

BOOK OF GALATIANS  
THE PROMISE VS. THE LAW-PART 1  
GALATIANS 3:13-19

**Introduction**

We've been seeing that **there were these false teachers who had infiltrated the Churches of Galatia**. They were **erroneously teaching a salvation that was based on a mix of faith in Christ plus works of the law**. These false teachers believed that a man must focus his life upon the rituals and teachings of religion—that is, upon the works of the law—instead of just focusing upon Christ!

Simply stated, **they were teaching that trusting Christ alone was NOT enough for a man to be acceptable before God, but rather that he also had to submit himself to the rituals of the law (including circumcision) and give his life to keeping the law in order to be acceptable to God.**

Thus far in this Chapter, we have seen **three things to prove that Salvation is by grace through faith apart from any works of the law!**

1) **THE BELIEVER'S SALVATION EXPERIENCE IN CHRIST proves that Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone!**

2) **ABRAHAM'S SALVATION proves that Salvation is by grace through faith!**

3) **THE PROOF IS FOUND IN WHAT THE LAW DOES!**

**Scripture says the Law puts man under the curse of the Law!**

Yes, there is a righteousness which is of the Law but it is unattainable by any of Adam's race because the Law demands **absolute obedience!** The law attests to the fact that **we are ALL lawbreakers!** We've ALL sinned and come short of God's glory! There is NONE righteous! **So, as lawbreakers, we were ALL under the curse of the Law!**

**Let's pick up in verse 11 and read down to verse 19!**

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us! (*Vs 13a*) And that is how Jesus Christ fulfilled that **Promised Blessing** that the LORD gave to Abraham!

This morning I want us to look at these verses and begin to see **THE PROMISE VS. THE LAW!**

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I. **THE CURSE OF THE LAW THAT WAS UPON US WAS BORN BY CHRIST ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY! (Vs 13-14)**

*"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law..." (Vs 13a)*

*"Redeemed" means "to buy up, i.e. ransom; to rescue from loss."*

*"Us" here refers those who are "under the curse" that are "in Christ" that is, those who have looked to Christ **through faith** or **by faith!** (*Vs 14*)*

*"...being made a curse for us..." (Vs 13b)*

It was a **voluntary act on His part** that was **done on our behalf!** Amen! He, God's Son, **caused it to be** by being made flesh (*"made of a woman" Gal. 4:4*), by being *"made under the Law" (Gal. 4:4)*, and by His hanging on the cross of Calvary for us! (*Vs 13c*)

*"For" means "for the sake of; on our behalf or in our place"!*

*"Us" again, refers to those "under the curse" that look to Christ **through faith** or **by faith!** (*Vs 14*)*

II. **THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM COMES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST (THE SEED), WE GET IN ON THAT BLESSING BY BEING "IN CHRIST" BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH! (VS 14)**

A. **What Is The Blessing Of Abraham?**

*Genesis 12:2-3 "2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; **and thou shalt be a blessing:** 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**" (Salvation is made available through his Seed! That is how all the families of the earth are blessed!)*

*Genesis 13:15-16 "15 For all the land which thou seest, **to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.** 16 And I will make **thy seed as the dust of the earth:** so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered."*

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*Genesis 17:8 “And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”*

**B. How Does The Blessing Of Abraham Come To Us Through Jesus Christ?**

**1. Humanly speaking Jesus Christ descended from Abraham! (i.e. Jesus Christ is a Jew after the flesh!)**  
Both his earthly father (i.e. step-father) Joseph and his mother Mary **descended from Abraham** making Him a Jew of the Tribe of Judah according to the Scriptures!

