

**GALATIANS**  
**Heaven's Freedom!**  
**Life In Slavery vs. Life In Freedom**  
**Pastor Katy Reeves**

**REVIEW:**

First and foremost, the true gospel is about the grace of God, through the Messiah, taking away the sins of the world and through that grace-gospel, transforming back into the image of the Creator God--becoming once again sons and daughters of the Most High God. If people tell us differently, "let them be condemned and cursed." (1:9)

The revelation of the grace gospel came from God. Not only that, this grace gospel has been entrusted to the Church by Jesus Christ Himself!

While denominational affiliation is okay, sometimes it can lead to what Peter struggled with: religiosity in addition to our relationship with Christ. Let's follow Paul's advice by acting consistently with the revelation of grace by dying to our old identities--even religious ones. Let's identify simply as a Christian--a "little Christ", as the word means literally.

At the heart of the grace gospel is the revelation-truth that we're made right with God by what HE has done for US. Jesus freed us from the curse of the law so we can serve and love God without the fear of not being enough.

Remember that we only receive God's righteousness by faith in Jesus, not by keeping the law.

**Galatians 4:21-31 Passion Translation -- An Old Testament Allegory**  
**Verses 21-31**

Tell me, do you want to go back to living strictly by the law? Haven't you ever listened to what the law really says? Have you forgotten that Abraham had two sons; one by the slave girl, and the other by the freewoman? Ishmael, the son of the slave girl, was a child of the natural realm. But Isaac, the son of the freewoman, was born supernaturally by the Spirit--a child of the promise of God! These two women and their sons express an allegory and become symbols of two covenants. The first covenant was born on Mt. Sinai, birthing children into slavery--children born to Hagar. For "Hagar" represents the law given at Mt. Sinai in Arabia. The "Hagar" metaphor corresponds to the earthly Jerusalem of today who are currently in

bondage. In contrast, there is a heavenly Jerusalem above us, which is our true “mother”. She is the freewoman, birthing children into freedom! For it is written:

Birth forth into gladness, O barren woman with no children! Break through with the shouts of joy and jubilee, for you are about to give birth! The one who was once considered desolate and barren now has more children than the one who has a husband! (Isaiah 54:1)

Dear friends, just like Isaac, we’re now the true children who inherit the Kingdom promises. And just as the son of the natural world at that time harassed the son born of the power of the Holy Spirit, so it is today. And what does the Scripture tell us to do? Expel the slave mother with her son! The son of the slave woman will not be a true heir--for the true heir of the promises is the son of the freewoman. (Genesis 21:10) It’s now so obvious! We’re not the children of the slave woman; we’re the supernatural sons of the freewoman--sons of grace!

- An allegory is a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.
- Paul uses the story of Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 16:15) and Sarah and Isaac (Genesis 21:2) as an allegory here to reveal truth about the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Paul is showing that the law; which is the Mosaic Covenant or Old Covenant, is a system of works that brings bondage.
- The New Covenant comes from the promise and is a system of grace that brings true freedom because grace supernaturally transforms a person back into their original image, which is the image of God.
- Grace restores a person to the image bearer position that Adam and Eve had in the beginning.
- Notice vs. 30--“Expel the slave mother with her son!” This is showing that the two ‘sons’ are not meant to live together.
- You cannot mingle law and grace, for only grace is based upon the promise of new life.

**John 8:36**, Jesus tells us, “So if the Son liberates you [makes you free men], then you are really and unquestionably free”.

- Jesus has made us free through the New Covenant that was established, not by the blood of animals, but by the precious Blood of the Lamb of God--Jesus Christ.
- Grace is the supernatural power that transforms you into the image of God.

- Jesus is the express image of the invisible God.
- He's our pattern--our standard that measures our progress on this journey to full restoration.

### **John 13:34-35**

I give you a new commandment: that you should **love (agapao)** one another. Just as I have **loved (agapao)** you, so you too should **love (agapao)** one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you **love (agape)** one another.

- **Agapao** means to prefer; to love; for the believer, preferring to embrace God's will; choosing His choices and obeying them through His power.
- It means actively doing what the Lord prefers, with Him by His power and direction.
- **Agape** means divine love-benevolence, good will, esteem; love-feasts.
- To prefer; love which centers in moral preference.

### **Let's read it like this:**

I give you a new commandment: that you should prefer others over yourself, loving them as I have preferred you over Myself; that you should embrace God's will, choosing His choices and obeying them through His power. Just as I have actively done what Yehovah prefers, so should you, too. By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you prefer one another, showing the same divine love, benevolence, good will, and esteem as you have seen in Me.

- Prefer=to set or hold before or above other persons or things in estimation, like better, choose rather than...
- Jesus tells us that when we do this, He knows that we really love Him.
- To be able to choose God's choices you first must know what they are!

