

Galatians 3:15-29

Study Guide

Big Idea: Transforming Power is Found in the Promise of God.

Opener: What motivates people to change? Think of an area in your life or in someone else's and discuss what you have seen or experienced when it comes to real change.

1. Read Galatians 3:15-18.

Notice how Paul says that the promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3), as a covenant didn't change because the Mosaic Law came 430 years later. In fact, the promise of God's blessings came through one "offspring", Christ. How does it impact you to know that the blessings of God come to you, not through the Law, but through Christ. Discuss.

2. Read Galatians 3:19-24.

Why do we need the law? Read the following passages and discuss why the law is still important:

A. To hedge sin (v. 19-20). What would our world be like without laws?

B. To make us aware (v. 21-22). What does it feel like to be "imprisoned" under sin. How does that make you more aware of your need for God? Discuss.

C. To protect us (v. 23-24). Discuss the term "guardianship" meaning baby-sitter (culturally). How is adherence to laws in a child-parent relationship really an immature approach? Discuss the immaturity of legalism when it comes to a relationship with God.

3. Read Galatians 3:25-29.

What is really the driving force that changes us? Notice the three things mentioned about the promises of God. I become an official child of God, I am baptized into Christ, and I become an heir according to promise. How do these promises of God transform us into having a new identity and the desire for a love relationship with God, rather than just adhering to laws? Discuss.

Application

Take a few minutes to prayerfully and quietly discern with God what area in your life you would like to see more change. Commit that area to Him and thank Him that you are in Christ. Ask Him to help you. For an expanded version of this exercise, read and pray through Psalm 25 and ask God to "lead me in Your truth and teach me." (v.5a)

Galatians 3:15-29

Message Outline

Big Idea: Transforming Power is Found in the Promise of God

Galatians 3:1-3

"Who has bewitched you? ... 2 Did you receive the Holy Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"

Justification- The act of God in making me right with Him.

Sanctification- The act of God in transforming me for service.

Psalm 33:20-21

"Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name."

Galatians 3:14

"...so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith."

A. The Promise Came First (Galatians 3:15-18)

15 To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. 16 Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3

"I will bless you...so that you will be a blessing...in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Genesis 15:6

"Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness."

A. The Promise Came First (Galatians 3:15-18 cont.)

17 This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. 18 For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

B. The Purpose of the Law (Galatians 3:19-24)

1. To Hedge Sin (v. 19-20)

19 Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. 20 Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

B. The Purpose of the Law (Galatians 3:19-24)

2. To Make us Aware (v. 21-22)

21 Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. 22 But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

B. The Purpose of the Law (Galatians 3:19-24)

3. To Protect Us (v. 23-24)

23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

C. The Power of the Promise (Galatians 3:25-29)

25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

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