

Galatians 3:19-25
The Purpose and Function of the Law

- I. Why then the law? (vv. 19-20)
 - A. The purpose of the law – to reveal the power of sin (v. 19b)
 - B. The temporal limits of the law – until Christ came (v. 19c)
 - C. The inferiority of the law – it was conditional through a mediator {unlike the promise} (vv. 19d-20)
- II. Is the law then opposed to the promise? (vv. 21-25)
 - A. Absolutely not! (v. 21b)
 - 1. The condition of the law (v. 21c-21d)
 - a. **If** a law had been given that could bring life...
 - b. **Then** righteousness (life) would come by the law
 - 2. The problem of the law (v. 22)
 - a. Scripture concludes all as “law breakers” ...
 - b. So that the promise must be received by faith
 - B. The function (objective) of the law (vv. 23-25)
 - 1. Before faith in Christ came... (v. 23-24)
 - a. The law held us captive... (v. 23b)
 - b. Until the object of faith was revealed. (v. 23c)
 - c. Like a schoolmaster... (v. 24a)
 - d. Teaching us justification must be by faith. (v. 24b)
 - 2. But after faith in Christ came... (v. 25)
 - We are no longer under a schoolmaster
 - {Therefore the function of the law *was* to drive to faith in Christ}