

May 8, 2011

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Galatians 3:15ff

“Promise vs. Law”

- I. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Jesus Christ Alone Defended (1:1-2:21)
- II. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Jesus Christ Alone Explained (3:1-4:31)
 - A. Holy Spirit is Given by Faith, Not by Works (3:1-5)
 - B. Abraham Was Justified by Faith, Not by Works (3:6-9)
 - C. Justification is by Faith, Not by the Law (3:10-4:11)
 - 1. Christ Redeems Us from the Curse of the Law (3:10-14)
 - 2. Abrahamic Covenant is Not Voided by the Law (3:15-18)

a. The Promise was _____

b. The Promise was to _____

c. The Promise _____ First

d. The Promise _____

3. Law Given to Drive us to Faith (3:19-22)

a. The Law's _____

b. The Law's _____

c. The Law's _____

Discussion Questions:

1. In 3:15 Paul uses an analogy of a human “covenant” (or “will” or “testament”). Do you have a last will and testament? Assuming it is legal and official, does someone (other than you) have the right to later come and change your promises to your descendants? What is Paul’s point in using this analogy?
2. Why does Paul make a point out of the word seed being singular instead of plural? What does that have to do with his argument re: the Promises God made to Abraham? How would this silence the legalists who wanted people to have to follow the laws of Moses in order to be saved by faith in Jesus?
3. Paul says that the Law came 430 years later. Gen. 15:13 says the Children of Israel were to be slaves in the land for 400 years. But Exodus 12:40 says they lived in Egypt for 430 years. Is this a contradiction?
4. What is the significance of the words “God has GRANTED it to Abraham by means of a promise”? Was it earned or was it by grace? Was this a permanent promise or was it to be replaced by the Law?
5. Why did God add Law if salvation was by promise? What is the purpose of the Law?
6. What is a “mediator”? What does a mediator do? Was a mediator necessary in God’s promise to Abraham? Why or why not? What kind of covenant did God have with Abraham? What difference does that make on a need for a mediator? What kind of covenant did God have with Moses and the people of Israel? Was a mediator necessary? Why or why not?
7. How does the Scripture “shut up everyone”? What does the Law do to prepare people for grace? Did it do that in your life? Give examples.
8. Was the Promise to Abraham replaced by the Law? If not, why does Law keep working its way back into the lives of many people who profess faith in Jesus? How can you make sure you don’t live by Law but live by God’s promise?