**2. Heavenly speaking Jesus Christ came down from His Heavenly Father above! (i.e. Jesus Christ is God according to the Spirit Of God!)**

*Luke 1:35 “And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”*

**3. We receive the promise of the Spirit of God through faith! (Vs 14)**

**4. The Spirit of God that we receives confirms that we are the children of God!**

*Galatians 4:5-7 “5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”*

*(See Romans 8:9-11, 14-17)*

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a. **We are born again! (John 3:3, 7; 1 Pet 1:23)**

b. **We are born of the Spirit! (John 3:5-6, 8)**

c. **We are born of God!**

*John 1:12-14 “12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*

*(Also: 6 verses 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18)*

*So, THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM COMES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST (THE SEED), WE GET IN ON THAT BLESSING BY BEING "IN CHRIST" BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH!*

**III. THE LAW CANNOT DISANNUL THE PROMISE GIVEN TO ABRAHAM AND HIS SEED! (Vs 15-18)**

**“Covenant”** there in *verse 15* means **“an agreement.”**

*Genesis 17:2 “And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.”*

**(God’s promise to Abraham was a “covenant”! We refer to it as the Abrahamic Covenant!)**

**“Confirmed”** there in *verse 15* means **“to make authoritative or to ratify”** (When God says He’s going to do something, I’d call that authoritative, Amen!)

**“Disannulleth”** there in *verse 15* means **“to set aside.”**

Notice how it says here that even in covenants that have been confirmed between men (which are **“confirmed”** or **“ratified”** by being sworn to before a notary public or in the presence of witnesses), no man can **set it aside** or **add anything to it!**

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**“Disannul”** there in *verse 17* means **“to invalidate”**

Notice how it says here that the *covenant* was **confirmed** before of God in *Christ* (“*thy seed*”). And it says that the Law which came 430 years after the *covenant* cannot **disannul** or **invalidate** the *covenant* so as to make the *covenant* of none effect!

Therefore, the **inheritance** thru Christ **HAS** to come by the *covenant* (or the **promise!**) that God made, not by the Law! (*Vs 18*)

So, **THE LAW CANNOT DISANNUL THE PROMISE GIVEN TO ABRAHAM AND HIS SEED!**

IV. **THE LAW WAS ADDED SO THAT SIN WOULD BE REVEALED AS A TRANSGRESSION! (i.e. IT MADE LEGALLY WRONG WHAT WAS MORALLY WRONG!) (VS 19)**

A very valid question is answered here by Paul: **If the Law has nothing to do with saving a person or keeping a person saved, what is the purpose of the Law?**

Well we know that **mankind transgressed God’s will** and **offended His holiness** long before the Law was given! (*e.g. Cain; Noah’s day!*)

But **where there is no Law, there is no guilt! You cannot break a law that does not exist!** (That’s true even today with men’s laws!) **If you do something that the government thinks SHOULD be against the law, they can’t convict you of anything!** All they can do is make a law against it to keep you from doing it in the future!

So, **the Law was given to show a man where he stands before a Holy God! It was given to show him his exceeding sinfulness before God!**

*Vs 19* says that **“the law was added until The Seed** (i.e. Jesus Christ) **should come”!**

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It was given to **complement the Abrahamic Promise, not to take the place of it! Both the Abrahamic Promise and the Mosaic Law each had a purpose, and both pointed man forward toward the Messiah!**

Paul states the purpose of the law in:

*Romans 3:19-20* “19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

**Conclusion**

So in closing let’s summarize what we’ve seen this morning:

**THE CURSE OF THE LAW THAT WAS UPON US WAS BORN BY CHRIST ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY!**

He bore the curse for all, but it can only be applied in one’s life by FAITH in what Christ has done for you!

**THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM COMES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST (THE SEED), WE GET IN ON THAT BLESSING BY BEING “IN CHRIST” BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH!**

Have you trusted Christ? Have you believed on Him? Have you got in on that blessing of salvation from the curse because you are **“in Him”** by faith?

**THE LAW CANNOT DISANNUL THE PROMISE GIVEN TO ABRAHAM AND HIS SEED!**

The Promise came first and The Law of God COULD NOT and DID NOT disannul it or cancel it out!

**THE LAW WAS ADDED SO THAT SIN WOULD BE REVEALED AS A TRANSGRESSION! (i.e. IT MADE LEGALLY WRONG WHAT WAS MORALLY WRONG!)**

The Law has nothing to do with our salvation other than to show us our great need of salvation! It pointed to the great need of the Promise that was given!