

**Galatians 3:15-19 What If I Try Really Hard To Be Good; Will That Be Enough?**  
4/7/2024 Teague Bible Church

Paul's teaching brings us to this critical point today: "Why the Law then?"

1. **Question:** Have you ever wondered why God did not send Christ to die for men's sin immediately after Adam fell into sin?
2. We saw how God found in Abraham what He was looking for. Galatians 3:5-9, Romans 4: 1-25.
3. SO remember, it started by grace through faith with a promise, then the Law period for training, then the fulfillment of the original promise to one person, Christ, who in turn shares His righteousness with us who simply believe what He did on the cross was for us. Romans 3: 25
4. The Law cannot give life, but has a crucial purpose. The Jews had convinced some in the Galatia that the Law was everything you need to relate to God. One big problem; nobody ever kept the Law! Psalms 143:2, Ecclesiastes 7:20, 9:3, Romans 3: 10-12,20, Galatians 2: 16.
5. **Robertson:** "It is not the function of the Law to address directly to the motive of the heart, the prophets did that (Example: Isaiah 1: 1-31), nor to claim spiritual authority over the whole man, but to impose a check on open rebellion." Galatians 3:19-22
6. The grace promise to Abraham, which came long before the Mosaic Law, spurred faith in Abraham by appeal to gratitude and love. The Law uses threats of wrath and punishment to deter corrupt natures. Galatians 2:16
7. **Question:** What would happen if all law enforcement ended tomorrow? Would everybody, out of the goodness of their heart, get along and do right?
8. **1 Timothy 1:8-16** Law was not made for someone who is right with God, the Christian. They have intrinsic, interior motives of love for God, because the Holy Spirit lives in them. This is far beyond the general impulse of conscience, and far beyond doing right just because of fear of punishment.
9. So the main purpose (but not the only purpose) of the Law is to regulate abuses, to keep sin in check, between the time of the promise given to Abraham and its ultimate fulfillment in Christ.
10. **Question:** How would you tell someone about the relationship of God's law to His plan to transform hearts? What illustrations would you use?

## Purposes of the Law:

11. 1. The Law was temporary- It came after the "grace promise" to Abraham and is now ended for believers in Christ. Galatians 2:16. It served its purpose when Christ died. He was the only one who fulfilled the Law in deed, thought, and pure motive. He perfectly fulfilled its requirements then he offers us His perfect standing by grace; entered into by faith. Romans 10:4, Galatians 3:24-25
12. 2. Being written for all to see, it convicts all alike of sin in one's life. It made our failures clear. No longer could one imagine a nebulous passive indifference as an escape. The Law reveals all sin as prideful rebellion.
13. 3. The Law can only regulate abuses. It could not change the heart.
14. 4. The Law is a teacher to lead us to Christ. To see our need for a Savior. Galatians 3: 25-26
15. 5. The Law is subordinate to the promises of God. Not only because of the time the Law came (after the promise to Abraham), but also how it came.
16. The promise was directly to one man, Abraham. The Law came through mediation. Less direct, and to a group of people (Israel). Many of whom did not have faith like Abraham. The Mosaic law became part of their national identity.

**Text: Galatians 3: 15-19 \*\*\*\*\***

(An example of progressive revelation; the unfolding of the plan of God)

**Seed of Abraham-** spermati- (singular) "seed" spermasin- (plural) "seeds"

**Genesis 12-** Promise that a great nation would come from his descendants, and that other peoples would be blessed by it in some way.

**Genesis 15-** He believed the promise that a child would be given to him. He had to learn the hard way that it would not be Eliezer, nor Ishmael. God had told him directly that the child will be from his own body.

**Romans 4-** The promise came before the Law period. Men are justified by faith, just like Abraham was.

**Romans 9-** God's choosing demonstrated. Those who believe as Abraham believed (having a trusting relationship to God) are the chosen.

**Galatians 3: 7-9, 26-29-** The revelation of the seed could only be fulfilled by Christ Himself.