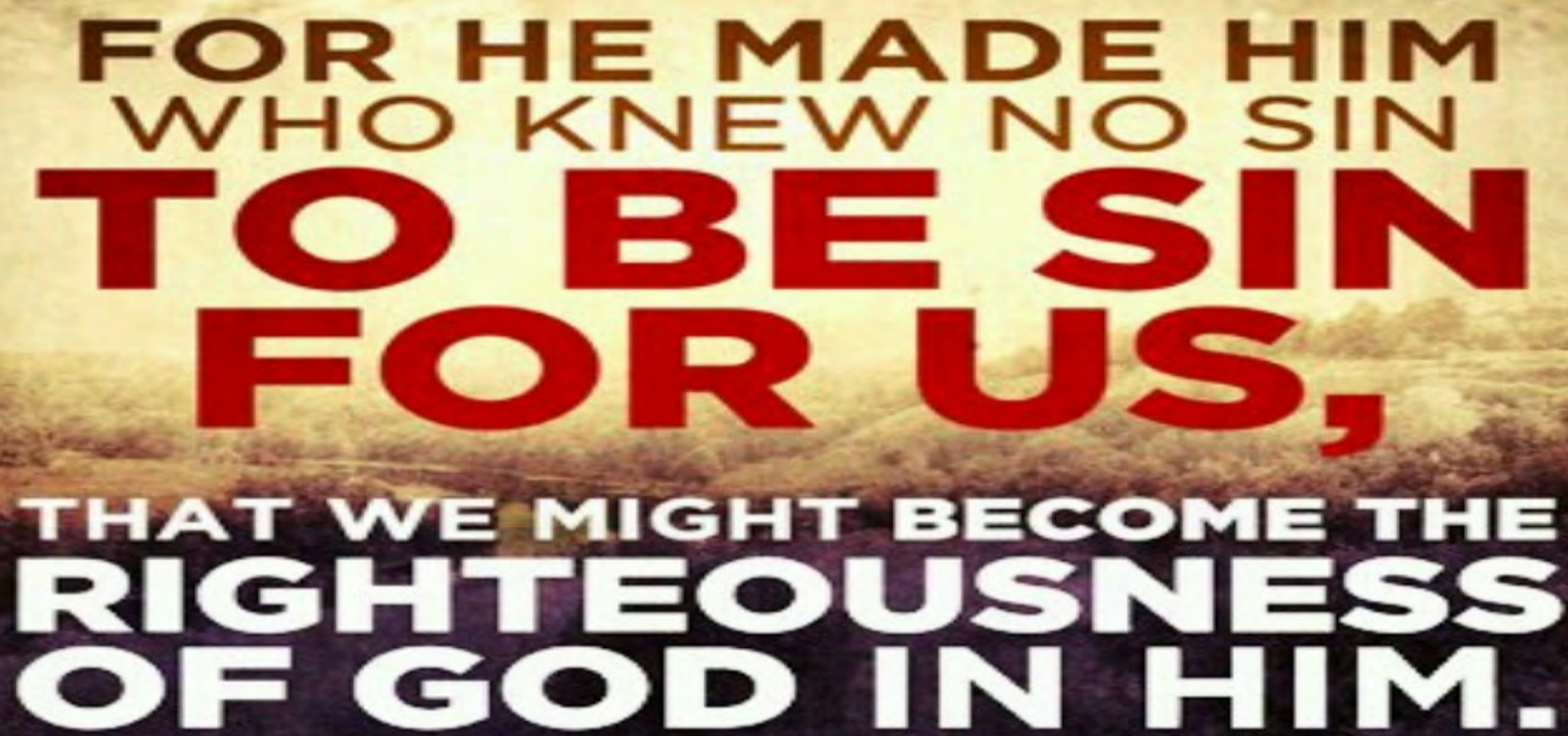
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**FOR HE MADE HIM
WHO KNEW NO SIN
TO BE SIN
FOR US,
THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE
RIGHTEOUSNESS
OF GOD IN HIM.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21



Thou Christ art my sin and my curse,
or rather, I am thy sin, thy curse, thy
death, thy wrath of God, thy hell;
and contrariwise, thou art my
righteousness, my blessing, my life,
my grace of God and my heaven



~ Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*, page 283

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Good News – Part II

Jesus work on the cross now gives the promises of Abraham to us, especially the Spirit of God



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Gospel Application

Gospel Application

Crocheting

vs.

