

The Gospel of Grace
Why the Law?
Galatians 3:15-26
September 13, 2020

Galatians 3:15-26 - Brothers and sisters, I'm using a human illustration. No one sets aside or makes additions to a validated human will. ¹⁶ Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say "and to seeds," as though referring to many, but referring to one, and to your seed who is Christ. ¹⁷ My point is this: The law, which came 430 years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously established by God and thus cancel the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is based on the law, it is no longer based on the promise; but God has graciously given it to Abraham through the promise. ¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given? It was added for the sake of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise was made would come. The law was put into effect through angels by means of a mediator. ²⁰ Now a mediator is not just for one person alone, but God is one. ²¹ Is the law therefore contrary to God's promises? Absolutely not! For if the law had been granted with the ability to give life, then righteousness would certainly be on the basis of the law. ²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin's power, so that the promise might be given on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ to those who believe. ²³ Before this faith came, we were confined under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith was revealed. ²⁴ The law, then, was our guardian until Christ, so that we could be justified by faith. ²⁵ But since that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus.

The Promise Cannot Be _____ by the Law – v.15-18

- Justification - Throughout Scripture justification refers to God declaring a sinner to be guiltless on the basis of faith in Him. Justification is the free and gracious act by which God declares a sinner right with Himself – God forgives, pardons, restores and accepts us on the basis of nothing but faith in the person and finished work of Jesus Christ.

The Promise is _____ Than the Law – v.19-20

- The law was _____ – v.19a
- The law required a _____ – v.19b-20

The Promise is Not _____ to the Law – v.21-26

- The law was not given to provide _____ – v.21
- The law was given to _____ our sin – v.19a, 22
- The law was given to _____ the way for Christ – v.23-26