

Message Notes

S.O.S. The Law Sunk Us!

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - "Blessed is the king!"

Luke 19:28-44

Galatians 3

Today's Message
"To the Lifeboats!"
S.O.S. The Law sunk us!
Galatians 3:26-29

What is the result of not being under law?

Galatians 3:26

Three Implications:

1. You are sons of God
2. Through Faith
3. Object is Jesus

How does someone become a "son of God"?

Galatians 3:27

What about social "ranking"?

Galatians 3:28

Three social areas Paul flattens

Male and Female - three historic views
Traditional

Egalitarian

Complementarian

Who's in the lifeboat?

Galatians 3:29a

What's the lifeboat's name?

Galatians 3:29b

Gospel Application - *Do you have a thankful heart for:*

Being a son of God
God's removal of social ranks
Jesus Christ rescuing you?

Luke 19:28-44

²⁸After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰"Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.' "

³²Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They replied, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

⁴⁰"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Galatians 3:26-29

²⁶You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Genesis 12:1-3

¹The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

²"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."



Pietro Lorenzetti, ca. 1280 – 1348
Entry into Jerusalem
fresco — c. 1320, Museum Basilica of San
Francesco d'Assisi, Assisi



Giotto ca. 1267 – 1337

Entry into Jerusalem

fresco (200 × 185 cm) — 1304-06, Museum
Cappella degli Scrovegni (Arena Chapel), Padua

Luke 19:28-44

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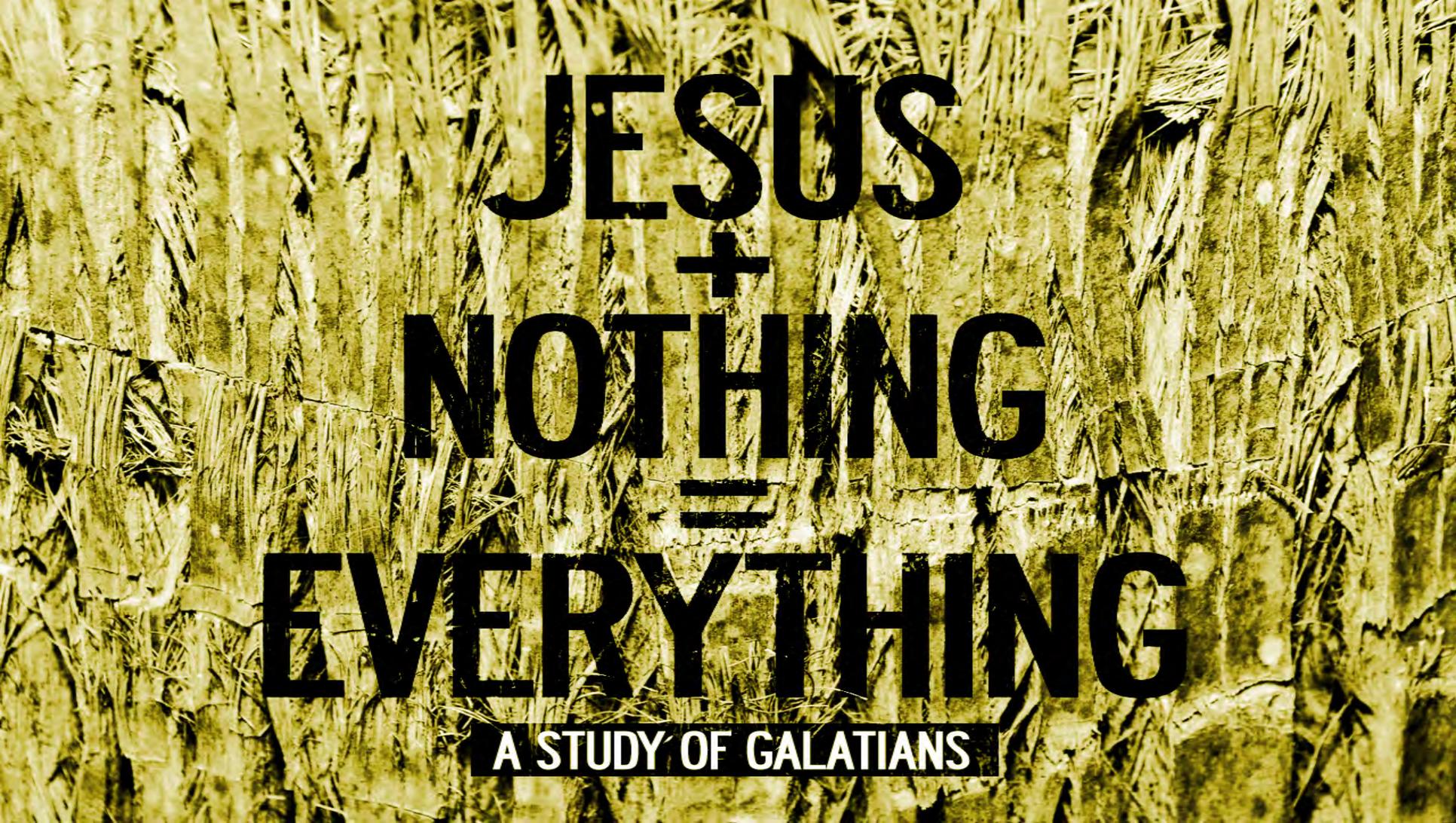
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Luke 19:28-44

