

The Galatian Road

A Road Less Traveled

Growing In Grace Ministries

“To all the saints for their many
contributions.”

Thank you

Growing In Grace Ministries, Inc.
growing in grace - the evidence of His life



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The Galatian Road – A Road Less Traveled
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Proclamation

The truth contained in this MiniBük,
supported by Scripture, proclaims the
only true way of living the Christian
Life.

Preface

The Apostle Paul said in Galatians 2:20,
“I myself no longer live, but Christ
lives in me. So I live my life in this
earthly body by trusting in the Son of
God, who loved me and gave Himself
for me.” The Christian life is not **trying**
to live for Jesus, it’s **trusting** Jesus to
live it through you.

If you know in your heart that you are
struggling, not experiencing the fullness
of His divine nature, not allowing

Christ to fully live His life in and through you but you want Him to; then read on.

Purpose

To help God's people... "**grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and forever! Amen.**" - II Peter 3:18.

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"Keep your eyes upon Jesus, the originator and perfecter of our faith."

Hebrews 12:2

Introduction

Are you confused and frustrated trying to live the Christian life? **Trying** to keep **the law**, **trying** to live by religious **rules and regulations** working towards perfection. Many Christians are, and therein lies the problem. Christians **trying**, instead of **resting and abiding** in Jesus Christ the only one who can live the Christian life.

Let the truth in God's Word put an end to your **trying**, and turn it to **trusting** Jesus to live in and through you. Jesus said, "For apart from Me, you can do nothing." (John 15:5) Jesus' words are very clear, yet many Christians find themselves trying to "do" something in their own strength and end up experiencing burn out, judgmentalism,

or frustration with themselves and others.

No one has ever lived the Christian life except Jesus. He is the only one who ever did. He is the only one who ever will and Jesus will live His life in and through every born again believer. Jesus died on the cross for us to give His life to us, so He can live His life through us. It doesn't get any better than that.

Now before one can travel the Galatian Road one must be born again to receive salvation, which begins with the Roman Road.

The Roman Road: Salvation

Many Christians have heard of the **Roman Road**, a term used for three scripture references found in the book of Romans. They are often used in evangelism tracts to witness to unbelievers about their salvation.

#1 Romans 3:23 reads, "For **all** have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard."

Having established the fact that **all** have sinned, we move to...

#2 Romans 6:23 reads, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

Now, as the unbeliever looks at this verse the question arises, "How do I get this free gift of eternal life?"

This leads to...

#3 Romans 10: 9, 10 reads, "For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."

When an unbeliever embraces this truth with a sincere heart, they become a **born again** Christian and receive a new life, that didn't exist before.

The Galatian Road will explain this new life, **Jesus Christ now living in and through them.**

The truth is, Jesus doesn't **make us** better, Jesus **is** our better. He is now our life as Christians. This new life is a gift; not something the new believer works towards. Christianity is not a self improvement program, it's a self replacement. Replacing relying on self with relying on Christ alone.

All this truth is found in Galatians, one of the first books penned by the Apostle Paul. We call it the Galatian Road - A Road Less Traveled.

The Galatian Road: Grace

Once you have a new life **in Christ**, what's next? Learning how you can live this new life. Here's where the **Galatian Road** comes in, a term used for three scripture references found in the book of Galatians.

#1 Galatians 1:16, Paul writes, "Then He revealed His son **in me** so that I can proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. When all this happened to me, I did not rush out to consult with anyone else; ..."

The key word found in verse 16 is the word "**in**" when God was pleased to reveal His son **in me**... Paul did not consult others to see if this was true (Christ living in him).

Why? Because God revealed it to him, and there is no higher authority, than God Himself.

#2 Galatians 2:20, Paul writes, "I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Paul is now revealing to us what God revealed to him. All born again believers at salvation receive Christ to live **in and through them** by the power of the Holy Spirit. **This creates a new life in the believer.**

#3 Galatians 6:15 reads, "It doesn't make any difference now whether you have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we really have been changed

into new and different people."

Paul is saying whether you're a Jew or a Gentile, you must be born again.

"What this means, is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!" (2 Cor 5:17)

It's Jesus Christ Plus Nothing

Before you were born again, did you ever ask what you would need to do to become a Christian, and were told there's nothing to do, just accept the gift? But then after accepting this gift of salvation you were told what you need to do to live **the Christian life**. Have you ever been told to be Christ-like, to live as Christ did on earth, to live by all of Jesus' teaching in the gospels? That is an impossibility for any of us, since no one can live the Christian life except Jesus.

Example: Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, you have heard it said, do not murder. But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother and calls him a name shall be in judgment for

murder. And whoever looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Jesus tells us to turn the other cheek, to love our enemies, and pray for those who persecute us. He tells us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. (References: Matt 5:21-48) Ask yourself... who can do that?

