

“What Then Was the Purpose of the Mosaic Law?”

Galatians 3:19-25 August 30, 2020

Galatians Series- Living the Gospel in the Power of the Spirit

Big Idea- The gospel that Paul preached was received directly from Jesus. Anyone, including an angel from heaven, that contradicted the gospel of grace through faith in Jesus was to be eternally condemned. The Galatians, by their own personal experience, had come to faith and received the Holy Spirit through God’s grace without following the law first.

Therefore, the rest of their spiritual life should be lived by faith and the Holy Spirit and not be rooted in OT law keeping. Paul now moves on to prove this by showing the background of God’s covenant with Abraham prior to Moses. The Law came after God’s promise to Moses and was to last **until** Jesus arrived.

Background Texts- Hebrews 7:12, 18 (changed/annulled), 8:13 (obsolete); Ephesians 2:15 (abolished); 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 (brought to an end); Rom 10:4 (end of law); NT shows that the keeping of the law was not commanded nor required (Acts 15:10, 24).

LESSON 1- The era of Mosaic Law is now over, but it did have a PURPOSE

- A. The purpose (in a strange way) was to increase SIN
(Galatians 3:19; Romans 4:15; 5:20; 7:7; 1 Corinthians 15:56)
- B. The purpose was to show its temporary nature until JESUS ARRIVED
(Galatians 3:19- the word “until”)
- C. The purpose was to show its inferiority because it was MEDIATED
(Galatians 3:19-20)
- D. The purpose was to show a contrast with God’s PROMISES
(Gal 3:21; the law is good- Rom 7:12; its not contrary, just different)
- E. The purpose was to show that it failed at bringing LIFE
(Galatians 3:21; 2:21- If law, Christ died needlessly? Hebrews 10:4-14)
- F. The purpose was to show all imprisoned under sin and in NEED
(Galatians 3:22; Romans 3:9, 23; 11:32)
- G. The purpose was to show that the law was a CUSTODIAN
(Galatians 3:23)
- H. The purpose shows that the era of the custodian has ENDED
(Galatians 3:24-25; custodian points to Jesus- hands us off to Him)

Theological Application:

- 1. The gospel of faith asks us if we are still trying to earn God’s favor.*
- 2. The Mosaic Law is helpful to drive us constantly to faith in Jesus’ redemption.*
- 3. When properly understood there is no confusion or contradiction between Old Testament and New Testament theological applications. The history of God’s salvation works was in constant progression and we aren’t done yet!*

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples