

Message Notes

Why the Law? (Part One)

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – *The Best 13 seconds on YouTube!*

Galatians 3:13-14
Galatians 3:15-18

The Accusations that follows Paul
Acts 21:28

Today's Message:
Why the Law? (Part One)
Does God Know What He's Doing?
Galatians 3:19-22

Let's make the problem even worse:

1. Law was added because of transgressions (Galatians 3:19a)
2. Law is a temporary in nature (Galatians 3:19b, and 3:17)
3. Law is not as "good" of a covenant as the Promise give to Abraham (Galatians 3:19c, 20)
4. Law is unable to give life (Galatians 3:21)
5. Law locks us in prison of sin (Galatians 3:22)

Why then, the Law?

1. Because of transgressions (3:19a)
1 Timothy 1:8-9a

Romans 4:14-15
2. The temporary nature of law (3:19b)
Romans 5:8

Ephesians 2:4-5
3. Promise > Law (3:19c, 20)
Romans 5:20a
4. Inability to give life (3:21)
Romans 7:7-8
5. Prisoner of sin (3:22)
1 Corinthians 15:56

Gospel Application

Are you using the Law correctly?

Does God Know What He is Doing?
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Galatians 3:19-22

¹⁹What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator. ²⁰A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one. ²¹Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. ²²But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

Acts 21:28

"Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against our people and our law and this place.

Romans 4:14-15

¹⁴For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Romans 5:20a

The law was added so that the trespass might increase.

1 Corinthians 15:56

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

1 Timothy 1:8-9a

⁸We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious...