The Sermon on the Mount is an unattainable goal for the human race, to attain through their own efforts. It is however a promise of what will happen in us when Jesus Christ has changed our nature, by putting His own nature in us at salvation.

All of Jesus' teaching is meant to be applied to the spirit life He puts within all born again believers. His life in us. It truly is Jesus Christ plus nothing.

All of Jesus' teaching while here on earth was teaching under the law of the old testament because He had not died on the cross yet. Hebrews 9:16-17 makes it very clear. "For where a covenant is (also known as a will or testament), there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives." (NASB) All of Jesus' teachings, including the Sermon on the Mount were **before His death** on the cross.

Are you getting the picture here? All of Jesus' teaching was meant to be applied to the life He puts within you at salvation. His life! **No one can live the "Christian life" apart from Jesus, living in and through you.** "The things that are impossible with people are possible with God." (Luke 18:27, NASB)

The Law – Religious Rules & Regulations

What does the Bible say about the law? You may be surprised. It is generally believed that knowing and following the do's and don'ts makes you a better Christian. However, the Bible says the Law empowers and increases sin. Do you believe the Bible?

The Bible says: "...the law gives sin its power." (1 Cor 15:56)

The Bible says: "The law came in so that the transgression [sin] would increase;..." (Rom 5:20, NASB)

The Bible says: "And the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as the person who has broken all

of God's laws." (James 2:10)

The Bible says: "For if we could be saved by keeping the law, then there was no need for Christ to die." (Gal 2:21)

The Bible says: "But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under His curse,..." (Gal 3:10)

The Ten Commandments, which are part of the law, were not given to stop sin. They have no power to stop sin. God gave the commandments to **expose** sin. Paul tells us in Romans 3:20, "For no one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what His law commands. For the more we know God's law, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying it."

By grasping this truth, you will understand one of the greatest misunderstandings in the church today. **Jesus was letting us know that no man could keep the law**, and that everyone needs a savior. The law is used to lead everyone to the only Savior, Jesus Christ. **Jesus alone satisfied every aspect of the law, and if we are in Him and He is in us, nothing more has to be done but to abide in His completed work.** His life in us frees us from the power of sin.

The Law – The Impossible Standard

Legalism [strict adherence to the law] leads to some very troubling conclusions. Legalism as a means of control, teaches that Jesus gave you a right standing with God, but it's your job to keep it. It further teaches that the gift was free, but it is up to you to hold on to it through performance. Actually, under the law you would be performing much harder than you would be in any religion because the standard of God is perfection. And Jesus is the only one who ever has or ever will keep that standard of perfection.

God's law reveals our sin. Paul writes, "Well then, am I suggesting that the law

of God is evil? Of course not! The law is not sinful, but it was the law that showed me my sin." (Rom 7:7)

Let me illustrate. Pretend you knew everybody on the face of the earth was going to die from a disease. And you had the only antidote that could save their lives, but no one believed that they were sick and going to die. This truly would be frustrating, don't you agree? So you invent an x-ray machine that reveals the fatal disease within them that will cause their death. Once they understand and believe, people would then be lined up for miles around your house to get the antidote.

Here is the application. The x-ray machine is the law, it reveals what is

wrong. The antidote is Jesus Christ, the cure for what is wrong. When unbelievers take the antidote, Jesus Christ into their lives; the fatal disease is cured and gone forever. They are saved and now have eternal life in Christ. After one receives the antidote, there is no longer a need for the x-ray machine [the law]. It has done its job for the new Christian.

The law, which is holy and perfect, was designed to convict unbelievers of their sin and their need for the Savior. Only Jesus Christ can save you from the penalty of sin that the law reveals.

Only Jesus Christ can give you a right standing before God.

Romans 10:4 tells us "For Christ has

accomplished the whole purpose of the law. All who believe in Him are made right with God." In Romans 6:14 Paul explains further "Sin is no longer your master, for you are no longer subject to the law, which enslaves you to sin.

Instead, you are free by God's grace."

Lose Your Religion

It is truly amazing that rules and regulations (the law) are what people usually want, but Jesus is all people really need. Religion is all about doing, achieving, accomplishing, and earning our salvation. Many say "just tell me what to do and I will do it." Religious people who trust in living by the rules will usually boast about what they have done (their good works). But a Christian has nothing to boast about. He or she boasts only in the Lord. Ephesians 2:8,9 explains, "God saved you by His special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

As Christians we are to put no confidence in ourselves. The popular religious philosophy of today is "the Lord helps those who help themselves", which by the way is not even in the Bible. It was also popular in Paul's day and it is just as wrong today as it was back then. The Bible has nothing good to say about our good works apart from Him and yet many Christians today are depending entirely on their **good works** to please God. Romans 3:12 tells us, "...no one does good, not even one."

