

Agape
Life
Bible
Study

connect 360

A Cry for Freedom

GRACE THAT IS STILL AMAZING

A STUDY OF GALATIANS

Lesson 5

The Foundation of Faith

Galatians 3:1-14



February 22, 2026



Bible Study Prayer

**Father, as we turn to the Bible,
What we know not - teach us,
What we have not - give us,
What we are not - make us,
For your Son's sake,
Amen.**



The Foundation of Faith – Galatians 3:1-14

What is meritocracy?



Religion	The Ultimate Goal	The Primary "Problem"	The Path to Reach It	Key "Requirement"
Islam	Jannah (Paradise)	Disobedience / Forgetfulness of God	The Five Pillars & Akhlaq - Good Character	Faith + Good Deeds + God's Mercy
Judaism	The World to Come	A world that is unholy	Living a life of Mitzvot (commandments) and ethical deeds.	Action and Justice (<i>Tzedek</i>) over specific creed
Christianity	Heaven / Union with God	Sin (Separation from God)	Accepting the Grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.	Faith in Christ's sacrifice; works are a result of faith
Buddhism	Nirvana (Cessation of Suffering)	<i>Dukkha</i> (Suffering) caused by desire/attachment	Follow Eightfold Path & practice mindfulness.	Wisdom, Meditation, and Ethical Conduct
Hinduism	Moksha (Liberation from Rebirth)	<i>Samsara</i> (The cycle of birth and death / reincarnaton)	Following one's Dharma (duty) and the paths of the 4 Yogas.	Realization of the self (<i>Atman</i>) or devotion to the Divine.

The Foundation of Faith – Galatians 3:1-14

Paul & Vince Lombardi



Vince Lombardi & Paul

**Vince – This is a football.
Paul – This is faith.**



The Foundation of Faith – Galatians 3:1-14

Paul – This is faith.

The Judaizers wanted to take the Christian faith back to its beginning with Moses and the Law.

Paul took the Christian faith back to its beginning with Abraham – before Moses, before the Law, before circumcision.



The Foundation of Faith – Galatians 3:1-14

Paul – This is faith from the beginning.

This is faith from the Law & Prophets

- V. 6 – Faith of Abraham – Genesis 15:6**
- V. 8 – Faith extended to Gentiles – Genesis 12:3**
- V. 10 – Curse falls on those who do not obey all of the law
– Deuteronomy 27:26 (LXX)**
- V. 11 – The righteous live by faith – Habakkuk 2:4**
- V. 12 – The Law is not the basis of faith, but rather the
basis for living – Leviticus 18:5 (Ezekiel 20:11)**
- V. 13 – Christ hung on a tree as the one cursed
– Deuteronomy 21:23 (LXX)**



The Foundation of Faith – Galatians 3:1-14

Then and Now



The Foundation of Faith – Galatians 3:1-14

Then and Now

Paul addressed those who were trying to pervert the 1st Century Christian faith with rules, guidelines, and doctrines that opposed the foundation of the faith.

Martin Luther addressed those who were trying to pervert the 16th Century Christian faith with rules, guidelines and doctrines that opposed the foundation of the faith.



The Foundation of Faith – Galatians 3:1-14

Then and Now

Martin Luther as well as other Reformers such as Calvin and Zwingli and those who followed outlined the basics of true faith which led to the formalized structure which we know as the Five Solas.

The 5 Solas

Sola Fide

Faith Alone

Sola Gratia

Grace Alone

Sola Scriptura

Scripture Alone

Solus Christus

Christ Alone

Soli Deo Gloria

Glory to God Alone



The Foundation of Faith – Galatians 3:1-14

Then and Now – Jesus Plus



The Foundation of Faith – Galatians 3:1-14

Then and Now – Jesus Plus

- + Spiritual Gifts – specifically speaking in tongues**
- + Mosaic Law – as in the Hebrew Roots movement**
- + Secret Revelation – as in the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR)**
- + Social / Political Activism – remaining silent shows lack of faith**
- + Prosperity (Seed Faith) – poor equals faithless**



The Foundation of Faith – Galatians 3:1-14

**Then and Now – “Jesus-Not-Paul”
(aka. “Jesus Only”; “Red Letter”)**



The Foundation of Faith – Galatians 3:1-14

Then and Now – “Jesus-Not-Paul” (aka. “Jesus Only”; “Red Letter”)

“Jesus-Not-Paul” Perceptions

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Jesus’ Way</u>	<u>Paul’s Way</u>
Salvation	Loving God and neighbor	Believing in the Resurrection
The Kingdom	A present reality of justice/peace	A future state
Requirements	Following the "Way"	Accepting a system of justification
Tone	Compassionate, revolutionary	Academic, rigid, and argumentative





Final Thought



Meritocracy

Getting what you have earned





Final Thought



Meritocracy – getting what you have earned

Justice

Getting what deserve





Final Thought



Meritocracy – getting what you have earned
Justice – getting what deserve

Mercy
Not getting what you deserve





Final Thought



Meritocracy – getting what you have earned

Justice – getting what deserve

Mercy – not getting what you deserve

Grace

Getting what you don't deserve



Next Week!

Agape
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The Promise of Grace

Galatians 3:15-29



March 1, 2026

