

Finding Freedom in Christ *Galatians: The Law (#2)*

Read: Gal. 1:6-10, 4:21-31

Note Paul's Concern:

1:6 Are you deserting the one who called you? Turning to another gospel?

1:7 Have you been thrown in confusion? Are you perverting the gospel?

1:8 If you are preaching another gospel, be cursed!

4:21 Are you aware of what the law says?

4:31 We are not children of the slave woman!

Paul is asking, "Are you aware of what the law says?"

We need to pause and get some background. We need an understanding of God's relationship with men and women.

#1 His plan unfolds in a series of **covenants**

-These are partnerships, "a chosen relationship in which two parties make binding promises to each other"

-There are conditional and unconditional elements

-These covenants began at creation

Adamic (initiated with Adam)

See Genesis 1-2 (His original intention for mankind), 3:3

Between God and all of humanity

Benefit: confirming their innocence and blessing in God's presence

Conditional on man's obedience

Noahic (Initiated with Noah)

See Gen. 9:8-17

Between God and all of humanity

Benefit: causing a delay in judgment

Conditional on God's faithfulness

Sign: Rainbow

Abrahamic (Initiated with Abraham)

See Gen. 15:1-21, Rom. 4:1-25, Gal. 3:6-25 and Heb. 6:13-20

Between God and humanity

Benefit: blessing his descendants, the land and through them all nations
 It was one sided, God self-imposed His own obligation to bless Abraham
 Sign: Circumcision

The OLD Covenant was overshadowed by the NEW covenant (See Heb. 8:7-9:25)

Mosaic (Initiated with Moses)

See Ex. 2:24-25, 6:2-8, 19:5-6

Between God and His chosen nation (people) ** Note the reason He chose them: Deut. 7:6-8

Benefit: this holy nation had a unique relationship with Yahweh

Conditional on Israel's faithfulness

Sign: Sabbath

Davidic (Initiated with David)

See II Sam. 2:7-16, 23:5

Between God and David's lineage

Benefit: Yahweh would get a permanent house (the temple)

Conditional on God's faithfulness

The NEW Covenant (Initiated by Christ)

Jer. 31:31-33, Luke 22:20, II Cor. 3:6, Heb. 8:13, 9:15, 12:24

Between God and humanity

Conditional on the "last Adam's obedience (see I Cor. 15:22, 45)

Benefit: restored innocence and blessings in the presence of God

The climax of all of God's covenants

The promise of universal blessing is fulfilled in Jesus.

#2 **The Law** is not limited to the Ten Commandments. It consisted of three elements:

1. Ceremonial law: it involved how they were to worship Yahweh (See Lev. 1:2-4)
2. Civil law: it involved how they lived their daily life (See Deut. 24:10-11)
3. Moral laws: involved the direct commands of God (See Ex. 20 and Deut. 5)

#3 **Living under the law -illustrated in the life of Abraham** (See Gal. 4:21-31, Gen. 16 and 17, Heb. 10:11-12, 16-18)

#4 So What?

Remember, you are FREE from the law. But be cautious with your liberty.

"All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up." (I Cor. 10:23)

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Gentiles or to the church of God...” (I Cor. 10:30-31)

Questions to consider: Do you consider yourself “legalistic” (emphasis on conforming to God’s requirements)? What kinds of things are “lawful” for you? Are you comfortable around people living “in grace”? What does it mean to “do all for the glory of God”?

Verses to Memorize: Romans 3:23-24

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified by His grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Tips for studying God’s Word:

Consider copying the section of scripture you want to study. A copy allows you to mark it all up with underlining, stars, boxes and various colors. It helps you get the “big picture” of the passage or book. Highlight repeated phrases, note names and locations, look for patterns to the material, note thoughts that are mentioned in other parts of the Bible and go over and over the passage. Make your “system” your own.

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