

What Purpose Does the Law Serve?

(Galatians 3:19-29)

- Introduction:
1. We are told that the law of Moses could never bring justification to mankind (Romans 3:20; Hebrews 10:4).
 2. Since this is the case, then why was the law given in the first place?
 3. This is exact question that Paul was addressing in Galatians 3:19.
 4. This lesson is intended to answer that question, and explain what is expected of man today.

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

- A. (Galatians 3:19-20).
- B. Specifically addressed, the law was added because of sin.
- C. The law did not reveal a way of justification, but instead it was to make known sin for what it is.
 1. It made man aware of what sin was, and his need for a Savior.
 2. It made man aware of the consequences of sin.
- D. (Romans 5:20) *"The law entered, that the offence might abound."*
- E. While the purpose of the Law is specifically stated to be "because of sin", it also was a preparatory instrument to introduce them to the Christ.
 1. "The law gave the world a suitable religious nomenclature, and a sort of pictorial outline of the Scheme of Redemption, by means of certain types and symbols, rites and ceremonies addressed to their senses."
(Robert Milligan)

II. THE LAW VERSES THE PROMISE

- A. (Galatians 3:21-22).
- B. The law was never intended to be a rival to the promise given by God to Abraham (Genesis 12:3).
- C. The law of Moses was good, but no law can give life (Galatians 3:10).
- D. (Romans 2:12) All have sinned, regardless of race - thus salvation will occur just as God promised - in Christ.

III. THE LAW AS A TUTOR

- A. (Galatians 3:23-25).
- B. The term *"tutor"* or *"schoolmaster"* does not carry the same connotation today.
 1. In Bible times, a tutor was one appointed to care for a minor and his property.
 2. The tutor saw to it that the child received instruction, but did not necessarily give the instruction.
- C. The law was designed to instruct men until "the faith" (the objective system of faith - Jude 3) arrived.

- D. Just as a tutor's responsibilities would end when a child reached maturity, so the law ended when it arrived at its end; Christ.

IV. THE JUSTIFICATION OF MAN

- A. (Galatians 3:26-29).
- B. Four important questions answered:
1. What? - You are sons of God.
 2. How? - Through "*the faith*".
 3. Where? - In Christ Jesus.
 4. When? - baptized into Christ.
- C. If you belong to Christ, then you are an heir of the promise made to Abraham.

- Conclusion:
1. It was hard for many Jews to come to the conclusion that the law was not the supreme end in God's scheme of redemption.
 2. It is also hard for some even today to realize that the law was limited in duration (Colossians 2:14).
 3. We can learn from the law (Romans 15:4), but justification comes through "*our faith*" in "*the faith*" of Jesus Christ.