

Reflection Questions

Doctrine (What does this passage teach us):

What is one of the promises Paul is referring to?

Reproof (What wrong thinking does this passage expose):

Since the Law does not help us obtain the promises, what does it do?

Correction (How does this passage fix wrong thinking):

Can we experience this “rest” in this life?

Instruction in Righteousness (How does this passage help us to continue):

Why should we use the Law when we evangelize the lost?

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Isaiah 1:16-20

Song #242 ~ Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Song of Songs 5:1-16

Song #15 ~ Behold Our God

Scripture Reading: Song of Songs 6:1-13

Prayer

Sermon ~ Galatians 3:19-22

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #257 ~ Look, Ye Saints! The Sight is Glorious!

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written: cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.

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Text: Galatians 3:19-22

Theme: Justification and sanctification are by faith apart from the works of the Law (Gal. 3:3).

Introduction: Even though the Law taught us how to live, it did not produce life in us.

- I) The promise is by faith not by Law (19-22).
 - A. If the Law could not help us obtain the promise, then what is the purpose of the Law (19-20)?
 1. The Law condemns us because it declares us as transgressors (19).

Explanation: Although it may be tempting to interpret the phrase “on account of transgression” as saying that the Law restrained sin by teaching what sin is (19). The phrase actually identifies our rebellious heart—we transgress the Law. Notice that Paul uses the word “transgression” which means to break the law instead of the generic word for sin. Also, the Law is unable to impart life (21).
 2. The Law did not bring about the promise, the coming of the Seed did (19).

Explanation: What is the promise? Certainly, one of the promises is the coming of the Holy Spirit (14), but Paul mentions “promises” given to Abraham (16). In the OT quotations (Gen. 13:15; 17:8), the promise refers to the Land. The author of Hebrews compares the land promise which was a temporary rest (cf. Heb. 4:8), to the eternal rest (cf. Heb. 4:9).

Application: Although the author of Hebrews is primarily concerned with our eternal rest, there is a sense in which we begin to live in reality of our future rest (cf. Heb. 4:10). In fact, Christ said that all who come to Him find rest for their weary souls (Matt. 11:28-30).

3. The Law came by means of a mediator (19).

Explanation: The Mosaic Covenant came from God through the agency of angels (cf. Acts. 7:53; Heb. 2:2; Exod. 33:2) and Moses mediated this covenant between God and man (cf. Exod. 20:18-21).

4. In contrast to the Mosaic Covenant, the Abrahamic Covenant only had one party because God is one (20).

Explanation: Remember that Abraham was in a deep sleep as God made the Covenant with him (Gen. 15:12). In fact, Abraham did not pass through the cut animals. Instead, a smoking oven and a flaming torch passed through the cut animals (Gen. 15:17). The smoking oven and the flaming torch seem to represent God the Father and Jesus Christ (i.e. the Seed). Since God is one (Deut. 6:4), then God made a covenant with Himself. Therefore, the Abrahamic Covenant did not have a mediator.

- B. Even though the Law could not help us obtain the promise, it is not contrary to the promise (21-22).

Explanation: The Law is not contrary to the promises of God; instead the Law has a different function. To demonstrate this point, Paul says that the Law could not impart life or righteousness (21). In contrast, the promise does grant life.

Explanation: What does the Law do (22)? The Law traps everyone under sin. But notice that Paul does not use the word “Law” in this verse. Instead, he uses the word “scripture.” He is not only referring to the 10 commandments, but the whole OT.

Application: When we share the Gospel with others, the Law is a great place to start. It points people to their need for the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: Instead of feeling embarrassed by the requirements of the Law, let us point people to the One who fulfilled these righteous requirements.