

In verse 12 we see the 5th quote from the OT which comes from Lev 18:5.

12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."

Anyone desiring and striving to live under the law

- had better be prepared to keep the law.

Jesus said

Jn 11:25, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

Paul's argument was that the just shall live by faith.

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse (substitution) for us (for it is written, "Cursed (doomed to punishment) is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

If we try to keep the law we are cursed

- but if we live by faith we are redeemed.

(to Redeem: to buy out from the slave market

- Jesus paid the ransom price with His blood - 1 Pet 1:18-19.

And when Jesus redeemed us, He redeemed us completely.

Romans 8 - no condemnation no separation.

In verse 13 Paul quotes for the sixth time from the OT, this time from Deut 21:23.

The Romans had the right of capital punishment.

- And that was by way of crucifixion.
- That was the ultimate form of humiliation in the OT.

14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The blessing Paul refers to

- is justification by faith.

And since we've been justified by faith

- that also means that we will receive
- the promised Holy Spirit

Eph 1:13-14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of

promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Let's consider the person of the Holy Spirit!

- the Holy Spirit was present during
- the creation of the world.

God said, let Us create man in our image!

The Holy Spirit is not an "it!"

Who is the person of the Holy Spirit?

We see the Holy Spirit described in scripture as:

- The Finger of God - Luke 11:20
- The Dove - Matt 3:16
- The Wind - John 3:8
- Spirit of Grace - Heb 10:29

Jesus Himself had different titles,

He was called

- the Babe in Luke 2:12,
- A Grain of Wheat in John 12:23-24, it doesn't mean he was a grain of wheat. He's a person.
- A living Stone in 1 Pet 2:4, doesn't mean He was a stone.

God also was called by different names:

- El-Shaddai
- Jehovah
- Elohim

God is not

- one being in 3 beings,
- nor one person in 3 persons,

God is

- 3 persons in one being.

What's the difference between a being and person.

A being is that which makes you what you are.

A person is that which makes you whom you are.

- For example, My name is Ben.
- That's my person.

But I'm a human being.

- Each of us have a being,
- we're human beings.
- We're different beings but we all have the same being.

But we are different persons:

- I'm me and you are you.

God on the other hand is one being with 3 equal persons

- who all share the same substance, "Yahweh"
- but they are 3 separate persons.
- The Holy Spirit is the person of the Holy Spirit

So Paul says in Galatians that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith and in Ephesians he says you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.

The same Holy Spirit that was present at creation is the same Holy Spirit that resides in us as believers.

John 14:16

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever –

verse 15

- Paul begins to speak of the law verses
- the promise that was made to Abraham.

Paul's opponents would have had questions like,

- for what purpose was the law?

The greatest debates in the early church were

- can a non-Jew can be saved,

That was a typical question asked by "Christians" who said,

- you first had to be a Jew
- in order to become Christian.

These people misunderstood Paul for saying that the law was no good.

For some reason these people just didn't seem to understand what Paul was saying.

- Paul was trying to show the people
- that there was no conflict between Jesus, Abraham and Moses.

He wanted them to understand that both Moses and Abraham pointed to the Messiah.

God promised Abraham numerous descendants

A few centuries after the Lord made that promise to Abraham,

- those descendants were in Bondage in Egypt,
- so the Lord sent Moses to deliver them from that bondage.

God was dealing with two different people at different times in history.

- With Abraham, He made a covenant based on a promise.
- With Moses He made a covenant based on the law.

The Lord said to Abraham:

Gen 12:2-3

2 I will make you a great nation;

I will bless you

And make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,

And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- God made a promise to Abraham
- that he would be a great nation.

- God's promise to Moses was based on the cooperation of the people.

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 (to make void) or adds to it.

Paul opens this verse by reminding them that they are his brothers in Christ.

Paul was illustrating to the Judaizers.

- that nothing changes the promises
- which God makes to His people.

God's promise to Abraham was made long before the giving of the law to Moses.

Therefore, it couldn't be amended,

- it couldn't be changed or cancelled.

God's promises to us are binding.

God said in Mal 3:6, I am the Lord, I do not change.

Since God does not change,

- then His promise to Abraham did not change.

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.

Seed is not plural, it's singular.

- Jesus is the seed,
- He's the promised one to redeem us!

God promised Abraham that "all peoples on earth will be blessed"

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.

The covenant that God made with Abraham

- was for the benefit of the whole human race,

whereas the covenant of Sinai

- was confined to a single nation.

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

- the law always demanded people do something

the promise always offers something,

- receive this, take this, this is for you!

Has Israel received their full inheritance from God and are they enjoying all of the blessings promised to them? No!

As long as they're rejecting their Messiah

- they can always expect destruction and war.

Jesus wept over Jerusalem:

Luke 19:41-44

41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they

will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

But we also know that God has a faithful remnant

- that will one day occupy all of the land
- that the Lord has promised.

Paul's argument in this next section of scripture is that everything is black and white, it's clear as day what the Lord wanted. There should be no arguing over God's covenant with Abraham.

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.

Gal 3:19

19 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.

NLT

Gal 3:19

19 Well then, why were the laws given? They were added after the promise was given, to show men how guilty they are of breaking God's laws. But this system of law was to last only until the coming of Christ, the Child to whom God's promise was made. (And there is this further difference. God gave his laws to angels to give to Moses, who then gave them to the people;

TLB

Something to consider, when the law was given:

It came thru a mediator, that was Moses,

- but it was appointed thru angels
- by the hand of a mediator, that was Moses.

The law came third hand,

- God gave it to angels,
- the angels gave it Moses
- and Moses gave it to the children of Israel.

When God gave the covenant of promise to Abraham

- God spoke directly to Abraham.

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

In other words, the law wasn't given to make people righteous, It was to show that they were unholy

Paul explained further in Romans 7 how the law dealt with sin.

Rom 7:7

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."