### **What are God's choices? Matthew chapters 5,6, and 7 Jesus is teaching us what life in the Kingdom of Heaven looks like. Read from Passion Translation.**

- These are His choices; His moral preferences...
- In these three chapters Jesus is expounding on the moral preferences (**agapao**) in the Kingdom.
- He starts off with being humble; not thinking too highly of oneself--which is the opposite of pride.
- Those who mourn shall be comforted--this talks of trusting God to right

the wrongs that you may suffer.

- Citizens of the Kingdom are meek; they are mild tempered and patient; a bad temper and impatience is illegal behavior in the Kingdom.
- Hunger and thirst for righteousness speaks of desire and a conscious choice to do what is necessary to live in that place of right standing with God.
- The merciful--we freely receive mercy and we freely extend mercy to others.
- The pure in heart speaks of our motives--the 'why' we do what we do.
- Citizens in the Kingdom make peace and maintain it.
- Citizens in the Kingdom understand the times they are living in and are not surprised or sucker punched when they are persecuted for being right and doing right.
- Issues and rights are illegal in the Kingdom.

**Notice chapter 5 verses 21-48:**

- The phrase 'you have heard that it was said' is referring to the old covenant laws and the traditions that the religious leaders had added to the laws.
- Remember, Jesus is teaching on life in the Kingdom and what it looks like.
- Notice what He says about how to handle anger:
- Holding onto anger in your heart is the same as murder in the Kingdom!
- The same judgment will be passed on holding onto anger as murder!
- Demeaning and insulting a fellow believer brings you before the congregation for discipline!
- Cursing a fellow believer will get you sent to a fiery hell!
  
- How many times have you heard believers condemn other believers because they didn't agree with something done or said?
- I daresay that we've all done it at one time or another...
- We are called to be peacemakers like our Father.

**Life outside the Kingdom, under the old covenant, taught 'never commit adultery'; in other words don't actually have sexual intercourse with someone other than your spouse.**

- Inside the Kingdom, it is illegal to even look with lust in your eyes at the body of a woman who is not your wife!
- In today's culture, this speaks to women as well as men.
- Women today look at men's bodies and lust after them just like men lust

after women's bodies.

- Inside the Kingdom this is considered the same as actually having sexual intercourse.
- Why? Because you have ALREADY DONE IT IN YOUR HEART!
- AND GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART! HE LOOKS AT YOUR MOTIVES! WHY ARE YOU DOING WHAT YOU ARE DOING?
- This is why Apostle Paul instructed the Corinthian church that it is not good to touch a woman.
- This word touch, in the Greek, means to 'touch with desire'.
- So, in the Kingdom, boundaries are set and standards are in place for the proper behavior that should be exhibited between men and women who are not married.

**Notice the different wording in verse 31: 'It has been said'...**

- This is not Old Covenant law, it was added because the people wanted to divorce and remarry and Moses permitted it.
- But not God...Jesus is addressing not just divorce, but divorce and remarriage.
- Life inside the Kingdom says that if a man divorces his wife except for infidelity, he causes her to commit adultery.
- Notice, if she committed infidelity then she has already committed adultery and her husband by divorcing her does not *cause* her to commit adultery.
- This is not an excuse for divorce...as has been taught...
- Jesus is pretty plain when He says that whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
- This is hard to hear because it has been erroneously taught for centuries and today's culture doesn't want to hear the truth on this subject.

**Verse 33-37 tells us that life outside the Kingdom, under the Old Covenant taught the importance of keeping your word and paying your vows.**

- Jesus expands on this by telling us don't even bother swearing and vowing to emphasize your words.
- Just BE a person of integrity whose word is strong enough to stand on its own.
- When you say you will do something--then DO IT--even if it costs you...
- Every word should have a purpose to fulfill--don't have idle and useless words.

**Life outside the Kingdom, under the old covenant, taught equal retribution--an eye for an eye, but inside the Kingdom life is very different.**

- Jesus is teaching something very different--He's telling them to NOT resist the evil man who injures you!
- If anyone wants to take from you--give it to them and more.
- If someone is taking advantage of you--go the extra mile for them.
- Give when asked and it is in your hand to do it.
- Love not only your neighbor, but love your enemies as well because this is who you are--children of the God who loves everyone--friend and foe alike.

**Giving: again, watch your motives!**

- Make sure you are not showing off when you do your good deeds!
- When you do this you've lost the Kingdom reward.
- Kingdom giving is done only for the eyes of Abba.

