

THE EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS

CHAPTER 3:15-29

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“LET’S MAKE A DEAL” – PART 1

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Faith, Promise, Justification, Abraham

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Galatians 3:15-29

1.) *The law cannot change God’s promise*

vv. 15-18

Verse 15

serves as an introductory argument to Paul’s argument that Justification by faith is the doctrine of God and Christ.

15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is **confirmed**, no one **annuls** or **adds** to it.

yet if it is **confirmed**, no one **annuls** or **adds** to it.

a.) *Because God’s Promise - Came First*

v.16

Now to Abraham **and** his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

A Most Remarkable Verse

God the Father not only made a promise to Abraham, His Child.

but

God the Father made a promise to Jesus Christ, His Son.

Numbers 23:19

"God is not a man, that He should lie..."

Titus 1:2

in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie,
promised before time began,

The law cannot change God's promises

b.) Because God's Promises – are unchangeable v.17

And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.

A Promise That Can Be Changed,

altered, or molested in any way, is no Promise at All

The Law Came Later, After God had set Precedence.

That all those who would trust Him – would be declared righteous by God

Like Believing Abraham.

“the law cannot annul the covenant”

Greek

cannot make temporary, bring to an end, cease,
or destabilize what God had promised.

“Immutable”

Permanent, endless, perpetual, ceaseless, enduring,
constant, stable

Psalm 61:1-4

HEAR my cry, O God; attend to my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy. 4 I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah

Jeremiah 33:11

...The LORD is good, for His mercy endures forever"—toward all those who will bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD.

In Psalm 136

It says 26 times that...
“His Mercy Endures Forever”

Because God’s Promises – are unchangeable

Verse 17

that it was **confirmed** (the authority) before (preceding)
by God in Christ,

Genesis 15:12-18

Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 "And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 "Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 "But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." 17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. 18 On the same day the LORD made **a covenant** with Abram

**That Covenant was
Unconditionally and Unilaterally
Dependent Upon the Lord**

GOD WAS THE ONE WHO INITIATED IT

GOD WAS THE ONE WHO PERFORMED IT

GOD WAS THE ONE WHO ORDAINED IT

Abraham Offered Up The Sacrifice

But it was God who accepted it
It was God who agreed upon it

**All The While Abraham was Fast Asleep
(a symbol of man's deadness in sin)**

Hebrews 6:13

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

in Christ,

Greek

IN Christ grk 1519 eis (ice);

To reside continually, to go forth in to, to dwell throughout, to possess

Matthew 2:23

And he came and dwelt **in** a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets...

The law cannot change God's promises

c.) Because God's promise - requires nothing from man v.18

For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise;
but God gave it to Abraham **by promise**.

It Demands an Effort on My part

**If a promise is greater than the law,
then what promise can I make God?**

When I die, the law does not give my children anything.
My Children will receive what I own.
It may be money, it may be things, it may be property

**To them it will be an inheritance
(not earned, not worked for – but born into)**

1 Peter 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

**It was God, who made the promises,
Not Abraham.**

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

2.) The law is not greater then God's promise vv. 19-20

19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. 20 Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.

The law is not greater than God's promise

a.) Because the law was only temporary

v.19a

19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made;

What purpose then does the law serve?

To drive a man in total desperation and panic to the foot of God's mercy

**the law was given UNTIL the COMING of the MESSIAH.
The temporary law gave way to the eternal messiah**

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The law is not greater than God's promises

b.) Because the law needed a mediator

v.19b-20

19b - and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.
20 Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.

Acts 7:53

"who have received the law by the direction of angels
and have not kept it."

**From God to Angels to Moses
To the people themselves**

A mediator gets the divided parties
to come to an agreement

But God made the Deal with Himself

And determined the beneficiary to be Abraham - - *Such a Deal*

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH
THAT WAS SPOKEN BY GOD TO ABRAHAM DIRECTLY

**The Demands of the Law
FROM GOD TO ANGELS TO MOSES TO THE PEOPLE**

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

3.) *The law is not against God's promise* vv. 21-26

The Law doesn't Contradict the Gospel,
Rather - it Complements the Gospel

**The Law Endorses, Promotes,
Points Toward the Gospel**

It Stands as it were - a Lighthouse
Pointing the Way But it Points Away from Itself

a.) *The law was given – but it could not give life v.21*

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.

It governed people, instructed people, enlightened people

IT MADE AND MAKES PEOPLE MORAL

But it cannot add spiritual life to anybody

2 Corinthians 3:5-6

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Romans 7:7-10

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. 9 I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.

