

BE FREE—The Grace-Filled Life By Pastor Robby Bradford

WHY RULES FALL SO SHORT

(Galatians 3:1-3 NLT) Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an **evil spell** on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. Let me ask you this one question: **Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses?** Of course not! You received the Spirit because you **believed** the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become **perfect** by your own **human effort**?

- ✓ The law lacks supernatural power to change a person.

(Galatians 3:10) 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."

- ✓ The law brings a curse for breaking any of it.

(Galatians 3:11-12 NLT) So it is clear that **no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law**. For the Scriptures say, "It is through **faith** that a righteous person has life." This way of **faith is very different** from the way of **law**, which says, "It is through obeying the law that a person has life."

- ✓ The law does not put us right with God.

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

(Galatians 3:19) What, then, was the purpose of the law?

(Galatians 3:24-25 NLT) Let me put it another way. The law was our **guardian** until Christ came; it protected us until we could be **made right** with God through faith. And now that the way of faith has come, **we no longer need the law** as our guardian.

- ✓ The law leads us to Christ.

THE GRACE-FILLED LIFE

1. Grace involves a free exchange.

(Galatians 3:13 NASB) Christ **redeemed** us from the curse of the Law, having become **a curse for us**—for it is written, "**CURSED** IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A **TREE...**"

(Romans 6:23) The wages of sin is death, but the **free gift** of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Grace is accessed by faith.

(Galatians 3:22) But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was **promised**, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

(Romans 4:16 NCV) So people receive God's **promise** by having **faith**. This happens so the promise can be a **free gift**.

3. God's grace changes my character.

(Galatians 3:4-5) Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? I ask you again, does God give you the **Holy Spirit** and **work miracles** among you because you obey the **law**? Of course not! It is because you **believe** the message you heard about Christ.

(Titus 2:11-12) For the **grace** of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It **teaches us** to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and **to live self-controlled, upright** and **godly** lives in this present age.

Grace helps me want to do what I ought to do.

4. Grace is available to everyone.

(Galatians 3:26-28) So in Christ Jesus you are **all** children of God through faith, for **all** of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither **Jew** nor **Gentile**, neither **slave** nor **free**, nor is there **male** and **female**, for you are **all one in Christ Jesus**.