**Prayer: Kingdom prayer is marked by sincerity.**

- Again, prayer is only for the ears of Abba.
- This speaks of the heart--heart prayer.
- Even when you are leading prayer with a group, in your heart it's just you and Abba talking...
- This kind of prayer, you are never concerned as to 'what should I say'; but rather you are just having a conversation with your Father.
- The key to answered prayer is love.
- Your heart must be pure and not defiled with illegal emotions such as bitterness, anger, or unforgiveness.

**Fasting: again, what's your motive?**

- Fasting is only for Abba's eyes.
- No one should even realize that you are fasting.

**The only perspective that is allowed inside the Kingdom is 'God-consciousness'.**

- The self-conscious perspective came with the fall.
- It is not allowed in the Kingdom.
- As Abba fathers you, He prunes this perspective off and increasingly reveals the God-consciousness through His grace.
- This is what brings transformation to your life.
- As you grow in God-consciousness you begin to see things the way Abba

does.

- Earthly things lose their value in this new perspective and Kingdom truth takes their place.
- You develop a single eye--God's perspective.
- Worry vanishes from your life as you chase after the realm of the Kingdom and the righteousness that proceeds from Jesus.

**With this new perspective comes the ability to not be critical and biased towards other folks.**

- Inside the Kingdom you are judged by the same standard that you use to judge others.
- The measurement you use on them will be used on you!
- This is why you extend mercy and grace to others.

**Citizens of the Kingdom are to be growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character, so as to reach the proper height of virtue and integrity just like their heavenly Father.**

- WE ARE MADE IN HIS IMAGE!
- And we never give up our race.
- We always strive to run our race well--asking for what we need; seeking truth in all things; and knocking until the door is opened for us.
- We are persistent not because our Father is holding back from us.
- NO! But because there are evil forces ranged against us that try to hinder our progress.
- But we know that our Father is a good, good Father and has withheld nothing from us, but rather has given us all things for life and godliness.
- Jesus has made us more than conquerors in this life!
- We are persistent in enforcing His victory!

**We have a reminder of one of the covenant laws of the Kingdom:**

- Love God with everything you are and have...
- Love people as you love yourself...
- Verse 12 tells us how: treat others in the same way you'd want them to treat you.

**The narrow gate:**

- Jesus is up front about life in the Kingdom.
- It is a difficult way...
- It is a narrow gate that must be entered through to get on the pathway that leads to eternal life...
- Nearly everyone chooses the easy way...

**False prophets: it's because of these that there are so few who find the narrow gate.**

- Jesus warns us!
- CONSTANTLY be on your guard for these false prophets!
- They don't want you to find the narrow gate; if you do they try to get you off the difficult pathway and back onto the wide pathway.
- Jesus says you can tell who these false prophets are by the fruit of their character.
- If the tree is good, it will produce good fruit; but if it's bad, you will see bad fruit.
- Look at the obvious fruit of their lives and ministries, and then you'll know whether they are true or false.

**Jesus warns the pretenders!**

- Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord", will enter the Kingdom realm.
- It is only those who persist in doing the will of my Father.
- Many will say on the day of judgment, 'don't You remember what we did for You?'
- We cast out demons; we prophesied; we did many miracles for the sake of Your name!
- What will Jesus say to them?
- Go away from Me, you lawless rebels! I've never been joined to you!
- Interesting wording: lawless rebels--those are the folks who say they love Jesus, but their life lived shows no agreement with God's choices, but their own choices.
- See, it doesn't matter what you do--or even say--it's what is in your heart that God looks at...
- Is your heart in agreement with God's choices and His ways?
- Your heart is the tree that God looks at.
- Is it a good heart?--then it will naturally have good characteristics.

**Everyone who hears My teaching and APPLIES it to his life...**

- This is the sign of a true son or daughter--obedience!
- The pretender just pretends--it is not in their heart...
- Jesus is the unshakable foundation upon which we build our life.
- You don't get Jesus through obeying laws...
- You get Jesus through relationship--by faith through grace!
- If you build your life on anything other than a relationship with Jesus

then when the storms come--and they will come--your life will be destroyed.

- A life built on religious laws and traditions will be destroyed in the storms of life.
- This is called a form of godliness but denying the power thereof.

**Jesus was speaking TRUTH and the folks were amazed and overwhelmed because His words carried such great authority...**

- You can't have great authority in a LIE...because you know it's a lie--it's not true.
- Great authority is the hallmark of TRUTH...because it's true.
- What's true is true--and it's the truth that will set you free.
- These words of truth will set you free--if you will BECOME them...
- These words become the motivation of your heart...
- Then--everything you do and say will come from a pure heart, full of truth...
- Do you see that there's no bondage in this?
- You are not pretending to be someone by striving to do all these choices; but
- It's who you have become!

**Grace has transformed you into the image of God!**