

Free to be Series

## “The Promise of Freedom”

Galatians 3:15-29

### **The Promise came first.**

*Dear brothers and sisters, here's an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case. God gave the promises to Abraham and his child. And notice that the Scripture doesn't say "to his children," as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says "to his child" - and that, of course, means Christ. This is what I am trying to say: The agreement God made with Abraham could not be canceled 430 years later when God gave the law to Moses. God would be breaking his promise. For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise. But God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise.*

Galatians 3:15-18 (NLT)

*The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."*

Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT)

### **God told Abraham: I will....**

### **The Purpose of the Law.**

*Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people. Now a mediator is helpful if more than one party must reach an agreement. But God, who is one, did not use a mediator when he gave his promise to Abraham.*

Galatians 3:19-20 (NLT)

### **God told Moses: Thou Shalt....**

*Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it.*

Galatians 3:21 (NLT)

### **Functions of the Law:**

**Shows us how to live.**

**Shows us our sins.**

*For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.*

Romans 3:20 (NLT)

**Shows us our need for grace.**

### **The Promise & the Law lead to Christ.**

*But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.*

*Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed.*

*Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.*

*For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.*

Galatians 3:22-29 (NLT)

*For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.*

John 1:17 (NLT)

## SO WHAT?

### Do we still need to obey the Law?

*But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good.*

Romans 7:12 (NLT)

### Jesus made the law simple.

*Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."*

Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)

## Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What are some of the rules you had in your house growing up that other people didn't have?

Where could you go to escape those rules?

2. What rules from your childhood did you keep in your house as you became the parent? (or what rules do you think you'll keep when you are a parent?)

What rules did you (or will you) abandon and why?

3. Are you generally a rule keeper or rule breaker? Why?

4. Re-read Galatians 3:21. How do you see God's law and God's promises work together for our faith?

5. Re-read Galatians 3:22-25. How does the role of the law as protective custody or a guardian sit with you?

Now that the law is not needed as a guardian, how does that change things?

6. How does faith in Christ set people free from Legalism? Has it set you free? How?

7. How would you use this passage (Galatians 3) with someone who thinks keeping the Golden Rule or the Ten Commandments is what is needed to get right with God?