



For Us

By Jeff Bedwell on March 9, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Galatians 3

God's Word is powerful, especially as it points us to the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Paul powerfully reminds us in this chapter that Jesus, who perfectly obeyed the law of God *for us*, redeemed us by taking on the full curse of our disobedience *for us!*

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree'—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:13-14, ESV).

God's Word is not only powerful, but God often makes it very personal to us as well. Robert Morgan tells the story of Solomon Ginsburg and his personal encounter with these verses from Galatians:

Rabbi Ginsburg proudly named his newborn son Solomon and dreamed the boy might one day follow him as a leader of the Jews of Poland. But he was unprepared for the boy's teenage years. At age 14, Solomon rebelled against the pharisaical strictness of his home, particularly angered over the girl his father had arranged for him to marry. Leaving home, Solomon, 15, wandered around Europe, finally ending up in London where a friend spoke to him about Jesus from Isaiah 53. After months of anguished study and floor-pacing, Solomon embraced the Lord Jesus as both Messiah and Savior.

Family reaction was violent. The uncle with whom he stayed in London drove him away with curses, broomsticks, and hot water. He was disinherited. A group of Jews attacked him and beat him until he appeared dead. When he regained consciousness, he found himself in a garbage box, his bones broken and his clothes soaked with blood.

Then one day he was summoned before a family council. When he showed up, his relatives tried earnestly to dissuade him from following Christ, but starting at Isaiah 53, Solomon spoke to them of Jesus. One of the Jews began reading the bitter words of excommunication: "Cursed shall you be by day, cursed by night; cursed when standing and cursed when lying down ... " and so on.

Solomon, cut to the core, quietly cried to the Lord. Suddenly it seemed he was gazing upon Christ, arms outstretched on the cross. Above his bleeding head, Solomon saw the words: *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us."*

The youth's heart was suddenly filled with strange joy, and as he left the house he said, "I was so happy I did not know what I was doing. I walked right into the arms of a big policeman, who

asked me if I was drunk. I replied, 'No, sir, but I am very happy.'"

Solomon Ginsburg never looked back, and he went on to become one of the most productive evangelists of his era.

Spend some time today thanking God for His powerful, personal Word. Praise God for redeeming us through Jesus Christ who became a curse for us, so that we might be redeemed from our slavery to sin and the judgment that we deserved in our sin.

PRAYER: Father, I praise You for doing for me what I could have never done for myself by the coming of Jesus Christ who became a curse for us so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. I thank You for Your powerful, personal Word that continues to speak to me. May it continue to transform my life.

TOMORROW'S READING: Galatians 4

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