

Gal 07 – The Purpose of the Law – Gal 3:19-29

After all Paul's written so far – we could easily imagine the Judaizers coming to the defense of the law

We could almost hear them say *“If Righteousness comes thru faith alone – If God's promise to Abraham is really fulfilled in Christ . . . then what is the purpose of the law?”*

Well – Paul was FAR from declaring the law was unnecessary –

The Law has a specific & a critical function - in our coming to salvation . . . & I pray you'll see that today

maybe you've wondered the same thing – *What exactly is the Law for, & more importantly, how exactly does it apply to our lives today ??*

Let's Pray

Paul starts this morning w/ the question maybe some of us have today . . .

Gal 3:19

19 What purpose then does the law serve? . . .

Fair ques. - & maybe one you've asked yourself . . . maybe you've wondered HOW does the law fit into our relationship w/ the Lord

If you've asked yourself that question – I promise you this text will answer it

Gal 3:19

19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, . . .

The law was added Because of sin – more literally – to Define sin –

The Law was given to show man the depth of his sin - & to show man his total inability to become righteous on his own

The law came to prove **the extent of man's sin** – in order to point to the One who would deal, once & for all, with the sin that we could never erase

Gal 3:19

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; . . .

The law was given to **prove our sinfulness** to us - & to cause us to look to the One to whom the promise was made - Jesus Christ

*Guys – if you will **understand the law** – I promise you . . .
you will understand your need for a Savior – *cause that's what the law does**

cause If we **don't understand** the reality, of God's Required Judgment on sin
Then we will NOT see **our need** for a Savior . . .

Haven't you met people that say . . . “*Hey, don't give me that Jesus Saves stuff – I'm a pretty good person – I think God's pretty happy with the way I live*”

THAT is a person who **Does Not** understand God's Law -
& because he doesn't understand God's law –
he doesn't understand his need for a Savior

When we understand God's Full Requirement to **judge any & all sin** . . .
& when we understand that our lives are riddled w/ that sin
THEN *we understand how desperately we need a Savior*

The purpose of the law is to prove how **totally & completely Lost** we are,
before a perfectly Holy & Righteous God . . .

& to convince us of our need for **the Saving Grace** found only in Jesus Christ

Now – the last part of **Gal 3:19, & v.20** – is an incredibly **powerful statement** -
But it's one that can be missed - if we're not real careful

Gal 3:19D-20

. . . *and it [the law] was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.*
20 Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.

Let's start w/ the end of **V.19** –

the law was appointed thru angels – by the hand of a mediator . . .

So we know **the mediator** of the law was Moses,
& in at least 4 places in the Bible - Angels are mentioned
in connection w/ the giving of the law

But here is Paul's probable Point - The law **required a Mediator** (Moses),
because there were two parties w/ obligation (God & Us),

in the law, **our obligation** was to follow the Entirety of the law . . .
& **God's obligation** was to either bring wrath if we DID NOT follow
the Entirety of the law or . . .

to theoretically **bring Righteousness** should we happen to be able to
perfectly follow every point of the law – which (*of course*) never happened

So – because there were **two parties w/ obligations** -
Moses was made the mediator between the parties

But what happens if there is only **ONE PARTY** in a Covenant ??
Is there a need for a mediator if there's only One Party in a covenant?

& that is the question that **V.20 answers** –
20 Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.

When the **Promise of Righteousness** thru Faith - was Given to Abraham
God put Abraham **TO SLEEP** – knocked him out cold . . . **WHY?**

because Abraham **did not have an obligation** in the covenant –
Abraham **had** believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness

The promise & the covenant were **ALL of GOD** –
It was all of God's Doing – it was all of God's Guarantee –
It was done in the **eternal unchangeableness** of God alone

& Abraham simply **received the promise** that came **BY** God's grace -
& **THRU** Abrahams Faith - the exact same way we receive God's promise

Mal 3:6 (Rich Z.)

6 "For I am the LORD, I do not change; . . .

Cont'g in **V.21** – Paul asks the ques. he knows is **on his reader's mind** . . .

Gal 3:21A

21 Is the law then against [contrary to] the promises of God? Certainly not!

"**May it Never Be!**" – the Law & the Promise are **both from God** –
God never changes - & He certainly would never contradict Himself

The law is not "set against" or "contrary to" the Promise – they **are both part**
of God's Single plan of salvation - *for all who believe . . .*

Which **is exactly** what Paul is referring to in 2nd half of **V.21**

Gal 3:21B

. . . For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.

