

# Champions/Women of Destiny

Year 2 LESSON 13



## No Strings Attached

This lesson focuses on **Galatians chapter 1:1-9**. As you read and study this lesson ask God to speak to your heart clearly.

The other day, Keith went to sign up at the Boys and Girls Club to play football. There were a few papers he had to make sure he got his parents to sign in order to play. When he got home his mom read through them and realized that he needed to take a physical, pay \$50 for his equipment, buy the right shoes, and participate in a fundraiser for his team. Keith said, ***“Wait a minute! The flyer said to sign-up if you want to play football. I didn’t expect all of this! Why so many strings attached, Mom?”***



In many ways, Keith has a good picture of the Galatian Christians. Certain Judaizers (those who required others to live according to Jewish customs) had told them (*the Galatian Christians*) that salvation by grace was not good enough either. There were other ***“strings attached”*** to salvation like obeying the Mosaic Law as well.

### A Different Gospel Message

The Apostle Paul understood the serious nature of this problem when he wrote to his Galatian brothers: ***“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – which is really no gospel at all”***(Galatians 1:6).

This other gospel preached by the Judaizers was the false teaching that salvation was based on good works in addition to grace. ***Now pay close attention to this next statement, for you may need to study and/or have further conversations concerning this.***

Many churches teach that nonbelievers must stop drinking, smoking, cursing, get baptized, etc., before Jesus Christ will find them acceptable for salvation. Not true!

Getting baptized, stopping drinking, cursing, smoking, are all ***results of*** salvation, but ***not requirements for*** salvation. God offers the gift of salvation to all who will accept it – ***no strings attached***. Are you still with me?

### Grace, more than what you say at the Table

Grace is God showing us favor and kindness even though we haven’t earned or deserved it. It’s like a teacher awarding failing students an A rather than an F (***some of you might relate*** 😊). The gospel of grace teaches that God can save anyone, no matter who he/she is or what they have done.

Accepting the ***free gift*** of salvation (*though not cheap, it cost Christ His life*) is the only requirement for the grace of God. But Paul says ***grace is no more grace*** when works or obedience to the law are added to the conditions of salvation (review Romans 11:6). In fact, Paul says those who teach such a gospel are cursed or eternally condemned (Galatians 1:8-9).

So what are you saying, is the Law (or the 10 Commandments) no longer useful?

God gave man the law so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God (**Romans 3:19**). The purpose of the law was to show the need for a Savior. (**Read Romans 7:7**) But by adding the law to salvation, the Judaizers taught that man could be saved by keeping the law completely. Living a sinless life, however, is **impossible** because of our old sinful nature (though we are not slaves to sin). Isaiah 64:6 puts it this way *“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.”* **While living a sinless life is a desirable goal, we are acceptable to God through His grace alone, not through our good works.**

The goal of every Christian should be reflected in God’s commands: **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and Love your neighbor as yourself”** (Matthew 22:37,39) **These two commands, which sum up the whole law, are the keys for godly living – no strings attached.**

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Just as the Judaizers based salvation partially on works, many Christians today have based their walk with God on a similar basis. Let’s define some key terms for the sake of clarity. **A biblical standard** is clearly commanded in Scripture. For example: no stealing, no premarital or extramarital sex (fornication), no gluttony (excessive eating). **A conviction** is an opinion based on Scripture, but without explicit support saying it is clearly a sin. For example: what music or TV programs are appropriate for Christians, how to wear your hair, if you should date, etc.

Although developing convictions is important, be sure to exercise caution. Personal **convictions** should never serve as thermometers of our walk with God. But those who keep **biblical standards** should not assume they are automatically walking with God either. For example, we should never look at our lives and say, “Well, I don’t lie or steal or get drunk, so I must be all right with God.” *There are non-Christians that don’t do these things either.*

Do you look down on others who may have stricter or more liberal convictions than you? If so, confess your self-righteousness to God. Determine in your heart to respect their convictions, whether you agree with them or not.

**Now watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:** <https://youtu.be/7YmawOtGHDw>

**Due Date Oct. 15**

# Champions and Women of *Destiny*

## LESSON 13 Review Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/b9gVkpZcnAannuFg6>

### No Strings Attached

Student name \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINT CLEARLY)

1. In addition to saving grace, what did the Judaizers expect of the Galatians for salvation?
2. True/False. The false teachings of the Judaizers died with them.
3. What are some conditions, besides accepting God's gift of grace, that many churches today require of nonbelievers for salvation?
4. Multiple Choice. When was the Book of Galatians written? (*Don't look for this in the reading but look it up in the Bible*). A.D. 25-30      A.D. 100-125      A.D. 55-60      A.D. 70-85
5. Fill in the blanks. "We are \_\_\_\_\_ to God through His \_\_\_\_\_ alone, not through our good \_\_\_\_\_."
6. Multiple Choice. The Law was given so:
  - a. We would see our need of a Savior.
  - b. We could be saved.
  - c. We wouldn't have any fun.
  - d. We could strive for perfection.
7. True/False. As Christians, we can achieve perfection on earth if we just set our minds to it.
8. True/False. Although convictions are important, they should never serve as thermometers of our walk with God.
9. True or False. Biblical standards are clearly commanded in Scripture