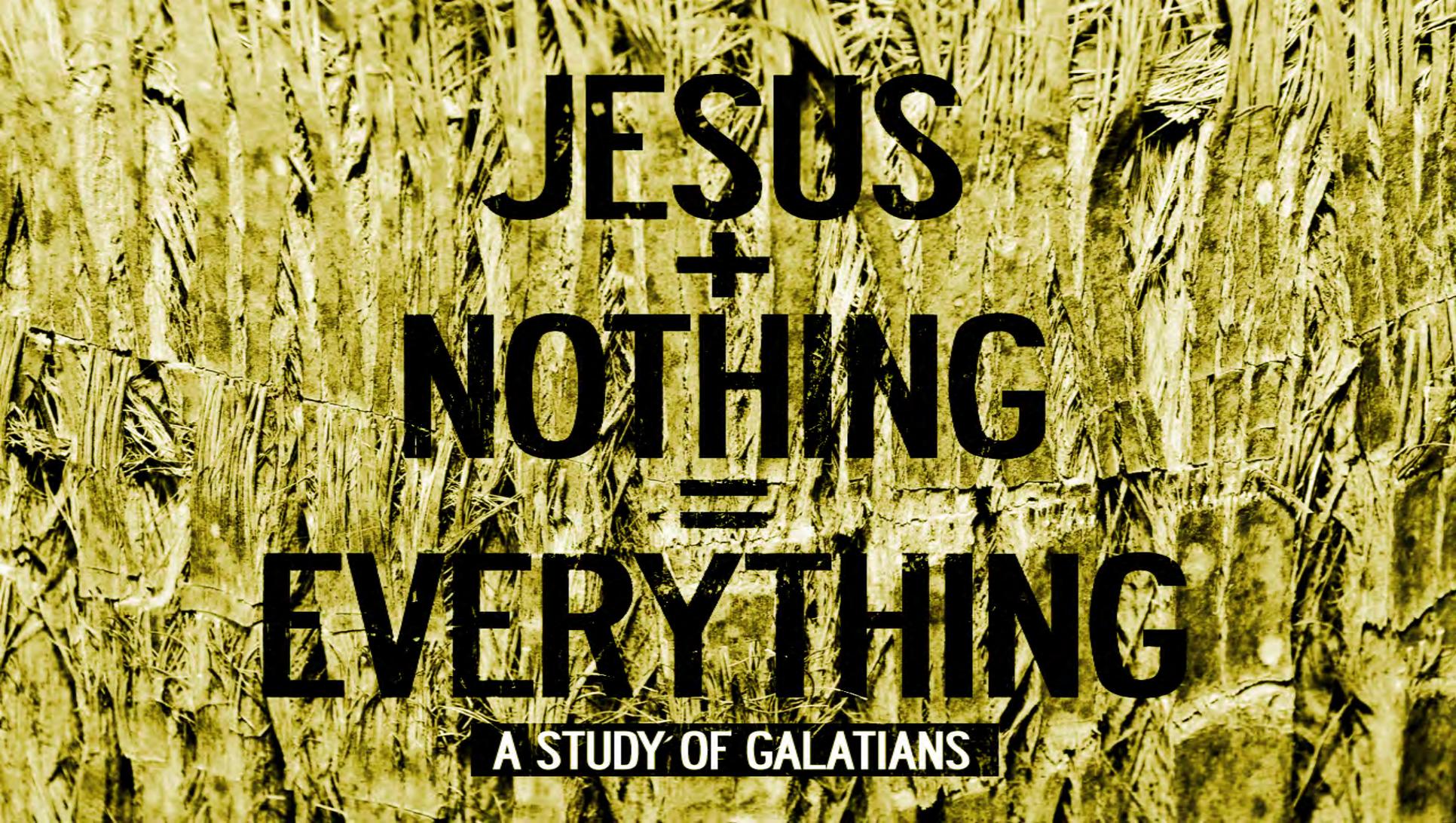
Romans 7:7-8

⁷What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

⁸But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶Be joyful always; ¹⁷pray continually; ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



**JESUS
+
NOTHING
=
EVERYTHING**

A STUDY OF GALATIANS

Galatians 3:13-14

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.”

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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.

Galatians 3:15-16

15 Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. 16 The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.

Galatians 3:17-18

17 What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. 18 For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

The Problem Paul faces everywhere he goes...

Acts 21:28

“Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against our people and our law and this place.”

This week's message:

“Why the Law?”?

PART I – Does God Know What He's Doing?

Galatians 3:19-22

Galatians 3:19-22

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Galatians 3:19-22

²¹Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.

Galatians 3:19-22

²²But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

Let's Make the Problem Worse:

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1. *Law was added because of transgressions*

Galatians 3:19a

¹⁹What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.

Let's Make the Problem Worse:

2. *Law is temporary*

Galatians 3:19b

¹⁹What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.

Let's Make the Problem Worse:

3. *Law is not as "good" of a covenant as Promise*

Galatians 3:19c-20

The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator. ²⁰A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one.

Let's Make the Problem Worse:

4. Law is unable to give life

Galatians 3:21

²¹Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.

Let's Make the Problem Worse:
5. Law locks us in prison of sin

Galatians 3:22

²²But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

**Why then,
the Law?**



BLUETOOTH

you're doing it wrong



Which of the following is the largest?

•A: A Peanut

•B: An Elephant

•C: The Moon

•D: A Kettle



SCREENSHOTS

You're doing it wrong



SMOKING
Your doing it wrong !

Why the Law, then?

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1. The Law was added Because of Transgressions

Galatians 3:19a

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1 Timothy 1:8-9a

⁸We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.

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Romans 4:14-15

¹⁴For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

The first use of the law, then, is to bridle wicked people. The devil reigns throughout the world and forces people to do all kinds of horrible wickedness. Therefore, God has ordained magistrates, parents, ministers, laws, and civil ordinances, so that if they cannot do anything else, at least they may bind the devil's hands so that he does not rage in his slaves as he wants to do. This civil restraint is very necessary and appointed by God both for public peace and for the preservation of everything, but especially so that the course of the Gospel should not be hindered by wicked people.

But here Paul is not dealing with this civil use of the law. It is very necessary, but it does not justify... Another use of the law is divine and spiritual – that is (as Paul says), to increase transgressions – that is, to reveal to us our sin, blindness, misery, impiety, ignorance, hatred, and contempt of God. The apostle deals with this notably in Romans 7. God gave the law at Mount Sinai in order to bridle this monster of human righteousness and religion, which naturally makes people proud and puffs them up so that they think they please God by it.

~ Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*, on Galatians 3:19

Why the Law, then?

2. The Temporary Nature of Law

Galatians 3:19b

¹⁹What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.

But God...

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Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:4-5

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.

Why the Law, then?

3. The Law shows that The Promise > The Law

Galatians 3:19c-20

The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator. ²⁰A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one.

Romans 5:20a

The law was added
so that the trespass might increase...

In Romans the word for “added” (*pareiselthen*) means literally “came in by a side road.” The main road is the covenant of promise – inviolate, irrevocable. The law has the character of something additional, a side road intended to carry extra traffic and excess baggage and, if we may anticipate Paul’s argument, designed not to lead to a separate destination but to point its travelers back to the main road.

~ Timothy George, *Galatians*, vol. 30, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 253.



