

NO ADDITIVES

Grace: According to Galatians



GALATIANS 3 — GRACE AS GOD'S ORIGINAL OPERATING SYSTEM

Grace is NOT God's response to failure, but God's eternal intent

Paul is not answering, *"How are people saved?"*

He is answering, *"How has God always governed humanity?"*

This chapter is not soteriology alone—it is **redemptive history theology**.

Galatians 3:1-3 (ESV)

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Galatians 3:7-14 (ESV)

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:17-19 (ESV)

This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.

Galatians 3:23-29 (ESV)

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

GRACE IS GOD'S ORIGINAL OPERATING SYSTEM

*Grace is **NOT** God's response to failure, but God's eternal intent*

Paul is not answering,
“How are people saved?”

He is answering,
“How has God always governed humanity?”

This chapter is not soteriology (doctrine of salvation) alone—it is chiefly God's story of redemptive history.

Paul, -

1. TIMELINE OVER TECHNIQUE: GOD DID NOT CHANGE—HUMANS MISREAD HIM

When Paul brings up the **430 years** (Gal. 3:17), he is doing something surgical.

He is saying:

“You are interpreting God through **Moses**, but God revealed Himself **first** through Abraham.”

So if you want to understand the weight of a principle - go back to where it was first grounded.

That is not incidental—it is foundational.

Abraham represents **relationship before regulation**. Moses represents **administration after promise**.

Paul's logic is devastatingly simple:

If inheritance comes by law,
then promise is irrelevant

But if promise came first, then law
can only be **secondary**

This establishes a crucial truth:

👉 **Grace is not reactive. Redemption was intentional, not improvised.**

God did not introduce grace because Israel failed. Israel failed because they **misunderstood grace**.

The promise was never dependent on performance.
The law never changed the terms of inheritance.

That means:

Grace is eternal (rooted in God's nature)

Law is provisional (rooted in human limitation)

The law exists *within* grace, not *in opposition* to it.

Grace is the operating system.

Law is an application designed to run temporarily.

“The Law was,”

2. “ADDED BECAUSE OF TRANSGRESSIONS” — LAW AS A CONTAINMENT FIELD

Galatians 3:19 is often misread as punitive / punishment. It is actually **protective**.

“Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions...”

Paul is not saying the law **caused** sin.
He is saying the law **bounded** it.

Before the law:

Sin was real

Guilt was wide spread

Judgment was deferred

After the law:

Sin was defined

Responsibility was personal

Consequence was contained

This reframes the law’s function:

👉 The law does not intensify rebellion—it **limits its spread**.

Think of it this way:

Sin without law is like a virus without quarantine

Law localizes infection until the cure arrives

This is critical:

The law made sin *temporary* by making it *accountable*.

Without the law:

Sin would dissolve humanity entirely

With the law:

Humanity is preserved long enough for redemption.

So when Paul says the law was “until the Seed should come,” he is saying:

👉 Law is a holding pattern, not a destination.

Grace calls us to walk in faith - but faith is also often misunderstood. **How are we to understand faith?**

3. FAITH AS ALIGNMENT WITH GOD'S SEQUENCING

This is where Galatians 3 challenges your faith.

Faith is often taught as confidence in God's **ability**. Paul treats faith as submission to God's **order**.

Abraham believed God **before** evidence.

Not because Abraham was optimistic—but because he accepted **delay**. (That's a tough pill to swallow in our society which is built on instant gratification - you are known as a Jesus follower because you've learned to endure the process better than anyone around you).

This reframes faith entirely:

👉 Faith is not **forcing outcomes**

👉 Faith is **agreeing** with **timing**

Which means impatience is not merely emotional—it is theological.

It reveals how you view your God.

It informs how you perceive His process; His process is His Plan.

John 1, goes to tell us - "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the Word was God..."

Another interpretation views John 1 as, “In the beginning was the PLAN (Logos), the PLAN was with God and the PLAN was God...”

Lets drive this home - **impatience is an evidential tell of your life's song, is it a song that is sung unto the Lord or not.**

You cannot grow impatient with the pace of God; because patience is the pace of God.

Evaluating your life circumstantially will testify if you're submitted to God or not simply based on how you react to circumstances that befall you.

How you handle the PATIENCE thing.

When Abraham later produces Ishmael, the issue is not disbelief in God's power.

It is **rejection of God's pace.**

Paul is subtly teaching this:

**Trusting God's promise
While resisting God's process
is still unbelief**

Faith honors God's sequence even when the wait contradicts reason.

Grace unfolds in time on purpose.

4. THE LAW AS A CUSTODIAN, NOT A CO-CREATOR

Paul's metaphor of the law as a *guardian* (paidagōgos) is often flattened.

(Sign this form - Parent **OR** legal guardian)

The guardian:

- does not own the child

- does not determine inheritance

- does not define identity

The guardian only **escorts** until maturity arrives.

This means:

- 👉 The law never spoke last

- 👉 The law was never sovereign

Grace always had the final word.

This is your faith foot - statement of sin does not have the final say on you.

ENDING:

WHAT GALATIANS 3 IS REALLY SAYING

Galatians 3 teaches that:

Grace is how God **started**

Law is how God **stewarded**

Christ is how God **finished**

Or more sharply:

Grace is eternal.

Law is temporary.

Faith is agreement with God's order.

And righteousness has never been negotiated—
only received.

This chapter does not ask,
“Are you saved by grace?”

It asks, ***“Have you always misunderstood God?”***

Grace is STRENGTH.

Grace is IDENTITY.

Grace is AUTHORITY.

And that makes Galatians 3 not just corrective—
but **revelatory**.

