

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

Jesus + _____ = Salvation?

May 2012

Lesson #8 - Galatians – *THE PROMISE AND THE LAW*

INTRODUCTION

Where do you keep important personal documents, such as a will or an insurance policy?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Gal 3:15-29

Note: Paul cites the promise to Abraham that he would be a blessing to all nations. From the beginning God's plan anticipated an outreach to the Gentile world. The achievement of the gospel is to make them as Gentile believers, heirs to the promise given to Abraham (chap. 4).¹

1. What spiritual truth did Paul explain by using an everyday example? vv. 15-16
2. In what way is a human covenant – a will – like God's covenant – promise with Abraham and his seed? (Gen 12:1-3; 15:2-6)
3. Why the term "seed" and not "seeds"? Who is *the* "seed"? vv. 15-16 Gen 3:15; 1 Jn 3:12
4. When was the Law given? When was the Promise given?
5. What was the relationship between the Law and the Promise? v. 17
6. What is the purpose of the Law? What is the purpose of the Promise? Why are they both necessary? vv. 21-22
7. Since the Law could not justify or give life, what does it do?
8. How is attempting to be right with God through keeping the Law like being in prison?
9. How did Christ's coming change the role of the Law? vv. 24-25

Note: Paul uses the figure of a Greek slave, the "pedagogue," to describe the role of the law. The pedagogue led the child to the school and then the teacher took over. Paul says the law, likewise, brings the searcher, the student, the disciple to Jesus, the Teacher.²

10. How much of your experience as a Christian is based on a set of rules?
11. How does faith in Christ set us free from legalism? Why we are still plagued with legalism?

APPLICATION

- How would you share this passage with someone who thinks keeping the Ten Commandments or the Golden Rule is enough to have a right relationship with God?
- What life-changing promise of God do you want to hold on to this week?

The Promise established a religion that was dependent on God.

The Law created a religion that was dependent on man.

The Promise centers totally on God's plan.

The Law centered solely on man's duty.

The Promise focuses on God's grace, sovereignty, and blessings.

The Law focused on man's duty, work, responsibility, and behavior.

The Promise requires only sincere faith.

The Law required perfect obedience.

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^{1 2} Paschall, F. H., & Hobbs, H. H. (1972). *The Teacher's Bible commentary: A concise, thorough interpretation of the entire Bible designed especially for Sunday School teachers* (743). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.