There is only one good work that pleased God, the finished work of His Son Jesus Christ on the cross. That's it. Praise be to God!

Not I, But Christ

Many Christians don't understand that we need a life not a list. It is easier to follow a list of do's or don'ts, but a challenge to yield to the new life within. Yielding is about a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ living His life **in and through us**. How can we be so sure? The Word of God makes it crystal clear in Colossians 3:3,4 which reads "For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory."

Therefore, Christianity cannot be about us. **It's all about Jesus Christ living His life in and through our bodies.**

Remember Verse 4 tells us "**Christ is our real life.**"

Believing by **faith** that your old life is gone and your new life is now hidden with Christ in God is the truth of God's Word. The temptation we have however is to add our own worldly abilities, talents, and skills to the mix, so that it is no longer "Jesus Christ plus nothing"; it becomes Jesus Christ plus us and all of our good works. Remember, Romans 3:12 tells us, "...no one does good, not even one".

In 1 Corinthians 15:10, Paul says "For I have worked harder than all the other apostles, yet it was **not I...**" Well then, who was doing Paul's work? The answer is... Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:24 tells us, "God, who calls you, is faithful; [and] **He** will do this." In John 6:28,29 the apostles asked Jesus, "...what does

God want us to do?" Jesus told them, "this is what God wants you to do; believe in the one He has sent." God sent His Son Jesus to die for us, to give His life to us, to live His life through us. Simply believe this by faith! Hebrews 11:6, tells us "...it is impossible to please God without faith" This is the truth that sets you free. **It's freedom in Jesus Christ.**

If you are a born again believer, you have been given the very nature of Jesus Christ. It is not up to you to improve yourself, but to recognize and apply the truth concerning your new identity. **The fact is there is nothing we can do to become more right with God.** It has all been taken care of by Jesus Christ on the cross. Our place is

simply to receive His gift and then abide in the reality of His indwelling life. 1 Corinthians 1:30, 31 reads, "God alone made it possible for you to be in Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Christ to be wisdom itself. He is the one who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy, and He gave Himself to purchase our freedom. As the scriptures say, the person who wishes to boast should boast only of what the Lord has done."

Jesus Christ is not only in your life, Jesus Christ is your life. It's not about religion, it's about your personal relationship with Jesus.

Live By Grace

Living by grace through faith [not by the law] makes everything of Jesus and nothing of man. Grace allows man to live by constant faith in Jesus Christ for everything. Remember John 15:5, "For apart from Christ, we can do nothing...". The law reveals man's effort while **grace** reveals Jesus' finished work and gives all the glory to God.

Religious people who don't fully understand this truth get upset when they hear that they can no longer boast in their own efforts to keep the law. Paul tells us in Galatians 5:4, "For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace."

Truth is, God never intended for us to be in control. Controlling things is His role, not ours.

When we give control to the Holy Spirit in us there will be freedom not bondage, cooperation not competition, glory to God not praise to man. The world will see true Christianity, and the lost will come to know the Savior Jesus Christ living His life in and through His body of believers, and they will be drawn to Him in us. It truly is amazing grace.

Mixing Law & Grace

One of the biggest problems in the church today is mixing the old testament of law and the new testament of grace. Some believe you are justified by grace alone through faith alone, while others believe you must keep the law to be justified. Who is right and does it really matter if we believe differently? It mattered enough that God had the Apostle Paul pronounce the double curse for those who mix law and grace.

In Galatians 1:6-9 Paul wrote: "I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who in His love and mercy called you to share the eternal life He gives through Christ. You are already following a different way that

pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who twist and change the truth concerning Christ. Let God's curse fall on anyone, including myself, who preaches any other message than the one we told you about. Even if an angel comes from heaven and preaches any other message, let him be forever cursed. I will say it again: if anyone preaches any other gospel than the one you welcomed, let God's curse fall upon that person."

Many Christians do not think that it is a serious matter to have this mixture, or they simply don't understand. However, our response to the mixture of law and grace should be in alignment

with the apostle Paul. He was appalled that the Galatians were mixing the old testament with the new testament. In fact in Galatians 3:1 Paul wrote: "Oh, foolish Galatians! What magician has cast an evil spell on you?"

While most Christians have no problem with agreeing that they have been saved by grace, they are nevertheless still subjecting themselves to the law. They are depending on their obedience to the law to earn God's blessing. When they do well, in their own estimation, they expect to be blessed. When they fail or fall short, they expect to be punished and suffer shame and guilt. Such a system sounds very similar to the old testament.

God wants us to be blessed on account of what His Son Jesus did for us, not what we do for Him. Those trying to be justified by their law keeping, still have an old testament mentality even though they profess they are saved by grace. They have reverted to the old testament that was based on works and obedience to the law rather than trusting in the new testament that is based on faith in the new life.

