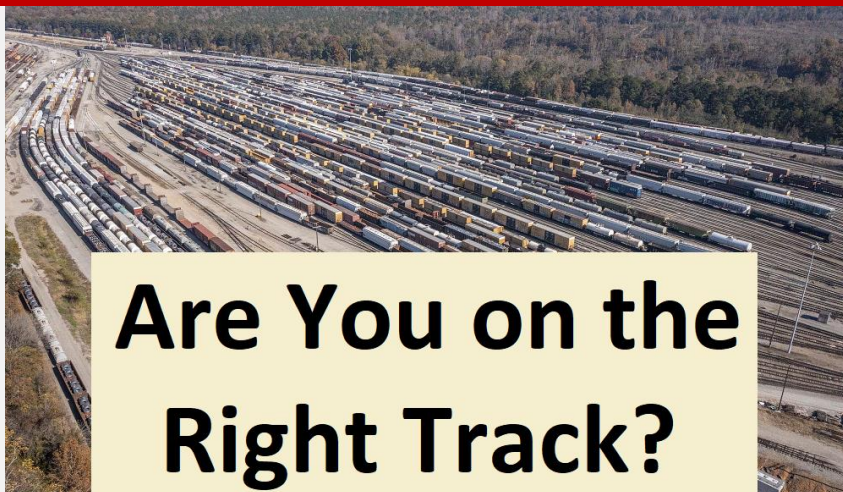


Reformation Day (Observed) – 2023

Saturday, 10/28 at 4:00 & Sunday, 10/29 at 9:00



# Are You on the Right Track?

Text: [Select Passages from Galatians NAS 1995](#)

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today we are celebrating the Reformation. What does that mean? We are remembering the saving truth that the Holy Spirit made known to Martin Luther and other reformers about 500 years ago. Many think they are saved by what they believe **PLUS** what they do, *but the Bible says we are saved by faith alone!*

God used Paul to bring people to Christ in Galatia. When Paul left, others came in to deceive the Galatians. Therefore, Paul wrote his letter to emphasize that we are saved by faith!

1. **Writer, Recipients, and a Different Gospel – 1:1-8:** <sup>1</sup> [Paul](#), an apostle... <sup>2</sup> ...[To the churches of Galatia](#): <sup>3</sup> [Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ](#), <sup>4</sup> [who gave Himself for our sins...](#) <sup>6</sup> [I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting \[God\] who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel](#); <sup>7</sup> which is *really not another...* <sup>8</sup> ...even if we, or an angel from heaven, should

**preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!** // There is only one gospel: *we are saved by faith alone in Jesus!* If anyone teaches otherwise, *let him be eternally condemned!*

2. **Justified by Faith – 2:11-16:** <sup>11</sup> ...when [Peter] came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face... <sup>12</sup> For... fearing the party of the circumcision [*who said circumcision was necessary to be saved*]... <sup>14</sup> ...I said to [Peter] in the presence of all..., <sup>16</sup> “...a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified...” // Since Peter was being tempted to believe Christ PLUS for salvation, *Paul made it clear that we are justified by faith alone in Jesus!*
3. **Abraham and Faith – 3:6-7:** ...Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED [*counted, credited*] TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham [*Rom. 9:6-8*]. // From Adam to the end, the way of being made acceptable in God’s sight is through faith alone in Jesus (*Acts 4:12*).
4. **Works and Curse – 3:10:** For as many as are of the works of the Law [*working to make themselves right before God*] are under a curse; for it is written, “**CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.**” // Many well-intentioned people know something about Jesus, then they ADD THEIR BEST EFFORTS. That makes sense, but anyone who ADDS any works MUST KEEP THEM ALL. *That is why such people are under a curse.*

5. **Christ and Curse – 3:13:** **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, “**CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE**”** // We all deserved to be cursed, so God sent His Son to be cursed in our place – by ▶being nailed to a tree, ▶taking our sins, and ▶bearing our eternal punishment! **The work of Christ alone is FULLY SUFFICIENT for our salvation!**
  
6. **Receiving the Christ – 3:26-27:** **...you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.** // When we were baptized into Christ, God gave us faith in Jesus, which made us His sons and daughters (Titus 3:5-7).
  
7. **The Sending and Work of the Christ – 4:4-5:** **But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.** // Since we cannot save ourselves, ▶God sent His Son, ▶Jesus did His work, and ▶the Holy Spirit gave us faith by which we trust in Jesus.
  
8. **Do Not Add a Single Work – 5:2-4:** **...I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.** // It makes sense to think that something more than Christ is required, so we are tempted to believe Christ PLUS, *but adding anything cuts us off from Christ.*

9. **Live Your Faith – 5:6-25:** <sup>6</sup> ...in Christ Jesus neither **circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love....** <sup>14</sup> ...the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, **“YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”** ... <sup>25</sup> **If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.** // Being saved by Christ alone, we have ✦peace, ✦gratitude, and ✦concern for others. Now, as God has shown great love for us, we *see the needs of others and take action to help them.*
10. **Keep Going – 6:9:** **Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.** // The good we do ✦honors God, ✦shows our faith, and ✦helps others. Let us keep going and not give up. God knows everything and will reward us at the proper time!

**Conclusion:** What track are YOU on?

- The unsaved:
  - **Claim** to have faith *but have no evidence* (*James 2:17*).
  - **Claim** to have faith and seem to have evidence *but trust in their own goodness* (*Romans 3:20*).
- The saved: **Have** God-given faith in Jesus for eternal life, *then show it in what they say and do* (*Matthew 5:16*).

**Let Us Pray:** Father in heaven, Your word is so clear that we are saved through faith alone in Jesus – TY! Please ✦grow our assurance that we are saved, ✦enlighten all who are spiritually deceived, and ✦bring many into Your kingdom!

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