God could never say:

"Well the law didn't work – so I'll have to come up with something else"

Paul's saying here - the law was **Never Intended to Work** –
It was never God's plan to make man righteous thru the law

So when we see people trying to **make themselves** "Righteous"
by following their own list of selected parts of God's law . . .

It proves they have certainly - **never understood** the purpose of the Law
again – the 2nd half of **Gal 3:21** says . . . **[REPEAT GAL 3:21B]**

Now - in **V.22** . . .

Now - in **V.22** - Paul **continues proving** what the purpose of the law is

Gal 3:22A

22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, . . .

Paul's simply restating the **purpose of the Law** – & he says;
“*the Law confines us all under sin*”

This word “Confined” means **LIT**: “*to enclose on all sides*” –
the picture is of **fish caught in a net** – *enclosed on all sides . . .*

THAT is what the law is supposed to do – to **enclose us** on all sides under sin
To leave us **NO WAY OUT** from under the condemnation of our sin

& that is what **proves to us** the only way out – is to take God's **great promise**
of Amazing Grace – thru faith in Jesus Christ . . .

When the law ‘**Confines**’ us under sin –
it makes us **ready** to receive the promise that comes in Jesus Christ

Let's read all of Gal 3:22

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 law condemns us in our sin - **so we'll see** our need for a Savior,
& **so we'll receive** the Promise by faith in Jesus Christ

& that's what Paul was referring to in **Rom 7:24-25** when he writes . . .

Rom 7:24

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

then he says in **V.25** – w/ ea of us who **understand our “lostness”** in sin . . .

Rom 7:25 (NLT)

25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

Paul's doing a great job of **explaining the purpose** of the law –
But - he's not finished proving his point yet . . .

In **v.23** – he gives **another example** – of how the Law *prepared us* for Christ

Gal 3:23

*23 But before faith came, we were **kept under guard** by the law, **kept** for the faith which would afterward be revealed.*

The word “**kept under guard**” is the picture of a **guarded prison cell** –
. . . the Law was **our Guard** – that kept us imprisoned by our sin

Paul says in Rom 7:7:

. . . I would not have known sin except through the law . . .

The purpose of the law is to hold us “**under the conviction**” of sin –
Like a guard – reminding us we can't be Righteous on our own . . .

Then we see again this word “**KEPT for the faith**” here in v.23 –
Same Greek word as translated in **v.22** as “**Confined**”

Again – this word means “**to enclose on all sides**” –
The law encloses us on all sides . . . WHY? . . .

it says here in v.23 . . . “*for the faith which would afterward be revealed*”

Guys – **Forgiveness** by God's Grace means nothing to a person
who doesn't **know** - they need to be forgiven . . .
That's what's meant by “*the law **confines us** for the faith*”

If I walked up to you “**out-of-the-blue**” - **& told you** there's someone willing
to die in your place for the crimes you've committed that deserve death –
you'd look at me like I was crazy, & walk away

But **if** you were on **Death Row** – 24 hrs away from being executed -
& I walked up to you & told you there was someone willing to die in your
place for the crimes you've committed that deserve death . . .

you'd be very anxious to hear all about it - & **you'd be amazed** that an innocent man would be willing to die in your place . . .

THAT is the Purpose of the Law – to **make you amazed** that the very Son of God - would take your place - & pay the death penalty for you

The law proves to us – that we are **on death row** – & there's no way – we can EARN our way - out of the penalty . . .

So – when the offer of Salvation **BY** God's Grace **THRU** Faith Alone comes . . . The fact that the law has shown us - we are On Death Row – makes us ready to Receive Salvation Thru Faith in Christ

& so now – we come to “yet another” **Famous vs.** in Galatians . . .

Gal 3:24

*24 Therefore the law was our **tutor** to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

I trust the **purpose of the law** is becoming more & more clear -
But this vs should absolutely **Seal It !**

Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ – that's pretty clear!

The Greek word for “**Tutor**” is **paidagogos** - & **KJV** translates – **Schoolmaster**

But actually a **paidagogos** was generally the most trustworthy slave in a well to do Greek, or Roman, family . . .

& he was most often charged - w/ **supervising** the life of the “**Heir**” of the family

The **paidagogos** took charge of **the heir's** day-to-day activities – they instructed the heir in school lessons - & in obedience – & they had the authority to administer discipline . . .