The Christians who truly benefit the most from understanding God's grace are those who have come to the end of themselves, to the end of their own efforts to live the Christian life. They have tried over and over again until they have finally given up trying and admitted that they cannot meet the

law's unyielding standard of perfection. It's at that time they realize all of God's standards and Jesus' teachings were meant to be applied to the new life [His life] He puts within us at salvation. Jesus lives the Christian life through His body of believers.

Mixing law and grace is dangerous. It will cause you to live in confusion and our God is not the author of confusion. It is time to stop the mixture and confusion. Choose to live under the **old** testament of law or the **new** testament of grace. You cannot live under both testaments. **You choose! You decide!**

Still Have Questions? Paul Answers Them!

The following letter from God's word was taken from multiple verses that have been tied together to answer questions you may still have.



Dear Friends in Christ,

"For Christ has accomplished the whole purpose of the law. All who believe in Him are made right with God. And if they are saved by God's kindness then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's wonderful kindness would not be what it really is - free and undeserved. Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God

and that the Spirit of God lives in you? God will bring ruin upon anyone who ruins this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you Christians are that temple. Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be obvious in our dying bodies.

What this means is that those that become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, the old life is gone. A new life has begun! He revealed His Son in me so that I can proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. When all this happened to me, I did not rush out to consult with anyone else. I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly

body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I am not one of those who treats the grace of God as meaningless. For if we could be saved by keeping the law, then there was no need for Christ to die.

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the wonderful future He has promised to those He called. I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance He has given to His people. I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of His power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

Dearest friends, you were always so careful to follow my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away you must be even more careful to put into action God's saving work in your lives, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working **in** you, giving you the desire to obey Him and the power to do what pleases Him. For it pleased God to tell His people that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. For this is the secret **Christ lives in you**, and this is your assurance that you will share in His glory. I work very hard at this, as I depend on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in

God. And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory. Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until that day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

God, who calls you, is faithful; He will do this."

Apostle Paul

Contents taken directly from God's word: Rom 10:4, Rom 11:6, 1 Cor 3:16,17, 2 Cor 4:11, 2 Cor 5:17, Gal 1:16, Gal 2:20,21, Eph 1:18,19,20, Phil 2:12,13, Col 1:27,29, Col 3:3,4, 1 Thess 5:23,24

Conclusion

The great secret of living the Christian life does not lie in imitating Jesus, but in letting the perfect qualities of Jesus exhibit themselves in and through you. Jesus said in John 3:3, "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the kingdom of God." As born again believers it is not about trying to live for Jesus, it's about trusting Jesus to live in and through you. That's the truth.

The Bible tells us, once you know the truth, the truth will set you free.

Jesus said, in John 10:10 "My purpose is to give life in all its fullness."

Hopefully and prayerfully your eyes have been opened by the truth of God's Word to the secret of Christianity, "...**Christ lives in you**, and this is your assurance that you will share in His glory." (Col 1:27)

The Galatian Road is a road less traveled but it is the only hope you have of living a joyful and satisfying Christian life in all its fullness. As Christians we are literally the body of Christ. Amen!

Enjoy your journey **in Christ!**

Growing In Grace Ministries

What Now? – Action Plan

1. Read a second time.
2. Pass it on.
3. Check out our website for *FREE* life lessons, videos, podcasts, seminars, links and much more... and then **rest**.

BONUS – The 10 Restings

"For all who enter into God's rest will find rest from their labors, just as God rested after creating the world." Heb 4:10

Christians that understand this truth intellectually often still look for a list of things to do to enter into that rest. Well here's a list for those that need a list not of commandments or doings but of restings without putting them under the law. We call it the 10 Restings.

Resting #1: Trust in the Lord with all your heart... Prov 3:5,6, John 6:29, John 19:30

Resting #2: Know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future... Jer 29:11, Col 1:27, Eph 2:10

Resting #3: Live in the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh... Gal 5:16

Resting #4: Reckon yourself dead/abide in the

vine... Rom 6:11, Col3:3, Gal 2:20, John 15:5

Resting #5: Offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness... Rom 6:13, Rom 12:1, 1 Cor 15:10, 1 John 3:16

Resting #6: Let God transform you into a new person... Rom 12:2, John 8:32, Prov 23:7

Resting #7: Take every thought (project) captive to the obedience of Christ... 2 Cor 10:5

Resting #8: Study and embrace God's Word... Isa 55:11, 2 Tim 3:16, 2 Peter 3:18

Resting #9: Put on all of God's armor... Eph 6:11-18

Resting #10: Always be joyful. Keep on praying and always be thankful... 1 Thess 5:16-18

Now that you know these restings you will be blessed if you rest in Him, abide in Him, and remain in Him. Amen!