

## GALATIANS 3:19-26

A. Galatians 3:19- Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

1. [Wherefore then *serveth* the law?] Since the seed promise (Christ) is God's gift to Israel and us, is so **superior** to the law, for what earthly reason would you want to live by the law? **Why?**
2. [It was added because of transgressions,] Don't you understand, the law was - is not to help you do right, but to show that you are **wrong!** The law exposes the sinfulness of man. The Law was to create in man's mind his desperate need to cry out to God to **save** him.

I John 3:4 - Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Romans 5:20a - [Moreover the law entered that the offence might abound.]

Romans 7:7 - What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Romans 3:19-20 - Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Rom. 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

I Timothy 1:9 - Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

3. [till the seed should come to whom the promise was made;] (Christ)
  - a. [till] The law was temporary to Israel having a **beginning** and an **ending**.

Hebrews 10:9 - Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

Colossians 2:14 - Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

\* | The law was to **prepare** Israel to have faith in God and their promised Messiah. It was to help  
\* | them **see** their need of a Savior.
  - b. As with Israel, the law is to convict us of sin and also to **point** us to Christ.

Galatians 3:24-25 - Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. Gal. 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

\*\*The law is good and holy. It is **man** that is the problem.

Romans 8:3 - For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
4. [and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.]

- a. A "mediator" is the go-between of two different parties, who tries to bring the two parties together.
- b. God and Israel were not speaking to each other **directly**. Under the law, Moses would go up to God, then bring the message from God to the people. This meant the law was a **conditional** covenant. God was represented by angels, and Israel was represented by Moses.

**\*\*So the law was a conditional covenant trying to bring the people and God together. That is what the mediators (angels-Moses) were doing.**

Deuteronomy 33:2 - And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand *went* a fiery law for them.

Acts 7:53 - Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept *it*.

Psalms 68:17 - The chariots of God *are* twenty thousand, *even* thousands of angels: the Lord *is* among them, *as in* Sinai, in the holy *place*.

Hebrews 2:2 - For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

B. Galatians 3:20 - Now a mediator is not *a mediator* of one, but God is one.

1. The law involved a contract between two parties who were **each responsible** to carry out their agreement: Law ← Moses → Israel.
2. [but God is one] The Abrahamic Covenant needs **no** human partner **nor** mediator. In Genesis 15, God put Abraham asleep. It wholly depends upon God to fulfill it. It is dependent upon just **one** responsible party..God. That is why it is **unconditional**. **God alone** is involved in the Abrahamic Covenant as initiator - mediator - and fulfiller.
3. Also for us believers in Christ today, God's unconditional promise is that our salvation is by grace through faith in the gospel alone. It is totally dependent upon God **alone**, thus assuring us it **will** be carried out.

Romans 8:30-31 - Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. Rom. 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

C. Galatians 3:21- *Is* the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

1. [Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid:]
  - a. Paul says perish the thought. The Galatians' problem was not the fault of the law, but was brought about by the Judaizers' **mis**understanding and **mis**use of God's intention of the law. They used the law for salvation and their sanctification.
  - b. The law was **never** given to replace the promise, but rather to help **pre**pare the Israelite to believe and receive the promise. **\*\*The law and promise cooperate with one another having different functions.**

2. [for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.]
- a. Law and promise are not in conflict with one another because their purpose was completely **different**. The law was never for the purpose of giving righteousness unto anyone, but the promise was so they were to work along**side** each other.

- b. Also, if the law could give eternal life because of obedience, then Jesus did not need to die on the **cross**!

Galatians 2:21 - I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

D. Galatians 3:22 - But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

1. Paul is saying there is no difference between the Jews and the Gentiles. All are sinners alike, and that was **hard** for the Jews to swallow!

Romans 3:9-10 - What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; Rom. 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

2. [that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ (DBR) might be given to them that believe] What are they given? Eternal life.

- a. \*\*The law did not make sinners, but **revealed** man's sins and his guilt for those sins. Man is involved in sin, and has **no** ability of himself to rescue himself from his enslavement.

- b. The law, as a mirror, reveals our **dirt** and it is faith alone in Christ that cleanses us (Romans 5:20). When we believe, the law **ful**filled its purpose.

Romans 4:5 - But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

E. Galatians 3:23 - But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

1. Paul is giving an analogy saying, "Sin is a prison full of all sinners. We are prisoners, and the law is the jailor, but Christ holds the **key**." God wants us to acknowledge that all humanity are sinners. Man is in a **doomed** cage with only one door - gate, and Christ is the key to the only way out. Christ opens the cage to the one who will **believe** in Him. It is done by faith in the gospel.

\*The Israelites were under constant surveillance. The law was like a jailer watching their every move. Their **every** act of sin was condemned with no excuses twenty-four hours a day (Shut up).

2. [unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.] The law was condemning and gathering all the Jews (Gentiles) under its burden for 1,500 years. God had not **told** them that one day Christ's finished work and grace alone would **un**burden all. God through Paul would progressively reveal God's **hid**den truth of grace to all mankind..their solution for sin!

F. Galatians 3:24 - Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

1. The culture of that day used well-educated slaves, who became the guardian of their children. They would be in charge to manage the child's obedience, conduct, discipline, safety, and education. This schoolmaster (child conductor) took responsibility of a son from the ages of 6-18, until he became an adult.
2. Israel was under the law for 1,500 years. It was a system by which God was training them, teaching them, and hopefully bringing them to a place where they would be mature, knowledgeable, believing Jews.
3. The purpose of the law was to prepare Israel, as a nation, for her great opportunity when the time came to receive Christ as Messiah, to believe in Him, and to be a light to the Gentile world.
  - a. **\*\*Back then it was law plus faith and never faith plus nothing. That was not until the law was totally satisfied at the cross. But Israel still remained in unbelief.**
  - b. Even today, the law shows us our sinfulness and then points us to Christ and His gospel given to Paul (DBR).

G. Galatians 3:25 - But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

1. When the child comes to his time (under law), he reaches the age where he can make his own decisions to do the right thing. When they put their faith in Christ, then the school master (the babysitter) has completed his training. His work is then no longer needed, and is terminated.
2. Once faith in Christ takes place, we are no longer under law, but under grace!  
Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.  
\*The law had fulfilled its purpose!

H. Galatians 3:26 - For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Paul tells the Galatian believers, Jews and Gentiles, they were something special and not by the law. They had been promoted from being enemies of God, to being God's very children. As sons and daughters of God, their relationship to Him was one of great privilege. This happened by faith alone in the gospel.

Note: Sadly for most Jews, they did not recognize the Messiah when He appeared, and today, it is impossible to truly practice their faith of their fathers. The Jews have no altar, no priesthood, no sacrifice, and no King.

Hosea 3:4 - For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and *without* teraphim:

\* | All of these have been fulfilled in Christ, so that Jew or Gentile who trusts in Christ becomes a child  
\* | of God. Wiersbe