⁴¹As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴²and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace — but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”



**JESUS
+
NOTHING
=
EVERYTHING**

A STUDY OF GALATIANS

Galatians 3

¹You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ²I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? ³Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? ⁴Have you suffered so much for nothing – if it really was for nothing?

Galatians 3

⁵Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

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Galatians 3

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.

Galatians 3

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.”

Galatians 3

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.

Galatians 3

¹⁵Brothers, 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. ¹⁶The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.

Galatians 3

¹⁷What 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.

¹⁸For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

Galatians 3

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.

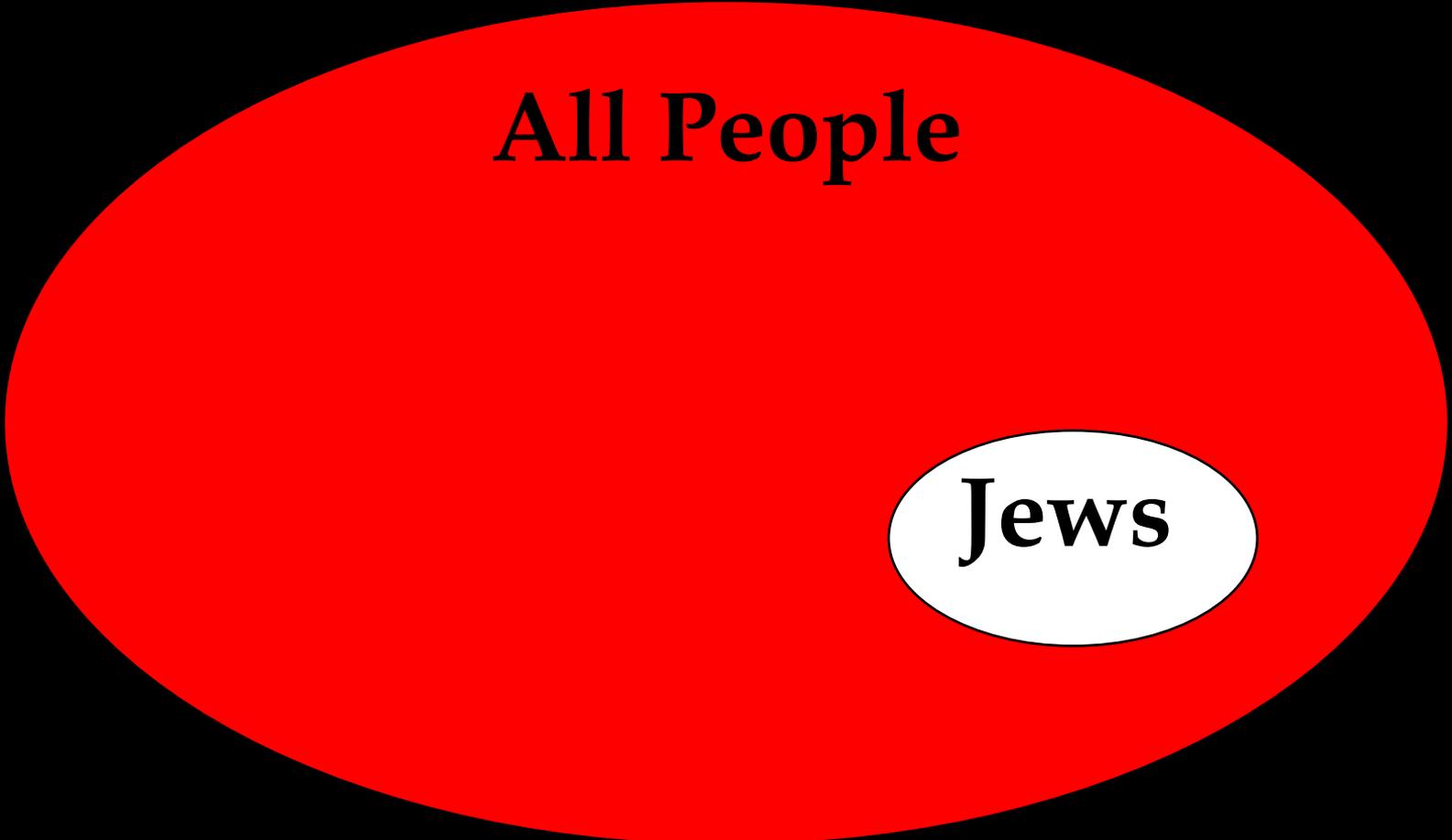
Galatians 3

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.

Galatians 3

²³Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. ²⁴So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

All People

A diagram consisting of a large red oval on a black background. Inside the red oval, at the top, is the text "All People" in a bold, black, serif font. In the lower right quadrant of the red oval is a smaller white oval with a black border. Inside this white oval is the text "Jews" in a bold, black, serif font.

Jews

All People

Law
Jews
Law
Law

All People

Jews





This week's message:

“To the Lifeboats!”

S.O.S. The Law sunk us!

Galatians 3:26-29

Galatians 3:26-29

²⁶You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,
²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have
clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew
nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are
all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹If you belong to Christ, then
you are Abraham's seed, and heirs
according to the promise.

What is the result of no longer being under law?

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Galatians 3:26

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What is the result of no longer being under law?
Three Implications

