

23. The Book of Galatians 4:9 (Topical)

Liberty From Law-Part 22

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In our current studies in Galatians, we have been looking at the subject of *religion* (Christianity being a relationship and not a religion) and how it is used by the devil to enslave people by taking them captive to his lies—

Galatians 4:9 (NKJV)

⁹ **But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how *is it that* you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?**

When Paul used the word “**elements**” he used a Greek word that refers to the ‘*fundamental principles*’ of any human religious system that promises a person access to God by keeping laws and other religious duties.

This access, they are promised, would cause God to bless them here on earth as well as guarantee them a place in heaven someday.

And yet, Paul tells us that the religions of the world are “**weak**”—or in other words, there is no strength in religion to save a person no matter how many commandments they keep, church services they attend or holy days they observe.

Not only are religions and religious systems ‘**weak**’ (powerless to save)—Paul goes on to tell us that they lead to ‘**bondage**’—or in other words, religion doesn’t save us it enslaves us!

As we pointed out last time—the insidious nature of religion is that the devil packages and presents it as a promise from God to set people free from sin and the devil’s hold on their lives when in reality it does the very opposite—it turns them into the willing slaves of Satan who they blindly follow him like a Pied Piper down the religious ‘broadway’ to hell. (Matthew 7:13-14)

Human religion is truly a ‘masterpiece’ of deception in that—the very system that people are led to believe will bring them spiritual life—is the very system that will actually rob them of that life and lead to their spiritual death and destruction in hell!

Colossians 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

“**Basic**” is the same Greek word Paul used in Galatians 4:3 and 4:9—a word that stands for the ‘*rudimentary principles*’ or the ‘*ABC’s*.’

Paul is saying to the Colossians some of whom had bought into the lie of Gnosticism—

“Your deep mysteries are nothing more than the ABCs of the world. They’re nothing more than the devil’s basic lies that he fed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. You haven’t bought into something that’s deep and profound—you’ve been deceived by the devil’s elemental or basic lie.”

What exactly did Paul have in mind when he talked about the basic lie that Satan fed the human race?

As we said last time, the world is full of lies—in fact, it seems that we are living at a time when lies have become so widespread and so culturally accepted that people will often lie when there’s no reason for it—even when it’s easier to tell the truth they’ll often still lie!

Some of these lies tend to be kind of innocuous—what many call *‘little white lies.’*

Most people don’t realize that there is no innocent, harmless ‘white’ lies in God’s eyes—all lies are sins that will condemn a person to hell if not repented of and washed away thru the precious blood of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 21:8)

But granted, from a human standpoint, some lies tend to be small and insignificant—while others are profoundly hurtful and life altering (like the lies associated with marital infidelity). I think that most people understand that lies, whether serious or small, can only affect us while we live on this earth—in other words, they can only hurt us *temporarily* in this life and can do us no more harm after we’re dead—but that isn’t true.

There are some lies that will not only affect us in the temporal—but will keep on affecting us in the eternal as well. These lies tell people how to get to heaven—when in reality they will damn them to hell.

This shouldn’t surprise us because the Lord Jesus Christ warned us that the closer we got to His return the more deception (lies) would ramp up.

Of course, He was speaking about *spiritual* deception (lies of the devil) that would target the truth of God (primarily the gospel) in the last days.

Now, with regard to spiritual deception—Jesus warned us that this deception would eventually reach a climax with the coming of the Antichrist onto the world stage. (Matthew 24)

We are told in the N.T. that when the Antichrist comes to power—he will deceive the human race with the greatest lie mankind would ever be subjected to.

This would be the very lie that Satan introduced in the Garden of Eden—the lie he told Eve that caused the Fall of mankind—a specific lie that the Bible calls—‘The Lie!’

So, the very lie that caused the human race to fall in the beginning will be the ultimate lie that the devil will use to cause the destruction of the human race in the end!

Understand, the Antichrist will not be the most wicked liar to have ever existed—that distinction goes to the devil whom Jesus called the *‘father of lies’* in John 8:44. In Romans Chapter 1, Paul is proving that the pagan is condemned by God—but in so doing he gives us insight into a religious deception that is coming upon the world in these last days:

Romans 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

In other words, when people reject the God of the Bible, whose truth is spiritual 'Light'—the darkness of demonic spiritual deception takes hold of their minds and they become slaves to Satan's lies (2Tim. 2:24-26).

This will reach a climax during the Tribulation Period when the Antichrist becomes the leader of the one-world government, and his partner the False Prophet will help him to outlaw all religions on the face of the earth replacing them with a single religion where the world worships the Antichrist as God:

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4, 9-11 (NKJV)

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God... ⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe **the lie...**

Paul's statement in 2 Thessalonians 2:11 is a prophetic warning that many people during the Tribulation Period will embrace Satan's gospel preached by the Antichrist—a gospel that Paul calls "**the lie.**"

This is what occultists and New Agers have called the '*cosmic gospel*'—a counterfeit gospel that has damned to hell billions of people down thru the centuries—and will be used to condemn billions more to hell during the Tribulation Period.