So **the heir** would grow to both **love & respect** their **paidagogos** (tutor) – **HOWEVER** – the role of the **paidagogos** was never permanent

As the heir grew up – he'd **begin to look forward** to that day of manhood,
when he was no longer ruled by his *paidagogos* . . .

but instead he would now be ruled – **in his freedom** -
by all of the training his *paidagogos* had given him

& that's Exactly what **Gal 3:24** says – the Law did for us;
*24 Therefore the law was our [paidagogos] tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might
be justified by faith.*

The Law **KEPT** – **GUARDED** - & **TRAINED** the “Heirs” -
so we could one day be governed by Christ living in us

BUT - after the Heir reaches maturity - & **he is released** from his *paidagogos*,
He never has to go back under that tutor – the tutor has done it's job

& after the law leads a man to Christ – that man **never has to go back** under
the authority of the *tutor* of the law – the tutor has done it's job -
& now *Christ living in us* can take over

& that's exactly what **Gal 3:25** tells us . . .

Gal 3:25

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

Faith in Christ **is the freedom** the Heir was longing for –
that day when his tutor had finished his job . . .
& now the Heir could live in response to all his training

& it's **not that** the Tutor is **no longer** relevant –
it's that The Purpose of the tutor has been accomplished – Fulfilled

& so for us – *Living in Christ* is **the Fulfillment** of the Law

& not only does **Living in Christ** fulfill the law in us –
but it also makes us **true Heirs** of God . . .

Gal 3:26 . . . →

Gal 3:26

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

All those who have come to God thru Faith in Christ Jesus – are **Heirs of God**
No longer under the “Guarding” or “Tutoring” of the Law . . .

But we have come into full **Son-ship** (Daughter-ship) w/ God
as we’ll read later in **Gal 4:6-7** . . .

Gal 4:6-7

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Thru Christ we are **no longer under** the “Tutoring” of the law –
But we have now arrived – as full Heirs of God . . .

& **How** exactly does **this happen** - that we become “Heirs” of God . . . ??

It happens by our identification **IN CHRIST** . . .

Gal 3:27

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

Someone pls tell me the Greek word for “**Baptized**” here (**baptizo**)

Now we know Paul is **NOT** talking about the act of being **dunked in water**
Because the **WHOLE** point of the book of Galatians is
Righteousness thru **FAITH ALONE** – w/ nothing added !

So – Paul’s **NOT** speaking of **the physical act** of baptism (Bapto) –
He’s speaking of the literal (spiritual) meaning of **Baptizo**

Baptizo means to be so identified - as to bring upon **a permanent change**
The picture of this word is – A Cucumber becoming **A Pickle**

Read **Rom 6:3-5** to understand this great truth . . .

Paul's saying those who've been **So Identified** with Christ –
Who've been so immersed in Christ – have actually “Put On” Christ !

The words **“put on Christ”** – mean - *Divinely Clothed with Christ . . .*

& that “Being Clothed” with Christ – has made you an **Heir of God**;
no longer a **Slave** to the Law – but an **Heir** of God – & **Joint Heir** w/ Christ

& actually, this truth – that we are **“Clothed in Christ”**
is at the very heart of all of Christianity – it's what makes it all work

& not only does this truth (*clothed w/ Christ*) make us **One w/ Christ** -
but it also makes us One with **EVERY OTHER** Believer

Gal 3:28

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.

When we are *truly clothed* with Christ – **not only do we** become one w/ Christ
But we also become **one w/** every other believer . . .

It's interesting Paul would use this series of comparisons -
NEITHER **Jew** nor **Greek**, **Slave** nor **Free**, **Male** nor **Female** . . .

There was a Traditional **Jewish prayer** – the men prayed every day . . .

& it said “*I thank you God, that I was not born a Gentile, a Slave, or a Woman”*
& Paul is probably referring to that very prayer here –

& he **abolishes it** in Christ . . . & says – “*for you are all one in Christ Jesus*”

Finally – Paul **closes this section** – by going back to Father Abraham –
which is the same way he started it back in **V.6**

Gal 3:29 . . . →

Gal 3:29

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

Because of everything we've **studying** in the last three weeks –
Because of everything Paul's **written** in this powerful Chapter
Because of **all those things** . . . Paul says;

*If you are Christ's (belong to Him THRU Faith) then you are Abraham's seed –
and most importantly – *you are heirs according to the promise . . .**

BY God's Grace - & **THRU** Faith alone . . .

You & I become **Heirs** to the very promise God made to Abraham . . .

& So - the vital purpose of the Law . . . was to lead us to the promise In Christ
so that "in Christ" we could be *Heirs according to that Promise*

Let's Pray