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What is the result of no longer being under law?

Three Implications

1. You are sons of God

Galatians 3:26

²⁶You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,

Many take offense at using the masculine word “sons” to refer to all Christians, male and female. Some would prefer to translate verse 26: “You are all children of God” (as the NIV 2011 does). But if we are too quick to correct the biblical language, we miss the revolutionary (and radically egalitarian) nature of what Paul is saying. In most ancient cultures, daughters could not inherit property. Therefore, “son” meant “legal heir”, which was a status forbidden to women. But the gospel tells us we are all sons of God in Christ. We are all heirs.



Similarly, the Bible describes all Christians together, including men, as the “bride of Christ” (Revelation 21:2). God is evenhanded in His gender-specific metaphors. Men are part of His Son’s bride; and women are His sons, His heirs. If we don’t let Paul call Christian women “sons of God”, we miss how radical and wonderful a claim this is.

~ Tim Keller, *Galatians For You*, God's Word For You, p. 78



What is the result of no longer being under law?

Three Implications

2. Through Faith

Galatians 3:26

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What is the result of no longer being under law?

Three Implications

3. Object of Faith is Jesus

Galatians 3:26

²⁶You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,

How does someone become a “son of God”?

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Galatians 3:27

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²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have
clothed yourselves with Christ.



Early Church (2nd Century) Baptisms

1. *Catechesis*
2. *Fasting and Prayer*
3. *Renunciation*
4. *Credo*
5. *Disrobing*
6. *Immersion*
7. *New Robe*
8. *Anointing*
9. *Laying on of Hands*
10. *The Lord's Supper*

~ The ten steps outlined here are a conflation of several baptismal traditions reflected in documents such as Tertullian's *De Baptismo*, Hippolytus's *Apostolic Tradition*, Cyril of Jerusalem's *Catechetical Lectures*, and Chrysostom's *Baptismal Homilies*. See also E. C. Whitaker, *Documents of the Baptismal Liturgy* (London: SPCK, 1960), and E. G. Hinson, *The Evangelization of the Roman Empire* (Macon: Mercer University Press, 1981), 73–95.

What about societal “ranking”?

What about societal “ranking”?

