

GALATIANS 3:15-25 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE LAW AND THE PROMISE - [\(SERMON MP3\)](#)

1.) Some people try to go to Jesus without first meeting Moses. They want to skip the Old Testament and inherit the promise of justification in Christ without first feeling the pain of condemnation under the law. We all need the law to disclose the reality of our sinfulness, rebellion and guilt before a holy God. When the law humbles us, we are prepared to receive the good news of the gospel.

✳️ *Why must we choose between relying on the law and relying on the promise?*

✳️ *God's promise to Abraham was made a very long time ago. How do modern-day Christians participate in it?*

2.) Moses was given the law by God 430 years after God's promises of salvation to Abraham. So isn't the law an improvement on, or replacement for, the promises? If it is, we need to obey the law to be saved, right?

✳️ *How does Paul deal with this idea in Galatians 3:15-18?*

✳️ *What doesn't the law achieve (v. 21)?*

✳️ *What does the law achieve (v. 22-23)?*

3.) Think back to your conversion, or the first time you understood the gospel. How did your view of God's law impact you then? How do you relate to it now?

✳️ *How does knowing God's law increase your gratitude to Christ? What difference does it make to your affections (the inclinations of your heart, what shapes or drives your emotions)?*

✳️ *In Galatians 3:21-25, Paul declares that the law was put in place until Christ came, and that it no longer has authority over us. Do you feel like you still have to obey the rules in order to be acceptable to God?*

✳️ *If rules aren't a means of obtaining salvation, what is the purpose of the commands in the Bible?*

✳️ *Why do you obey God's law? Do you ever obey it for the wrong reasons??*

4.) When have you felt spiritually overwhelmed or discouraged because of your inability to live up to God's standard? How did you resolve this?

⦿ *What would Paul say to those who are frustrated by man-made "religious" standards? In what ways do you find yourself being drawn back under the bondage to law?*

⦿ *Instead of a cold, external law, what did Jesus promise those who would trust and obey him (see John 7:37-39)?*³

5.) If people are inherently good, as many argue, why do we need laws, policemen, jails, and criminal courts?

⦿ *What does Galatians 3:15-25 say about the universality of sin or the depravity of the human race? Is anyone able to keep the perfect law of God?*

⦿ *How does Paul describe the law in Galatians 3:15-25?*

⦿ *What does he suggest is its purpose?*

⦿ *Not until the law has arrested and imprisoned us will we pine for Christ to set us free. How did God's law lead you to Christ?*⁴

6.) How has Galatians 3:15-25 motivated you to love Jesus? Obey the law? Tell others the gospel?⁵

PRAYER REQUESTS

DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

7.) We've all heard the phrase, "If something seems too good to be true, it probably is." As a result, it's hard for us to accept that the most valuable gift of all, eternal life, is given to us free of charge. Although the Galatians initially accepted the gospel of grace, they were easily seduced into believing that such a valuable gift required additional efforts on their part.⁶

⦿ *What is the most valuable gift you've ever received? What was your response to such a gift?*

⦿ *Why is it often hard for us to accept gifts? Talk about someone you know (or yourself) who prefers to pay or work for everything they obtain. What might condition someone to be this way?*

⦿ *Do you live as though you have to earn God's favor, or do you live in light of the work of Christ and God's resultant favor towards you?*

8.) Read Genesis 15:7-18 about God's covenant with Abraham. How do the details of the covenant-making ceremony encourage you?

⦿ *When are you most tempted to look to your own efforts to make yourself acceptable to God?*

⦿ *To help you diagnose your own heart, ask yourself: What causes me to feel despair in life? What makes me feel proud about myself?*