

FREE AT LAST! THE MESSAGE OF GALATIANS
January 14, 2010

The Gracious Gospel – Galatians 3:15-25

- 3:15-18** **I. The law of God does not annul the promise of God.**
:15, 16 A. God's will cannot be altered.
"Brothers, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say 'and to seeds,' meaning many people, but 'and to your seed,' meaning one person, who is Christ."
- :17** B. The promise came before the law.
"What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise."
- :18** C. The inheritance can only be by law or by promise, not both.
"For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise."
- 3:19-25** **II. The law of God serves the promise of God.**
:19 A. The law exposes sin, the promise destroys it.
"What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator."
- :20** B. The law was mediated, the promise was direct.
"A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one."
- :21** C. The law could never supplant the promise.
"Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law."
- :22-25** D. The law held us for salvation.
"But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe."
- :23, 24** 1. Before faith, the law restrained us.
"Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law..."
- :23** a. Held in custody.
"...locked up until faith should be revealed."
- :24** b. Trained by a tutor.
"So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith."
- :25** 2. After faith, we were released.
"Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law."