



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Galatians 3:15–29

Questions for the Week: What are some guidelines or rules that you had as a child that you can recognize were for your benefit, but if you practiced them now would be a sign of immaturity?

READ THE TEXT – Galatians 3:15–29

The Structure

1. Analogy of the “Promise” to Abraham as a Will (Gal 3:15–18)
 - 1.1. A “Covenant” or “will” is binding once enacted (Gal 3:15)
 - 1.2. The Promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed (Gal 3:16)
 - 1.2.1. “Seed” is singular (Gal 3:16a)
 - 1.2.2. Christ is the seed (Gal 3:16b)
 - 1.3. The Law
 - 1.3.1. Arriving 430 years after the covenant enacted by God (Gal 3:17a)
 - 1.3.2. Does not nullify the promise (Gal 3:17b)
 - 1.4. If the inheritance was from the law, it would no longer be from the promise (Gal 3:18a)
 - 1.5. God graced to Abraham through a promise (Gal 3:18b)
2. Origin and Purpose of the Law (Gal 3:19–22)
 - 2.1. Rhetorical Question: “Why then the law?” (Gal 3:19a)
 - 2.2. Answer: Origin of the law:
 - 2.2.1. “Added because of transgression” (Gal 3:19b; see also Rom 4:15; 5:14)
 - 2.2.2. “Until the seed which was promised comes” (Gal 3:19c; see Gal 3:16)
 - 2.2.3. “Put in place through angels” (Gal 3:19c; see also Acts 7:53; Heb 2:2)
 - 2.2.4. “By a mediator” (Gal 3:19d; see Exod 20:19–22)
 - 2.2.4.1. “The mediator is not one” (Gal 3:20a)
 - 2.2.4.2. “But God is one” (Gal 3:20b)
 - 2.3. Rhetorical Question: “Is the Law, therefore against the promises?” (Gal 3:21)
 - 2.3.1. Answer: Certainly not (Gal 3:21a)
 - 2.3.2. Explanation:
 - 2.3.2.1. For if the law given could give life, then righteousness would be by the law (Gal 3:21b)
 - 2.3.2.2. The scripture confined all things under sin in order that the promise be by faith of Jesus Christ given to those who believe (Gal 3:22)
3. Coming of Age Analogy (Gal 3:23–29)
 - 3.1. Before faith came, we were guarded and enclosed for the faith about to be revealed (Gal 3:23)

- 3.2. So that the law became our *Paidagōgos* to Christ, in order that we might be justified by faith (Gal 3:24)
- 3.3. After the faith came we are no longer under a *Paidagōgos* (Gal 3:25)
- 3.4. For you all are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus (Gal 3:26)
 - 3.4.1. For as many of you were baptized into Christ, put on Christ (Gal 3:27)
 - 3.4.2. There is no Jew nor Greek, there is no slave nor free, there is no male and female (Gal 3:28a)
 - 3.4.3. For you are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal 3:28b)
- 3.5. For if you belong to Christ, then you are the seed of Abraham, heirs according to the promise (Gal 3:29)

Questions this Week:

- Read Exodus 19:1–20:26; 23:23–24:18; 31:18
 - What does this narrative indicate about the role of the “law” as it relates to Paul’s argument in Galatians 3:15–29?
- The law is
 - Divine gift (Rom 3:1–2, 31; 7:12–14; Gal 3:21) and authority (1 Cor 9:8–9; Rom 4:23; 15:4; 1 Cor 9:10; 10:11)
 - Not a source of righteousness for believers (2 Cor 3:6–9, 14–15; Rom 10:4)
 - How should we think about the law as having enduring authority as divine revelation and not a source of everyday practice for followers of Jesus?

Weekly Questions:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What stood out to you from the text this week?
- What does this text say about the Lord’s reign and what it means to be his set apart people?
- Who are the characters of this story?
- What does this passage invite us to:
 - Do?
 - Think?
 - Feel?
- How did the sermon or passage encourage you to Love God and Love People?
- Which characters do you identify with most in the story? Why?