

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Galatians 3:18-4:7--November 12th, 2023

Sermon Recap:

In Law or Christ

Paul has made clear how the promises to Abraham have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. His faith in those promises justified him before God. We, too, are justified by faith and made heirs of those promises.

If this is the case, what purpose does the law have?

I. Answering the Obvious Question

The law is the Mosaic covenant.

- It is temporary (v.19).
- It was delivered to Moses by angels (v.19).
- It is conditional (v.20).

a. The Law Restrains

- It was given to restrain the corrupt, wicked, fallen hearts of mankind.

b. The Law Reveals

- It gives us a knowledge of sin. It shows us what sin is. (Romans 3:20)

Martin Luther, *"God must therefore first take the sledgehammer of the Law in His fists and smash the beast of self-righteousness...When the conscience has been thoroughly frightened by the Law, it welcomes the Gospel of grace."*

II. The Coming of Faith

What does he mean, "Until faith comes"?

V.24- faith that is centered on Christ.

a. Before Faith

- The law imprisons us. It enchains us with demands that cannot be met.
- It is a "guardian." It disciplines us, leading us to the one who met its demands.
- This is our position before Christ.

b. After Faith

- In faith (Christ), we are no longer under a guardian, no longer captive. We are no longer slaves to the law, but we are (what does he say?), verse 26, "sons of God."

c. In Faith

- "For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith." Our new status in Christ makes us heirs of the promise of Abraham. Those justified by faith are equal. We are equal before God in Christ, regardless of any other distinction (v.29).

This is all made possible by the amazing grace shown to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (4:1-7).

Discussion Questions:

- What is “the law?”
- Why do you think that Paul stopped here to defend the law?
- What purpose does the law serve?
- What does Paul mean when he says that the law was “added because of transgressions” (v.19)? Read Romans 5:20 & 7:7.
- How does the law reveal sin in ways that would not have been possible without it?
- What are the two pictures Paul uses in v.23-25 to describe the law?
- How does the law imprison?
- How does the “guardian” lead us to faith?
- What is a Christian?
- Since all are one in Christ Jesus, does any ethnicity, economic status, or gender limit one’s eternal inheritance? Why, what is the inheritance based on?

Application:

- When you read the Bible, what commands/commandments remind you that you fall short of God’s righteous standard?
- How is trying to earn righteousness by the law dangerous? Paul illustrates how the law only temporarily serves to enlighten us of our sin and keep us from it, but also serves as a foreshadowing of the coming of Christ. How would you communicate what Paul is saying to someone who still believes that if they “follow the rules,” they will be right with God?
- Compare how Paul describes life under the law and life after Christ came. Do you see this displayed in your own life?
- Paul says all those who are in Christ are sons and daughters of God through faith. How does this identity impact you personally?