2 Timothy 1:8-9

according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

The law is not against God's promise

b.) *The law was given - to convict every man v.22*

22 But the Scripture has **confined all under sin**, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe

The Scriptures (Bible)

It is brutally honest isn't it?

It has the Boldness to say:

- If you hate someone - God sees you as a murderer
- If you think sexual thoughts about someone God sees you as an adulterer
 - If you cheat on your taxes God sees you as a thief
- If you can tell someone what's right and wrong and you break a law yourself God sees you as a hypocrite

THE LAW OF GOD

Romans 7:12-14

Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. 13 Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

THE GRACE OF GOD

John 8:3-9

Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 "Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. 7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the youngest...

the longer you live, the more sins you rack up...

Romans 3:23
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

THE LAW OF GOD

Is like a mirror that shows us our dirty face. No one would ever attempt to wash his face with a mirror - you'll only get cut that way.

BUT THE GRACE OF GOD

Is like water and soap, bleach, easy-off, and a brillo pad

John 15:3
"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Titus 3:4-6
But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

This Week
Have you fallen into sin? or Did you go look for it?
Repent of it now... Confess it to Him

1 John 1:7
But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

The Law is to Unveil, Unmask, Remove
the Charade
of Self-Righteousness

c.) The law was given - to prepare us to meet Christ v.23-26

But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

given - to prepare us to meet Christ

Verse 23

we were **kept under guard** by the law

held **under custody in prison**

Being Kept Under Guard by the Law
Is Mankind's Guilty Conscience

**Which Causes great emotional / mental /
spiritual Pain**

It is this “divine pain”

That warns a man that his soul is in danger of divine wrath

given - to prepare us to meet Christ

Verse 24

Therefore the law was our **tutor to bring us** to Christ,

our tutor

The Pedagogos

Was a slave-guardian who was responsible to lead the master's child to maturity. It was his job to constantly direct the child to the things of life that would be a blessing to both father and child...

Verse 25

But after faith has come,
we are no longer under a tutor

The Law Tutored Israel to be prepared to meet the Christ

The law had done its job

In pointing the nation of Israel to the coming of Jesus Christ. They had gone from adolescence being under the tutorial of the Law to adulthood standing before Christ.

Verse 26

For you are all sons (young men) of God
through faith in Christ Jesus.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

4.) *The law cannot do what a promise can do* vv. 27-29

a.) *The law cannot change us* v.27

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Redemption brings about a Changed Life

To be baptized "into Christ" is:

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink

Romans 6:2-4

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life**.

To "put on Christ" means:

To change your clothes

... newness of life.

The Work of the Law

Isaiah 64:6

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

The Fruit of Grace

Colossians 3:8-15

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

In Galatia of the Roman Empire

The Galatian children would wear an adolescent garment. It was tan or cappuccino in color so as to not show the stains of food or drink due to their own clumsiness. But when they had reached adulthood they were given a Roman toga

God is Going to Change us even Further When Jesus returns for us

The law cannot change us
BECAUSE THE LAW HAS NO POWER TO CHANGE US

The Grace of God
Is the only power that can change a man

When You Begin to See Yourself “Scripturally”
Is the Moment you begin to Change...

That You’re Now Immersed In Christ.
That You’re Now Wearing Christ.

The Law Can Never Encourage You
The Law Can Never Assist You
The Law Can Never Save You
The Law Can Never Give You Hope -
it cannot because it was never designed by God to that!

The law cannot do what a promise can do

b.) The law cannot unify us

v.28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; **for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Psalm 133:1-3

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in **unity! Unity** – It's fragrant like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down to the end of his garments. **3 Unity** - It's like the most refreshing air from mount Hermon, it descends upon the mountains of Israel; for there the LORD commanded His blessing-- life - forevermore.

Where there is a legalistic Heart,
There you can expect a Competitive spirit.

A warring, a division, strife

The Law Also

It causes man to compare himself with others

2 Corinthians 10:12

For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

The law cannot unify us

But Jesus Can - and does!

John 13:35

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

1 John 3:11

For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Acts 2:44

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

Acts 2:46-47

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

The law cannot do what a promise can do

c.) *The law cannot embrace you*

v.29

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed,
and heirs according to the promise.

In The Old Testament

There was a fence around the tabernacle of meeting.
The temple was off limits to the common man

In the New Testament

Jesus Christ Himself has broken down that middle wall of separation.
Jesus has taken away the division between man and God

Hebrews 9:14-15

how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.