

Believers Together

Discovering the Word Series – April 25, 2023

The Law and the Promise—Galatians 3:15–25

Open It

1. Where do you keep important personal or family documents?
2. If you lost all your legal papers, what would you do?

Galatians 3:15–26 (ESV)

¹⁵To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified.

¹⁶Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.

¹⁷This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void.

¹⁸For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

¹⁹Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.

²⁰Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

²¹Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.

²²But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.

²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian,

²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Explore It

3. What spiritual truth did Paul explain by using an everyday example? (3:15–16)
4. What was the relationship of the Law to the covenant? (3:17)
5. What was the promised inheritance? (3:18)
6. What was the purpose of the Law? (3:19)
7. How was the Law put into effect? (3:19)
8. The Law required a mediator; how was the promise given to humanity without a mediator? (3:20)
9. Why did God give both the Law and promises? (3:21–22)
10. How did the Law pave the way for the gospel? (3:22–23)
11. How did Christ’s coming change the role of the Law? (3:24–25)

Get It

12. Why did Paul go to such lengths to explain Law and grace?
13. How much of your experience as a Christian is based on a set of rules?
14. How does faith in Christ set us free from legalism?

Apply It

15. How can you help an unbelieving friend understand that being a good, law-abiding person is not enough to get right with God?
16. What life-changing promise of God do you want to hold on to this week?
17. For what spiritual inheritance can you praise God today?