Weaving





Psychologically, everyone who is seeking to save themselves by their own performance will experience a curse subjectively. At the very least, attempting to be saved by works will lead to profound anxiety and insecurity, because you can never be sure that you are living up to your standards sufficiently, whatever they may be. This makes you over-sensitive to criticism, envious and intimidated by others who outshine you. It makes you nervous and timid (because you are unsure of where you stand) or else swaggering and boastful (because you are trying to convince yourself of where you stand). Either way, you live with a sense of curse and condemnation.

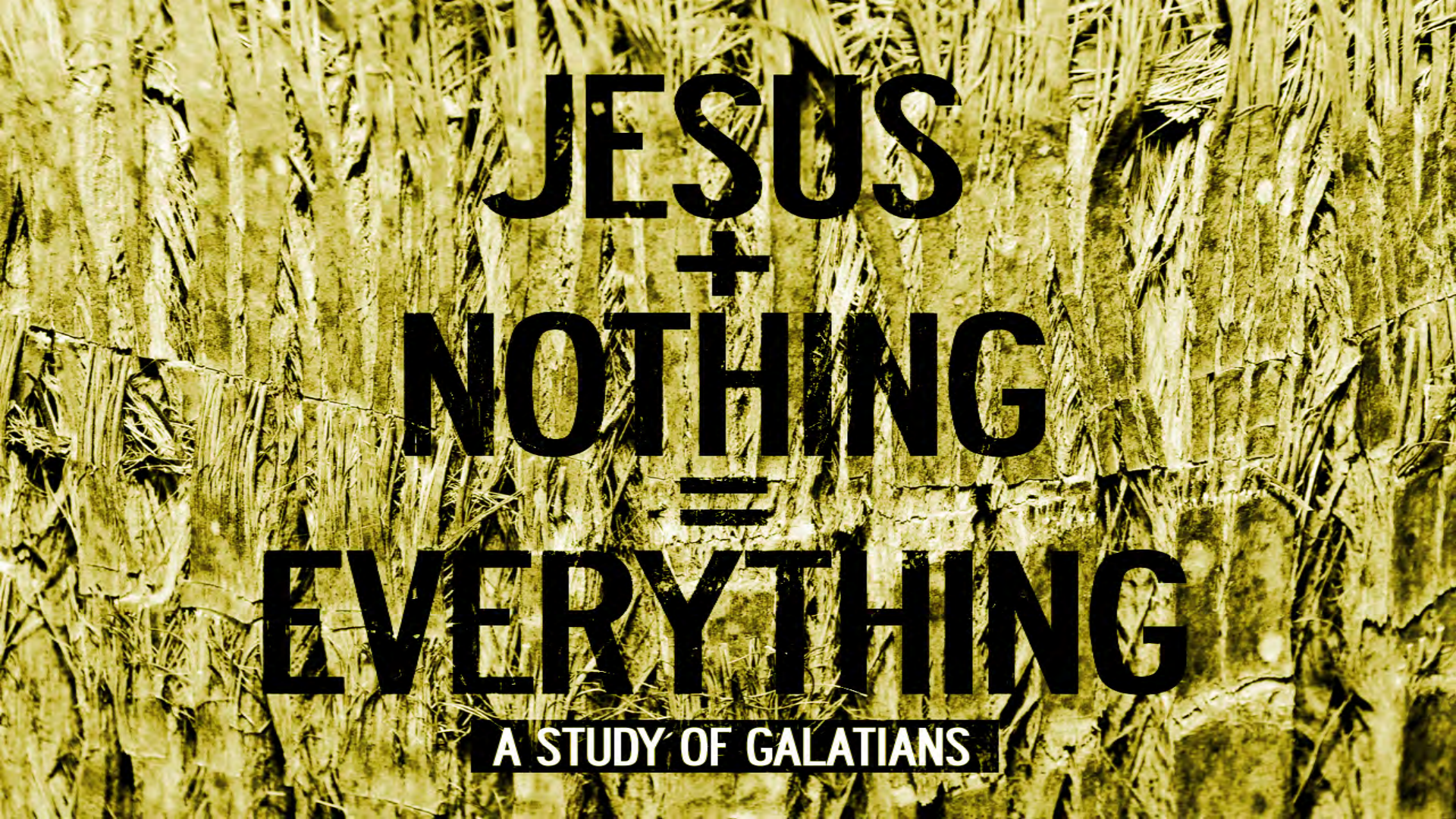


Gospel Application

1. *How do you respond to criticism?
What if they are right?*

Gospel Application

2. *Are you, right now, very critical of someone? Are you better than them?*



**JESUS
+
NOTHING
=
EVERYTHING**

A STUDY OF GALATIANS