

## Galatians Chapter Three – Gal. 3:15-29- “Justification by Faith” – Part Two Sunday, September 23, 2018

- ❖ **Gal. 3:1-14** - In this lesson’s passage...Paul reminds the Galatians that a believer’s experience...of the Lord Jesus Christ...of the Holy Spirit...of God the Father...is incontrovertible evidence of having been...graciously made acceptable to God...through personal faith in the...perfect and complete work of Christ.
  - This was accomplished apart from...any human effort or work.
  - Paul uses Abraham as proof that...salvation has never come any other way...than by grace through faith.
    - **SLIDE** - Even the Old Testament teaches justification by faith.
  
- ❖ **Gal. 3:15-18** – The Superiority of the Promise
  - **Ver. 15** – “**Brethren**” - This term of endearment reveals Paul’s...compassionate love for the Galatians...which they may have begun to question...in light of his stern rebuke in verses **1 & 3**.
    - **SLIDE** - “**a man’s covenant**” – Paul begins to unfold his argument that...the **PROMISE** (or Abrahamic covenant)...is **SUPERIOR** to the Law...by using a **LEGAL** contract or a will...as an illustration.
      - “**confirmed**” – to establish as valid → “**annuls**” – to make void...human contracts...wills...trusts...once **CONFIRMED**...are considered **IRREVOCABLE** and **UNCHANGABLE**...how much more God’s **PROMISE**?
        - ◆ **EXAMPLE:** Milt’s Irrevocable Living Trust
  - **Ver. 16** - Furthermore...God’s “**promises**” were not fulfilled...before the giving of the Law...rather...they found fulfillment in Christ...and are in effect forever.
    - The blessing of justification by faith...is therefore **PERMANENT** and could...**NOT** be changed by the Law.” → “**Seed**” – **Gen. 3:15** → **Gen. 22:18**.
  - **Ver. 17** – “**annul**” - different Greek word from **Ver. 15** – **SLIDE** – **Zodhiates**: “In Matt. 15:6, the Lord tells the Pharisees that they revoked...**akuróō**...the Word of God, or “You made God’s law of no effect for the sake of your tradition”. He did not mean that it ceases to be the law of God, but that it had no value, worth, or lordship over them.” - Their traditions made the Word of God of no **VALUE**.
    - “**confirmed**” – different Greek word from **Ver. 15** – having been confirmed in **ADVANCE!**...the giving of the Law could **NOT CHANGE**...the **PROMISE** that was **CONFIRMED** in **ADVANCE**...by God!
      - **SLIDE** – **MacArthur**: “The term means “ratified.” Once God ratified the covenant officially, it had lasting authority so that nothing and no one could annul it. The Abrahamic Covenant was unilateral (God made the promise to Himself), eternal (it provided for everlasting blessing), irrevocable (it will never cease), and unconditional (in that it depended on God, not man), but its complete fulfillment awaits the salvation of Israel and the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ.”
  - **Ver. 18** – “**promise**” – This is a **LEGAL** term...denoting a summons...or a promissory note to do or give something...but it also has the idea of...a **GIFT** graciously given...not a **PLEDGE** secured by negotiation → **Brody’s running pledge**...it is more than a **PLEDGE**...because the promise has already been **RECEIVED**.
    - Promise and Law are **ADVERSARIAL** by nature...they can be neither blended together nor combined.

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### ❖ Gal. 3:19-25 – The Inferiority of the Law

- **Ver. 19** - “What purpose then does the law serve?”
  - **SLIDE** - “transgressions” - **FIRST**...it was given because of transgressions...that is...the Law was given...to be a means for **CHECKING** sin...to **REVEAL** sin → **READ Rom. 7:7**.
    - It served as a restrainer of sins...by showing them to be transgressions of God’s Law...which would incur His wrath → **READ 1 Tim 1:8-11**.
    - **SECOND**...the Law was **TEMPORARY** and served... “till the Seed should come”... after which it was no longer needed → **READ Matt. 5:17**.
  - **THIRD**...The Law was **INFERIOR** because of the manner of its **DELIVERY**.
    - While God made promises to Abraham directly...the Law was established by a mediator.
      - ◆ There were in fact two mediators...the angels representing God...and Moses representing the people.
        - “appointed through angels” → **Deut. 33:2** - **Acts 7:38** – **Acts 7:53** – **Heb. 2:2** → these do not **EXPLAIN** the precise role they played...only that they were involved somehow.
- **Ver. 20-21** – **Gen. 15** → **Heb. 6:13** – “For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself.”
- **Ver. 22** – **Isaiah 53:6** → **Rom. 3:23** → **1 John 1:8** → **MANKIND** was hopelessly trapped in sin...“that”...the **PROMISE** given to Abraham...remained in effect... until Jesus was revealed.
- **Ver. 23** – “underguard” – **SLIDE** – **MacArthur**: “Paul personifies the law as a jailer of guilty, condemned sinners, on death row awaiting God’s judgment. Only saving faith unlocks the door of the prison where the law keeps men and women bound.”
- **Ver. 24-25** - The Greek word denotes a slave...who had the duty of taking care of a child until **ADULTHOOD**.
  - The “**tutor**” would escort the children to and from school...and watch over their behavior at home.
  - Tutors were often **STRICT** disciplinarians...causing those under their care to... yearn for the day when they would...be free from their tutor’s custody.
  - The law...our tutor...by showing us our sins...was **ESCORTING** us to Christ.
    - The reason that we need a tutor...to escort us to Christ is so – “that we might be **JUSTIFIED BY FAITH**.”

### ❖ Gal. 3:26-29 – The Results of the Promise

- **Ver. 26** – We are all sons (daughters) of God through faith in Christ Jesus...not by any success in keeping the Law.
- **Ver. 27** – This not speaking of water baptism...which does not save us...it only proclaims outwardly...was has happened to us inwardly...**2 Cor. 2:20** is great explanation of this!
- **Ver. 28** - The **UNITY** of the Body of Christ.
- **Ver. 29** - The **PROMISE** (covenant) God made with Abraham was **IRREVOCABLE** and **UNCHANGABLE**...and was fulfilled in Jesus Christ...our Savior and Lord.

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- And since we belong to Jesus...we are Abraham’s seed...**AND**...“heirs according to the promise.” → **Rom. 8:16-17.**
  
- ❖ Do not “set aside” the **GRACE** of God – **Gal. 2:21** - To go back to the law means that we must...“set aside” the grace of God...returning to the law nullifies the cross: “for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain” - **Gal. 2:21.**
  - Law says **DO!** The **PROMISE** and **GRACE** say **DONE!**
  
- ❖ **SLIDE** – **MacArthur:** “Whether before or after Christ came to our earth, salvation has always been provided only through the perfect offering of Christ on the cross. Believers who lived before the cross and never knew any specifics about Jesus were nevertheless forgiven and made right with God by faith in anticipation of Christ’s sacrifice, whereas believers who live after the cross are saved in looking back to it. When Christ shed His blood, it covered sins on both sides of the cross. The Old Covenant goes back to the cross; the New Covenant comes from it. On the one hand faith pointed forward, whereas on the other it points back.”