

Paul, an apostle—not from men or by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead—and all the brothers who are with me:

To the churches of Galatia.

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, so that he might bring us to himself by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

No Other Gospel

I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—¹ not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ² But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! ³ As we have said before, I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him!

⁴ For am I now trying to persuade people, or God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

SET FREE



The Origin of Paul's Gospel

⁵ For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. ⁶ For I did not receive it from a human source and I was not taught it, but it came by a revelation of Jesus Christ.

⁷ For you have heard about my former way of life in Judaism; I intensely persecuted God's church and tried to destroy it. ⁸ I advanced in Judaism beyond many contemporaries among my people, because I was extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ⁹ But when God, who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁰ to reveal his Son in me, so that I could preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone. ¹¹ I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus.

¹² Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him fifteen days. ¹³ But I didn't see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. ¹⁴ I declare in the sight of God: I am not lying in what I write to you.

¹⁵ Afterward I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ¹⁶ I remained personally unknown to the Jewish churches that are in Christ. ¹⁷ They simply kept hearing, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith he once tried to destroy." ¹⁸ And they glorified God because of me.

THE PROMISE OF FREEDOM | PASTOR STEVE STEELE | MAY 10TH, 2026



The Promise

“ Dear brothers and sisters, here's an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case. God gave the promises to Abraham and his child. And notice that the Scripture doesn't say 'to his children,' as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says 'to his child' - and that, of course, means Christ. This is what I am trying to say: The agreement God made with Abraham could not be canceled 430 years later when God gave the law to Moses. God would be breaking his promise. For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise. But God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise.”

~ GALATIANS 3:15-18 (NLT)

“ The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.' ”

~ GENESIS 12:1-3 (NLT)

God told Abraham: _____ ...

“ Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, 'Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!'

And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith.

Then the Lord told him, 'I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.'

But Abram replied, 'O Sovereign Lord, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?'

The Lord told him, 'Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.' So Abram presented all these to him and killed them. Then he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side; he did not, however, cut the birds in half.' ”

~ GENESIS 15:5-10 (NLT)

“ After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses. So the Lord made a covenant with Abram that day and said, 'I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt to the great Euphrates River—' ”

~ GENESIS 15:17-18 (NLT)

The Purpose of

“ Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people. Now a mediator is helpful if more than one party must reach an agreement. But God, who is one, did not use a mediator when he gave his promise to Abraham.”

~ GALATIANS 3:19-20 (NLT)

God told Moses: _____ ...

“ Is there a conflict, then, between God’s law and God’s promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it.”

~ GALATIANS 3:21 (NLT)

Functions of the Law:

Shows us _____ .

“ The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living.”

~ PSALM 19:8 (NLT)

Shows us our _____ .

“ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.”

~ ROMANS 3:20 (NLT)

Shows us our _____ .

The Promise & the Law _____ .

“ But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God’s promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ. Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed.

Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.”

~ GALATIANS 3:22-29 (NLT)

“ For the law was given through Moses, but God’s unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.”

~ JOHN 1:17 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

Do we still need to _____ ?

“ But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good.”

~ ROMANS 7:12 (NLT)

Jesus made _____ ?

“ Jesus replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

~ MATTHEW 22:37-40 (NLT)

DISCUSSION Questions: COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP |

- 1- What are some of the rules you had in your house growing up that other people didn't have? Where could you go to escape those rules?
- 2- What rules from your childhood did you keep in your house as you became the parent? (or What rules do you think you'll keep when you are a parent?) What rules did you (or will you) abandon and why?
- 3- Re-read Galatians 3:21. How do you see God’s law and God’s promises work together for our faith?
- 4- Re-read Galatians 3:22-25. How does the role of the law as protective custody or a guardian sit with you? Now that the law is not needed as a guardian, how does that change things?
- 5- How does faith in Christ set people free from Legalism? Has it set you free? How?
- 6- How would you use this passage (Galatians 3) with someone who thinks keeping the Golden Rule or the Ten Commandments is what is needed to get right with God?

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