

THE INTENT OF THE LAW Part 2 (Galatians 3:15-29)

By Anthony Scherffius

In part one of this article, we looked at the context of Galatians chapter three and how Paul defends the Gospel by explaining the purpose of God’s plan in the mystery of the Gospel, using Abraham as an example of faith. He makes his point concerning the Law and the Promise of God by saying the promise given to Abraham was to unite both Jew and Gentile into one family through the Promise of the Spirit—that is salvation. In this section, Paul would now explain the purpose of the Law, which is to bring about the Promise of the Spirit and the Mystery of the Gospel. He will also show the difference between the structure and nature of the Law of Moses contrasted with that of the Promise of Abraham.

1. (Vs 15-18) Argument Based On Example: Providing The Law—Paul now begins to explain the difference between Law and Promise (specifically of Moses and to Abraham). He is going to draw an illustration from a common practice that anyone will understand: *If two people make a covenant, it cannot be changed unless both parties agree.* If the Law was given at one point and fulfilled and put away at another, that means the Law is no longer in affect but the promise remains. This explanation really hits home with Paul in the next section. The Law was given by God, to angels, to a mediator, and finally down to the people. The Promise was given directly from God to Abraham. The Law was provided but not the main focus of the plan. The plan, even before the foundation of the world, was the seed promise, which the Law helped carry out. Just as Paul says, the Law was our boy leader that carried us to the cross.

<p>The Promise: (Abrahamic Covenant)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on a system of faith • Direct from God • Permanent • Gives Life • Centers on Christ
<p>The Law (Mosaic Covenant)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on works of the Law • Through angels + mediator • Temporary • Exposes sin • Guards until Christ

2. (Vs 19-22) Argument Based On Structure: Promise vs. The Law—This is where Paul destroys the argument and doctrine of Judaism. He shows the nature and structure of both Law and Promise. Paul asks a good question, that a lot of people actually ask today—“Why the Law then?” If it was only for a time, and the Promise to Abraham was God’s main plan, why even have the Law? Paul gives the answer almost immediately, “because of transgressions.” The Law of Moses pointed out the sin, whereas the Law of Liberty (or the Faith) saves us from sin. The Law was never intended to save. Then He gives not only the purpose of the Law, but its structure and nature: The Law of Moses was instituted by God, given through angels to Moses so he might be the go-between for a Holy God and an unholy people (Acts 7:52; Deut. 33:2; Psa. 68:17; Heb. 2:2). However, the promise given to Abraham was given directly from God, and needed no mediator or any messenger. The *promise* was given to Abraham and his “Seed” (singular — Christ)—It narrows toward one person. The *Law* was given to a nation which regulates a covenant community. So the Promise moves toward Messiah, the Law manages Israel. Essentially, to summarize what Paul is saying, is that the Law belongs to a different covenant structure than the Promise, and you cannot mix structural systems. You can’t use Law-structure to obtain Promise-blessing.

3. (Vs 23-29) Argument Based On Fulfillment: Purpose Of The Law—Paul concludes by making clear to the confused Christians what the Law can be used for if it is now abolished. Now that Law has been fulfilled by Christ (Matt 5:17-19), we are unshackled from the bonds of the Law and are now free with liberty and grace. So the Law which was a tutor is now for our learning, showing the Christian under the New Law (Law of Liberty—Jas. 1:25; 2:12) who Jesus is, what God’s plan is for mankind, and what the church is. We can understand the Mystery of the Gospel. Paul says it perfectly in the conclusion of his explanation of the Law and Promise:

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For 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.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise (Gal.3:25-29).

We, being under the New Law of Christ and not under the Law of Moses, we are not seeking to be of the literal blood line of Abraham nor are we awaiting the literal land promise to be fulfilled for it has already been fulfilled. On the contrary, we, being heirs of promise and eligible for the inheritance, can have assurance that we are children of faith and await the heavenly country (Romans 9:6-9; Ephesians 1:3-14; Hebrews 11:8-16).

Remember in Prayer

Ronnie Davis has been sick with strep.
Hailey’s grandfather, **Roger Elam**, has an eye infection.
Livvy Langley will have tubes put in her ears and her adnoids removed on February 18th.
Sharon McMillan has a cardiologist appointment on February 16.

Remember Also:

Melva McManus, Toni Johnson, Archie & Nancy Underwood, Joy Tull, Judy Mitchell, Samuel & Diana Ramirez, Steven Coats, Sharon McMillan, Loree Mixon, Donna Roberts, Kerry & Teri Clark, Branden Skinner, Jimmie Ivey

IMPORTANT DATES

February 15- Elders/Deacons Mtg./4:00
February 22- Pot Luck Luncheon
February 26- NH Birthday Party/2:00

Available in the Information Room:
The Spiritual Sword
Seek the Old Paths
Discovery

Bob Patterson’s Aunt Nell passed away early Wednesday morning. Bob and Luanne have been out of state caring for her but are headed back.

Rejoice!

Please welcome Gracie Dobbs to our church family. She was baptized on Monday. She is the girlfriend of Colt Rollins. Let’s make her feel welcome.

Welcome!

Judy Clamon has placed her membership with our congregation. We look forward to working with her!

Judy Clamon
16227 FM 90
Mabank, TX 75147
903-880-3457

The Lord’s church at Wylie is hosting the **Mighty Men’s Mentoring Conference** on Sat., Feb. 21. Cost is \$37.73 per person. To register, visit the congregation’s website: www.wcoc.org. Limited seating.

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There is a question box in the back. Feel free to submit questions to be answered by the elders or Anthony on 5th Sundays.