Galatians 3:28

²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

ONE ~~U~~ PMANSHIP[®]

"Show me a good loser, and I'll show you a real loser."



Three social areas Paul flattens

Galatians 3:28

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RACE

Three social areas Paul flattens

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SOCIO-ECONOMICS

Three social areas Paul flattens

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GENDER

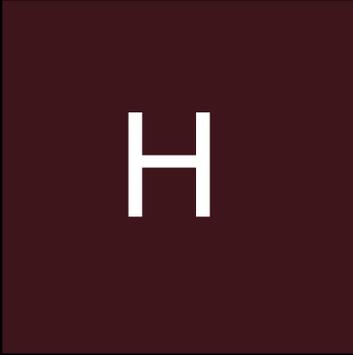
Ways the Church has understood “male nor female”

Galatians 3:28

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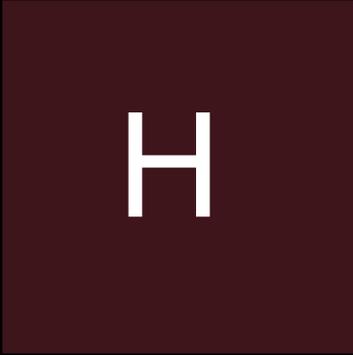
TRADITIONAL

TRADITIONAL



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TRADITIONAL



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W

TRADITIONAL

Rabbi Judah ben Elai's pattern of "benedictions" that in slightly revised form can still be found some Jewish cycle of morning prayers:

Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who hast not made me a foreigner.

Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who hast not made me a slave.

Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
who hast not made me a woman.

~ The Authorized Daily Prayer Book of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth of Nations, tr. S. Singer (London: Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1962), 6-7. Also, see Richard Longenecker, Galatians, 157.

EGALITARIAN

EGALITARIAN



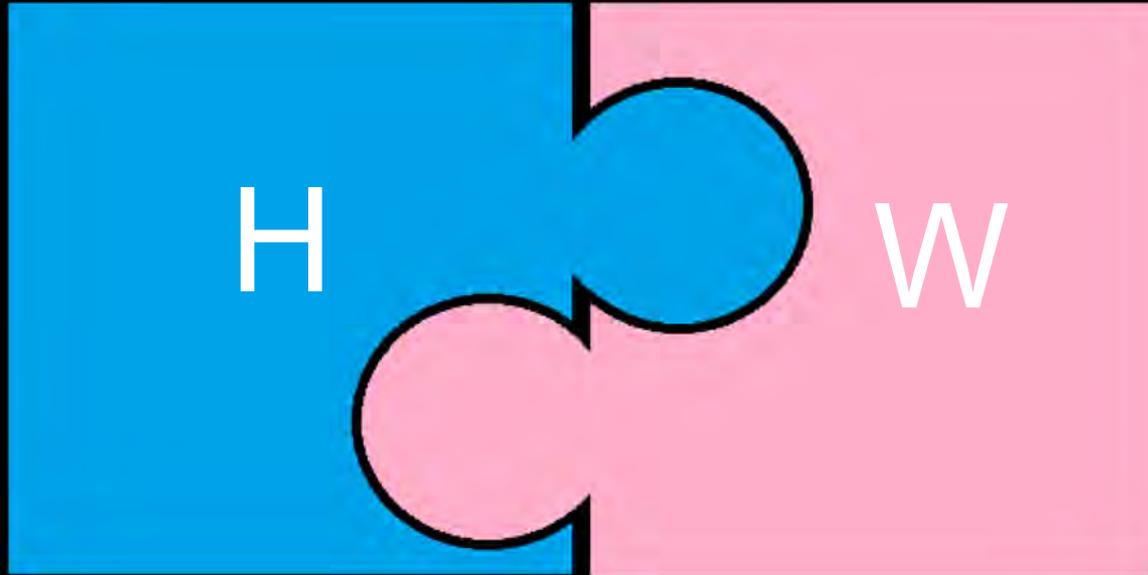
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W

COMPLEMENTARIAN

COMPLEMENTARIAN



Who's in the lifeboat?



Who's in the lifeboat?

Galatians 3:29a

²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Who's in the lifeboat?

Genesis 12:1-3

¹The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

What's the name of the lifeboat?

Galatians 3:29b

²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed,
and heirs according to the promise.



The Promise

Gospel Application

Gospel Application

Do you have a thankful heart for:

Gospel Application

Do you have a thankful heart for:
Being a son of God

Gospel Application

Do you have a thankful heart for:

Being a son of God

God has declared no social ranks

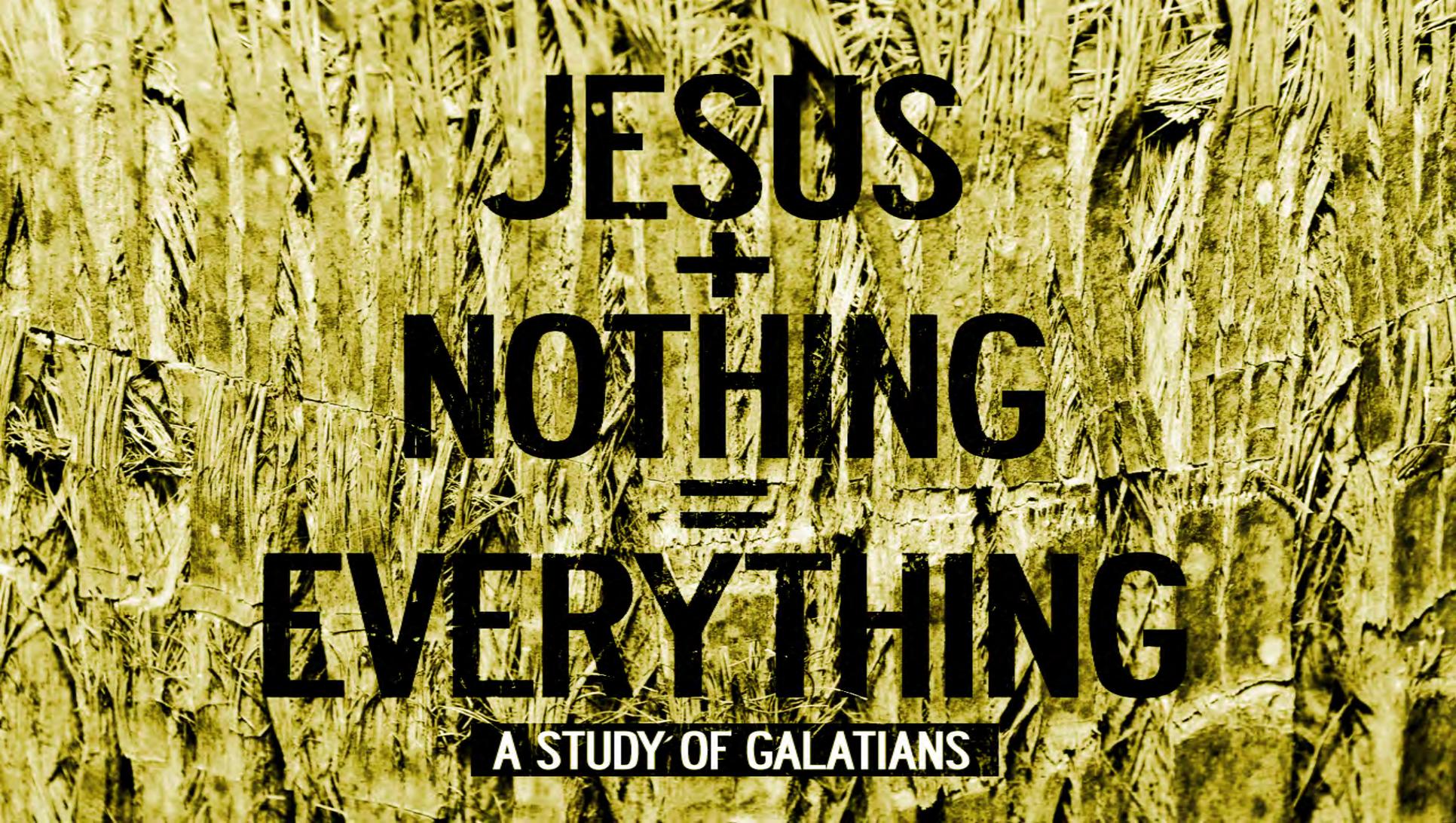
Gospel Application

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Jesus Christ rescuing you



**JESUS
+
NOTHING
=
EVERYTHING**

A STUDY OF GALATIANS