

# Study Through the Bible

## **Galatians: The Essence of Being a Christian**

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# Study Through the Bible

## Galatians: The Essence of Being a Christian - Study 2

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

### The Way to Spiritual Vitality

*If your Christian life feels like duty and drudgery, here is the secret to a dynamic relationship with God.*

Galatians 3:15–25 explores the purpose of the law in light of the promise of Christ. Paul explains that dependence on human effort can only distance a person from God. Faith in Christ and his promises brings us close to God and into full spiritual life. Christians today will experience the fullest riches of Christian vitality when they live by faith in Christ and all God's promises, with obedience to the law of Christ flowing from that faith.

This study helps us discover the joy of living under Christ's grace even when we fail to live up to the law.

**Scripture:**  
Galatians 3:15–25

**Based on:**  
"The Essence," Series Builder by Craig Brian Larson, PREACHING TODAY SERMONS



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**PART 1**

## **Identify the Current Issue**

Paul's overall purpose in Galatians is to refute the error of legalism being taught by Judaizers from Jerusalem. This form of legalism taught that to be saved a Christian needed not only to believe in Christ but also to keep the law of Moses. Paul's purpose in this text is to teach that believers in Christ are not subject to the law of Moses because of the preeminence of God's covenant with Abraham, a covenant based on faith in God's promise.

Galatians 3:15–25 tells why faith in the promised "Seed," not the keeping of the law of Moses, has always been the basis for a relationship with God.

**PART 2**

## **Discover the Eternal Principles**

**Teaching point one: Our inheritance in Christ depends on God's promise, not on our keeping the law.**

**Teaching point two: The law was intended as a temporary revealer of sin until the promise to Abraham was fulfilled in Christ.**

**Teaching point three: What the law lacks the power to do—impart righteousness and life—the promise can do through faith in Christ.**

**[Q]** How do you view the keeping of the Old Testament law?

1. I need rules; otherwise I don't know how to behave.
2. Rules make me feel like breaking them more than keeping them.
3. I need some rules, but only a few.
4. Without rules my life would be chaos.

**Teaching point four: Faith in God's promises energizes obedience and brings the empowering of the Holy Spirit.**



PART 3

## Apply Your Findings

Pastor Ron Lee Davis shared this illustration:

In the second book of *The Chronicles of Narnia, Prince Caspian*, Lucy enters Narnia again, and she hasn't seen Aslan, this lion figure who represents Christ, in a long, long time, and so they have a wonderful reunion. Lucy says to Aslan, "Aslan, you're bigger now."

Aslan says, "Lucy, that's because you are older. You see, Lucy, every year that you grow, you will find me bigger." For many of us, every year we grow, we find him bigger in his grace and in his goodness and in his faithfulness and in those promises that he has given us upon which we can depend all the days of our lives.

*(From "Rejoicing in Our Suffering," PREACHING TODAY, Tape No. 74.)*

*—Study by Craig Brian Larson, with JoHannah Reardon*