The prophecy Paul shared with the Christians in Thessalonica dovetails with the teaching he presented to the Christians living in Rome—

Romans 1:22–25 (NKJV)

²² **Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**

In both Romans 1:25 and 2 Thessalonians 2:11 Paul made reference to "**the lie**"—not "a lie" as in one of many, but "**the lie**"—as in the '*mother of lies!*' As we said last time, the world is full of lies—but there is one lie that is the 'mother' of all spiritual lies that the father of lies (Satan) introduced into the human race in the Garden of Eden.

C.S Lewis traced all major religions and cults back to two primary sources—Judeo-Christianity (God's truth) and Hinduism (Satan's lie)—both of which started in the Garden of Eden.

This main lie is made up of four parts that we started looking at in our previous study—so turn to Genesis 3 and let's look at the lie that Satan told Eve—

Genesis 3:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ "but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

This lie that Satan told Eve was made up of 4 different false doctrines:

1. **God is not personal but an impersonal force that fills the universe and everything and everyone in it.**

When Satan came to Eve one of the things he subtly planted into her mind was the concept that—the Person she had come to know as God was not God because of *who He was*, but was God because of *what He knew*—“*you will be like God knowing.*” (verse 5)

In other words, He had learned (gained some deeply spiritual hidden knowledge) on how to tap into a force that made Him God and now He was trying to keep Eve from understanding what this ‘God-force’ was because He didn’t want her to find the same divinity that He had found.

So here you have the first part of the lie—God is not personal but is an impersonal force that fills the universe and flows through everything and everyone in it—it’s called pantheism, one of the basic tenets of Hinduism.

2. **The second element of the lie that Satan told Eve was that there is no ultimate death.**

When Satan told Eve, “*You will not surely die*” he was saying to her, “*Eve there is no penalty for disobeying God (no judgment)—no death (ultimately speaking) in hell.*”

God told Adam and Eve, that in the day they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil ‘*they would surely die*’ (Genesis 2:17)—but you see, Satan told Eve God lied about the consequences of disobeying Him—there is no death—not ultimately (“*You won’t surely die*”—“*You many die but it won’t be permanent*”).

This became the basis for the doctrine of *reincarnation*.

Reincarnation is the process of ‘spiritual evolution’ whereby our spirit keeps being reincarnated (recycled) upon the earth into a new body in the hope that we will live a more moral, spiritually enlightened life each time until we finally evolve to godhood.

3. **The third element of the lie that Satan told Eve was that she could become God.**

“For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God...” (verse 5)

Or in other words, Satan told Eve she would ascend to godhood—but only after her eyes were opened (after she was enlightened)! Since we are all a part of this God-force that flows through everything (people, rocks, trees, animals etc.), then that means that ‘*all is God*’—this is what is known as ‘*pantheism*.’

According to pantheism, “*God is in all*” and therefore “*all is God*”—and if all is God, then that means that—I am God!

Which is exactly what Shirley MacLean (prophetess for the New Age) declared in the movie, ‘*Dancing in the Light*’—she said:

- “*I know that I exist, therefore— I AM.*”
- “*I know that the God-perforce exists, therefore— IT IS.*”
- “*Since I am a part of that force, then— I AM that I AM.*” (the name of God)

Of course, this was at the heart of the great rebellion of Lucifer where he led a revolt in heaven in an attempt to defeat God, usurp His throne, and replace Him as the 'Great I AM' (Isaiah 14)

Look, if I am God then I'm free to worship myself, live for myself and answer to no one but myself—which is very appealing to the selfish heart of fallen man!

That is why the human race will embrace the devil's false gospel so enthusiastically during the Tribulation Period—it feeds into something that man has wanted from the beginning of time—to be God!

4. **The fourth element of the lie that Satan told Eve was that godhood could be achieved through the tree of knowledge.**

Or in other words, the path to godhood is through enlightenment.

As Satan's lie to Eve progressed, he told her—***"You will not surely die for God knows that in the day that you eat the fruit of that tree your eyes will be opened (you will be enlightened) and you will become like God (ascend to godhood)."***

Those involved in Hinduism and the New Age Movement (pantheism) believe that although man *is* God—he has *forgotten* that he is God! Therefore, since man is a '*forgetful god*'—he/she must come to a '*higher level of consciousness*' (enlightenment)—to the realization of their own divinity or "*higher self*."

This enlightenment can be achieved through various means—Transcendental Meditation, hallucinogenic drugs like LSD, visualization, yoga—or some other technique (in Eve's case by eating from the tree of knowledge). Whatever the technique, they all promise *enlightenment* and claim to be the path to godhood.

