

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find most convicting, helpful, interesting, new or confusing in the readings?

1. Sunday, Jan. 29; Gal. 3:1-6; **Bewitched by the World or Steadfast in Faith?** Recall for a moment your point of faith in Christ and the new life in the Spirit you were given. Examine your life now in comparison. Has an ideology, philosophy, or hindrance slipped into your life or mine to dissuade that fundamental faith in Christ (1)? Under what conditions has the Holy Spirit been the most active in your life (2)? Compared to one year ago, has your faith weakened, stayed the same, or become stronger (3)? Have you or I slipped away from living by the Spirit? How have hardships built you up in faith instead of tearing you down (4)? What is the reason you or I are filled with the Holy Spirit and are able to see God's evidence in our lives (5)? What did God absolutely LOVE about Abraham (6)? What was Abraham's reward for simple belief/faith? **Personal Application:** Write about the worldly beliefs that bewitch you or me and minimize your faith. AND/OR Praise God for helping you remain steadfast in faith in Him and gain the power to love and live well through His Spirit in your life.

2. Monday, Jan. 30; Gal. 3:7-14; **Redeemed from the Curse of the Law Through Faith.** How does your personal faith or mine make us children of Abraham (7-9) Explain how the Gentiles as well as the Jews were included in God's plan of salvation (8). How are we blessed by our faith (9)? For what purpose was the law given (10-13)? Could the Jews who relied on following the law gain favor with God (11, Deut. 27:26)? Why or why not? Why did Paul call both the law and Jesus Christ cursed (13)? How did Jesus' becoming cursed for our sake open up the gates of eternal life to us all (14)? What is our gift of salvation (14)? **Personal Application:** Write about your own attempt or mine to gain favor by works either now or in the past. Thank God for only desiring simple faith from us and giving us new freedom because of it.

3. Tuesday, Jan. 31; Gal 3:15-22; **Abraham's Promise Realized.** Paul uses the example of a legal agreement between humans (15) to show the binding promise between God and Abraham. What was that promise (7-9)? In whom would the promise be fulfilled (16)? How many years later was the law given (17)? Why was the law established (17-19)? How did the law show the enormity of a person's transgressions (19)? Who was the Sinai Covenant's mediator (Lev. 18:1-5)? Who was the mediator of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 26:4, Acts 3:25)? How did Jesus Christ fulfill the law (21-22)? How do you and I now receive what was promised to Abraham (22)? **Personal Application:** Write a few words about receiving the promised blessing of Abraham now through simple faith and belief in Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord that the law was abolished so you and I might be eligible for the Promise.

4. Wednesday, Feb. 1; Gal 3:23-29; **Faith in Christ Equalizes All.** Again, what was the ultimate purpose of the law to the Jews (23-24)? What does the word "justified" mean? How is a person justified now? What happens to the law (25)? How does verse 26 tie back to verses 7-9? What does it mean to be "baptized into Christ" (27, see also Rom. 6:3-4)? Should a believer be physically baptized? Why or why not? What does it mean to clothe ourselves with Christ? How does being clothed in Christ equalize you and me to all others who are clothed in Christ (28)? Should any prejudice remain in our hearts for any reason? Why or why not? How are you and I and all other Gentile believers grafted in to the family of God? What is our inheritance (29)? **Personal Application:** Write about the great blessing of being clothed in Christ and how that equalizes all believers.

5. Thursday, Feb. 2; Gal. 4:1-7; **Children and Heirs.** In Paul's analogy, to what time of Jewish history is the time when they were "underage" (1-5)? What was that time like (3)? Do you recall the time in your life BC (Before Christ) or mine when you or I too "were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world" and what was it like? Was Jesus Christ born under the law (4)? What was God's plan for Jesus (5)? What new status do we have when we have placed our faith in Christ (5-6)? As sons, what gift are we given and who is our new guardian (6)? Do you or I allow the Holy Spirit within us to be released to cry out "Abba, Father"? How do we enter in with the Spirit in this intimate communication with the Father? What two titles are yours and mine (7)? What are the implications of those titles? **Personal Application:** Speak to God about your new status as a redeemed Child and Heir. How may you or I be a part of sweet communication with the Father via the Holy Spirit within us?

6. Friday, Feb. 3; Gal.4:8-20; **Enslaved by “old-Self” Habits, Addictions, Practices.** Read the entire passage. To whom is Paul speaking and what is his main concern? Which group of people were trying to sway new believers into following their outdated practices (8-10)? What mindset and life-changes happen when we know and are known by God (9)? What habits, practices, people try to take you or me captive again into our former, PRE-Freedom-in-Christ ways (8-9)? How/why did Paul first meet and preach to the new believers in Galatia (12-16)? What illness might Paul have had (see notes if you have them)? Why were the Galatians’ reactions completely different this time (15)? How do you or I react to someone who speaks Truth into our lives (16)? How might we expect to be received when we speak Truth to someone else? Identify any person or group in your life or mine who tries to steer you in a wrong direction (17). To what purpose must we be zealous only (18)? Identify anyone in your life to whom we labor over in prayer for that person to see Truth as Paul labored over the Galatians (19-20). **Personal Application:** Confess to God any old habits, addiction, beliefs, etc. that get in the way of your freedom in Christ. Ask Him to help you be victorious over enslavement once and for all. AND/OR Lay the names of those you or I labor over in prayer at the feet of Christ.

7. Saturday, Feb. 4; Gal. 4:21-31; **Slavery versus Freedom.** Read the entire passage. Explain verse 23 as you know the Genesis account of the births of Ishmael and Isaac. Why was Ishmael of the flesh? Why was Isaac of Divine Promise? In your own words, explain the Mt. Sinai Covenant (24-25). Now explain the “New Jerusalem” Covenant (26-27). How are you and I Children of Promise (28)? Does verse 29 have any personal meaning to your life right now? How does persecution play out world-wide? What are we to do if slavery vies for our hearts in any way (30)? Declare your freedom in Christ (31). **Personal Application:** Write a statement of your freedom in Christ. Thank the Lord that you are now a citizen of the New City of Jerusalem.

Cindy Oury. January 26, 2017.