

Gal.3:21-29

The Law's Purpose

- with the Judaizers teaching that keeping the Law was imperative to salvation, Paul reaffirms to the Galatians that the Law was not permanent- vs.19

vs.21- the Law and the promises to Abraham are not at opposite purposes

*the Law was to drive men to their faces before God and realize their need- Rom.7:11-25

- "God forbid" - (me ginomai) this phrase is the strongest Greek negative that means an astounding "no" or "impossible"

- "given life" - the Law made man aware of sin so it was good- but the wage of sin is death

Truth- observing the 10 Commandments is not a bad thing even for us Christians

(The error is when people think they can follow it fully and obtain righteousness)

- righteousness is simply a right stand before God

vs.22- "concluded" - (sugkleio) to shut up on all sides

(This word has the idea of a shoal of fish that have been caught in a net)

- "all under sin" - this means that sin reigned over all- it had power over us all

*this is a truth contained in the Old Testament as well as the New- Deut.27:26, Ps.143:2, Pr.20:9

- the Law paved the way for justification by faith in the fact that consciousness of sin is a necessary step in redemption

Truth- the Law was a preparation for faith but was never meant to be a substitute for it

vs.23- "before faith came" - meaning before the fulfillment of the promise

*throughout the history of redemption, only saving faith unlocked the prison doors of sin

- "kept" - (phroureo) to be guarded by military guard or jailor

- "shut up" - same word used for "concluded" in vs.22

*the idea here is that the Law enclosed all and directed to the only means of justification- faith

vs.24- "schoolmaster" - (paidagogos) a tutor, guardian, or guide

*among the Romans, this was a trusted slave who supervised young boys until manhood

(The slave had no authority to teach but was there to ensure the child stayed on the right path)

*Notice the verb "was" - past tense

- "justified by faith" - the purpose of the Law was to lead one to Christ

(When it has done that, it has fulfilled its purpose)

vs.25- this verse confirms the maturity of the Law

- once a person has been redeemed by faith, the Law no longer condemns them

vs.26- "all" - there were Jewish and Gentile converts in Galatia (Acts 14:1)

- "children" - (huios) this term means "sons" and denotes a legal status

*It implies a liberated mature person in possession of an inheritance (fulfilled promise)

vs.27- "baptized" - (baptizo) to immerse, to cleanse by submerging

*Notice the word "into" - meaning that when this happens, you become a part of Him

(The body of Christ- the Church)

- "put on" - this means a likeness to Him

- in their culture, when a young man becomes of age, he puts on a garment which signified the privilege of a grown-up enjoying full citizenship

vs.28- no matter the nationality, social status, or gender- when a group of people have been

"baptized into Christ", they are unified

*Paul is simply reminding them here of how they are unified and Who has unified them

(It was not the Judaizers, it was Jesus)

vs.29- "if ye be Christ's" - meaning His possession- you belong to Him

- "Abraham's seed" - meaning the children of faith and heirs

- "according to the promise" - meaning according to Jesus as He is the promise to Abraham