

The Book of Galatians
Lesson 6 - Galatians 3:15-25
Gospel Living
“The Priority of the Promise”

All of Paul’s arguments are logical. But the particular arguments here depend especially on reasoning, as Paul compares the Law to a human contract. When two people make a contract, it is illegal for a third party to step in and change it or cancel it. Now, God made a contract (covenant) with Abraham four hundred years before the Law was given. The law of Moses could never cancel God’s original promise to Abraham. God gave that promise to Abraham’s seed as well, and vs.16 indicates that this Seed is Christ. The Mosaic law was not a new way of salvation that canceled God’s promises to Abraham; this would not be logical. Promise and faith go together, but not promise and law.

Rom. 2:14 and Acts 15:24 make it clear that God never gave the Law to the Gentiles. The moral law was already written in the Gentiles hearts. But the ceremonial law (including the Sabbath laws) was never given to the Gentiles. The law was “added” and was not a replacement for the Abrahamic promises. Once the Seed (Christ) came, the Law was superseded. “How can you say it was only temporary?” Paul is ready with an answer: The Law was given by angelic mediators, but God spoke personally to Abraham. God is one and the fulfillment of His promise to Abraham depended on Him alone.

If there were a law that saved sinners, then God would have spared His Son and used that law instead of the cross. The Law is not contrary to God’s promises; by revealing sin, the law forces the sinner to trust God’s promises. The Law shows us our need of grace; grace enables us to please God through faith. The Law places all under sin, which means that all can be saved by grace. If God permitted even one sinner to be saved by law, then no man could be saved by grace. All must be saved the same way.

The Law was God’s “schoolmaster” (tutor) for the Jews. The Greek and Roman tutor used to guard and teach the minor children until they reached legal adulthood, after which the children were on their own. The Law kept the Jews “in line,” until Christ came and the full revelation of the Gospel was given to Jews and Gentiles.

Read Galatians 3:15-25 and answer the following questions

1. What is the point of the analogy between God's covenant and a human legal agreement?

2. What did Abraham have to do to receive the promise of relationship with God? (3:6)

3. The Jews believed that the law given to Moses added extra requirements for receiving the promise. Were they right, or was faith in God still the only requirement? (See 3:15-18)

4. What difference does it make to you that your relationship with God and future blessing are based on God's promises and not how well you keep the Law of Moses?

5. Does God change as circumstances do? What did God promise that we can be sure He will do? (See 3:17, Genesis 12:1-3, 17:8)

6. If the Law wasn't given as a condition for attaining God's favor, then why was it given?

7. All Scripture is profitable for our growth (See 1 Timothy 3:16-17). What can you expect to gain from the Old Testament law?

8. How does faith in Jesus set us free from legalism?

9. How would you use this portion of Scripture with someone who thinks that keeping the “Golden Rule” or “Ten Commandments” is what’s needed to get to heaven?

10. In Galatians 3:24, Paul describes the law as our tutor to lead us to Christ. Explain why using the law is necessary when trying to lead others to faith in Christ.

11. How is 3:15-25 relatable to your life today?

God’s Promises

The Bible is the Word of God and is powerful and life changing. The promises of God start with 2 Timothy 3:16 when God tells us that all Scripture in the Bible our inspired by God. With that in mind, we can rest assured that what we learn from the Bible is true and powerful.

The following ten Bible verses for the NLV are meant to encourage you. Read through them slowly and let God work them into your lives. Remember that all of God’s promises are yes and amen for His glory and His praise.

“For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him amen, to the glory of God through us.” 2 Cor. 1:20

“And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires” 2 Peter 1:4

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope” Jer. 29:11

“Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls” Matt. 11:28-29

“He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint” Isa. 40:29-31

“And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus” Phil. 4:19

“And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord” Rom. 8:37-39

“But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm” Prov. 1:33

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord” Rom. 6:23

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” Rom. 10:9