



## Blessing & Curse

### Galatians 3:10-14

Sierra Community Church  
February 12th, 2023  
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<sup>10</sup> All 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.” (Deuteronomy 27:26)

<sup>11</sup> Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” (Habakkuk 2:4)

<sup>12</sup> The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.” (Leviticus 18:5)

<sup>13</sup> Christ 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.” (Deuteronomy 21:23)

<sup>14</sup> He 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. (NIV)

### The Law (OT) - Instructions for a relationship with God

“In the Bible, law is never abstract. Law is always covenantal and, therefore, relational. . . The law of God is never given just to be obeyed. The law of God always forms the stipulations, the basis of a relationship. That’s the reason there are curses and blessings. The curses are always the loss of relationship. The blessing is always the intimacy of relationship.”

Tim Keller

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.  
Matthew 3:7-9

### What does Paul mean by curse?

“It represents a condition of alienation from God, caused by violation of his law, with all the penalty which accrues from it, either in this life or the next.”

Vincent, M. R. (1887). Word studies in the New Testament (Vol. 4, p. 117)

See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse — the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known. Deuteronomy 11:26-28

### The Law (OT) - Points us to Christ

No one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. Romans 3:20

So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Galatians 3:24

### Faith is what identifies God’s people

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. Matthew 5:17

King David in Psalm 15 summarizes the 613 laws into a list of 11. The prophet Isaiah down to 6 (33:13-14), the prophet Micah, 3 (6:8). Habakkuk, which is who Paul quotes in verse 11, down to one. **The righteous shall live by faith.** (Habakkuk 2:4)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:1-4

God chose the symbol of the cross, created for torture and humiliation by the Romans, and turned it into the greatest sign of victory the world has ever known.

### Community Group Questions:

1. What can happen to our relationship with God when we just “obey the rules?” (go to church, read the Bible, try not to sin, etc)
2. Where have you seen “blessing and curses” in your relationship with God?
3. Jesus summarized the 613 Jewish laws into two things. What were they?
4. How would you define / explain the phrase, “The righteous shall live by faith?”