Why the Law, then?

4. The Law has an Inability to Give Life

Galatians 3:21

²¹Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.

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⁷What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.” [Exodus 20:17] ⁸But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.

The law does indeed produce transgressions, and by that very fact it demonstrates its inability to lead to justification and life. Those who use it as a way to justification and life are in fact misusing it; it is this misuse that nullifies the promise. What the law does is to bring to light the universal human plight: all are 'under sin'. If, realizing this, men and women look round for a way of deliverance from their plight, they find it in the promise. Believing the promise, and the one who has made it, they are justified —



justified by faith in Jesus Christ, in whom the promise and its fulfilment are embodied. Far from being against the promises, then, the law drives men and women to flee from its condemnation and seek refuge in the promises.

~ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Galatians: a Commentary on the Greek Text*,
New International Greek Testament Commentary, page 180.



Why the Law, then?

5. The Law makes us Prisoners of Sin

Galatians 3:22

²²But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

1 Corinthians 15:56

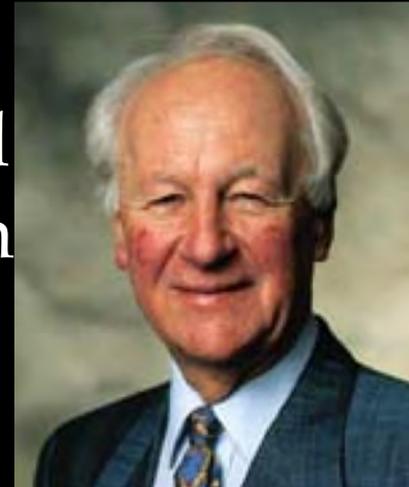
The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.

After God gave the promise to Abraham, He gave the law to Moses. Why? He had to make things worse before He could make them better. The law exposed sin, provoked sin, condemned sin. The purpose of the law was to lift the lid off man's respectability and disclose what he is really underneath – sinful, rebellious, guilty, under the judgment of God and helpless to save himself. And the law must still be allowed to do its God-given duty today.



One of the great faults of the contemporary church is the tendency to soft-pedal sin and judgment ... We must never bypass the law and come straight to the gospel. To do so is to contradict the plan of God in biblical history ... No man has ever appreciated the gospel until the law has first revealed him to himself. It is only against the inky blackness of the night sky that the stars begin to appear, and it is only against the dark background of sin and judgment that the gospel shines forth.

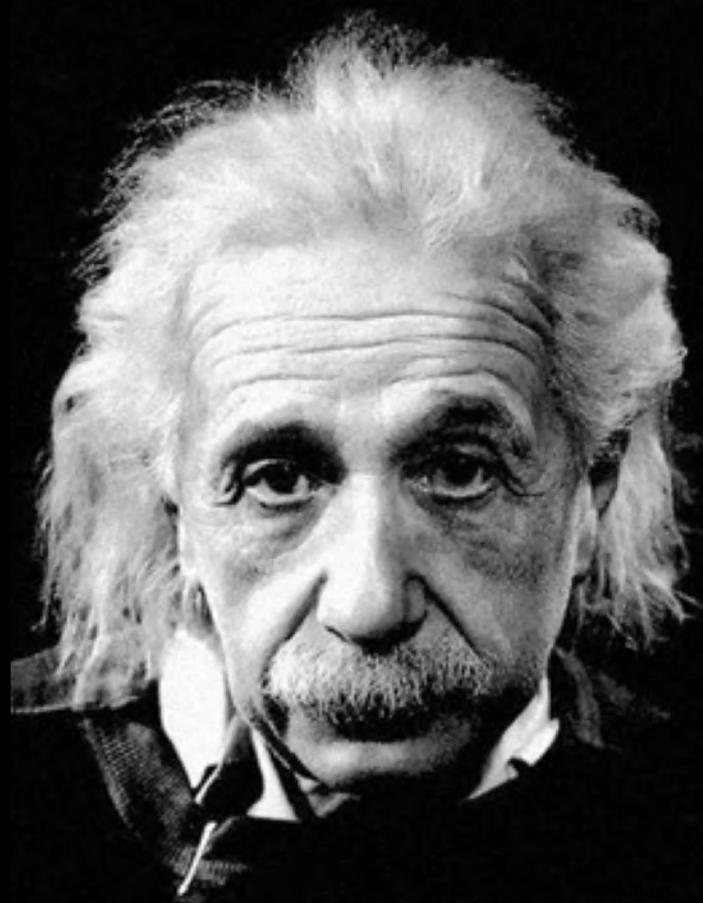
~ John Stott, *The Message of Galatians*, pages 92-93.