You see the only obstacle (these New Age gurus tell us) that stands in the way of you reaching godhood and your full potential is the way you *think*—the way you perceive reality. The problem is that you *misperceive* reality and impose upon it your own *limitations*.

What you need to do is come to the realization (to the awareness) that you have infinite potential within—because the God-force flows through you! You must understand (these guru's tell people) that you'll never start enjoying your full God-potential until you embrace your divinity and believe you are God!

That's why Shirley MacLaine takes the first five minutes of every day reminding herself that she is God (she's not much of a god if she has to keep reminding herself that she is God!).

Now once you realize that you are God with the God-force flowing through you and that you have unlimited power and potential—then you can begin to use this power to work miracles, overcome weaknesses, heal sicknesses, gain wealth and success—in short create your own reality and change the world for the better.

The New Age Movement's beliefs are not new at all—they're a westernized version of Hinduism which has its roots as far back as the Garden of Eden.

Once again, both Hinduism and the New Age Movement (now called the "New Spirituality") teach that the only obstacle that stands in the way of you reaching godhood and your full potential is the way you *think*—the way you perceive reality.

The problem, they teach, is that most people don't believe they're God (which they call 'heinous pride')—and therefore impose their own limitations upon their reality (which hurts and limits everyone, because everyone is bound together in the divine consciousness/collective and what affects one, affects all).

What a person needs to do to start tapping into the infinite power of the god-force within them and use it to conquer sickness, poverty, bad habits, and other human failings—is to realize that they are God—until then they will continue to remain a failure in life.

In that regard—you are your own worst enemy they tell people—you are fighting against yourself!

Remember the scene in one of the Star Wars movies where Luke Skywalker has a vision he was in a cave and was confronted by his archenemy Darth Vader? Luke fights him and, in the process, decapitates him with his lightsaber only to see that—the face in the helmet is actually himself and not Vader.

The lesson being taught is—the only one hindering you from achieving your full potential (godhood) is you—you and you alone are your worst enemy. The reason is because *you* place limitations upon *yourself* by the way *you* think!

This was something that Yoda (the yogi of the force) tried to teach Luke by having him lift his starship out of the swamp using the power of his mind. When Luke failed, he told Yoda that he “*asked the impossible*”—at which time Yoda levitated Luke's spaceship from the swamp using the power of his mind.

Luke exclaimed, “*I don't believe it!*” to which Yoda responded—“*That's why you failed, because you don't believe.*”

In a lecture that Dave Hunt gave years ago at a pastor's conference I attended, he made reference to a book called “*Jonathan Livingston Segal*”—he said:

“Jonathan Livingston Segal was a book written in 1970. Tens of thousands of copies were sold in Christian bookstores. It was Hinduism dressed up in 'Positive Mental Attitude/ Success Motivation/Psychological terminology.

Richard Boach, the author, said it was all dictated to him by “*a disembodied spirit out on the astral plane*” (“*...seducing spirits and doctrines of demons*”)

The book was read by thousands of Christians—especially Christian businessmen who had copies in their offices with a picture of Jonathan flying through the air with the caption underneath—“*I can because I think I can.*”

Hunt went on to say, “*Do you know that there are many sincere and well-intentioned Christians who think that's what faith is—you pray and believe and if you believe hard enough your faith will make it happen.*” Of course, this is another element of the lie that has infiltrated into the Church. The doctrinal cornerstone of the lie, which is also the doctrinal cornerstone of Hinduism and the New Age Movement among others—is that man is really God or is evolving into godhood.”

As I said earlier, I believe that the very lie Satan introduced into the human race in the Garden of Eden will be the lie the Antichrist will use to deceive the human race with when he comes on the world scene.

I believe the Antichrist's religion will be rooted in the belief that mankind can become a super-race of God-beings that will live forever.

This has been the goal of Hinduism, Mormonism, the New Age Movement and many others—those who believe that we are really God and all we need is to be enlightened—and then the human race will take a ‘quantum leap’ in the evolutionary process to godhood.

➤ You say, “*Do they really believe this stuff?*”—you bet they do!

If you’ll indulge me for one more week—I’d like to look at this a little closer by showing you that the desire to become gods isn’t just the passion of Hindus and New Agers—those of a spiritual mindset. It is also being embraced by the scientific community who are working very hard to bring about the merger of man’s conscience and machine in an effort to reach ‘*godhood and eternal life*’—a process known as Singularity!

Remember, the topic we are studying out of this section of Galatians is—Freedom from Law (religion).

There is will no greater religion and religious deception than the one Satan has been preparing the human race to embrace for the last six-thousand years! And I believe that the Antichrist, who is about ready to be revealed, will deceive most of the world into believing this ‘cosmic gospel.’

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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