Gospel Application

Gospel Application

1. *Am I using Law in my life correctly?*



“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”

-Albert Einstein

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

A. M. Toplady, 1775

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling:
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly:
Wash me, Savior, or I die!

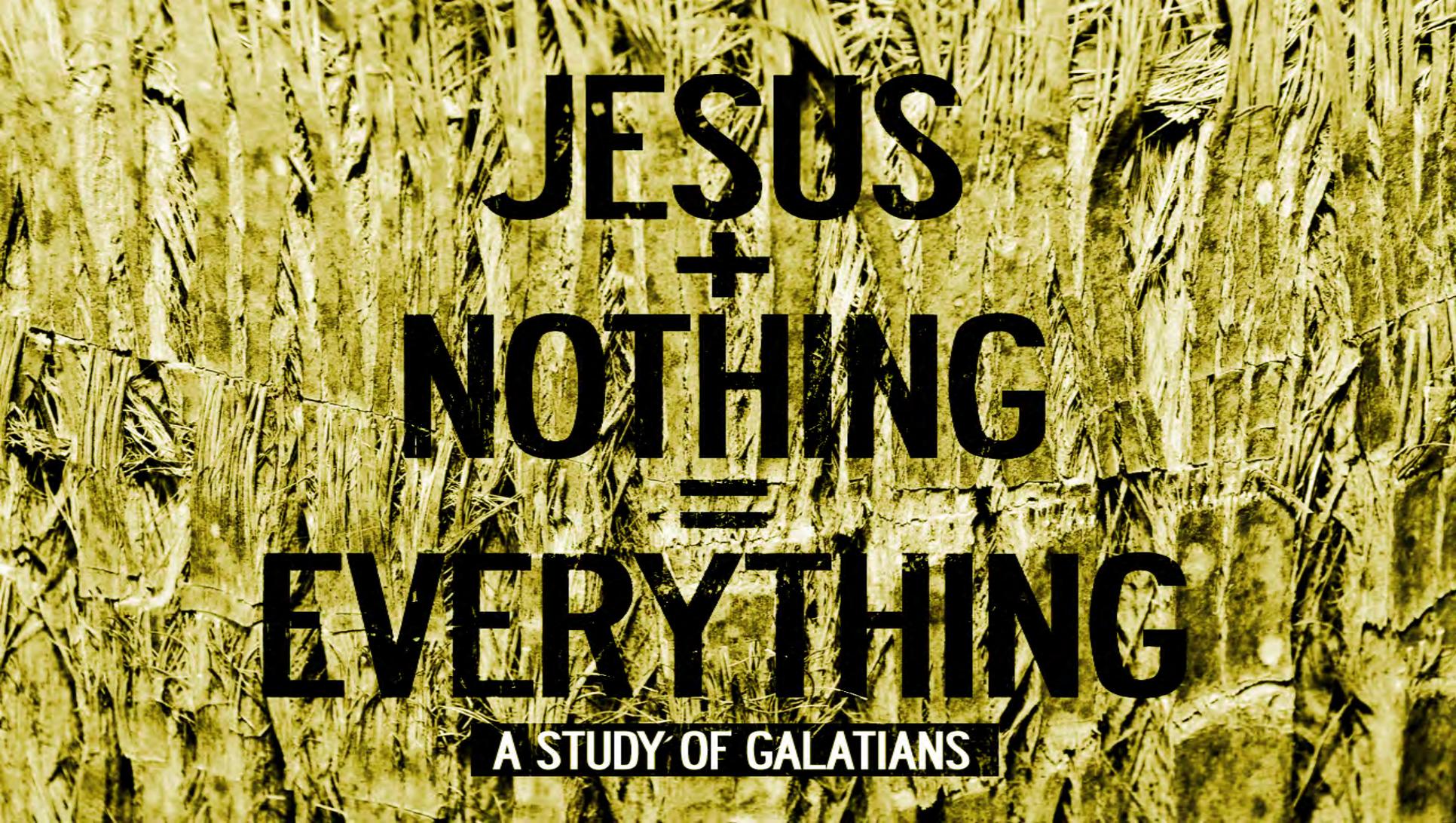
Gospel Application

2. *Do I believe that God knows
what he is doing?*

Gospel Application

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶Be joyful always; ¹⁷pray continually; ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



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