



Galatians 3:23-25

In Custody Under Law Until Christ

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Guarded in Prison

Galatians 3:23 (HCSB)

Before this faith came, we were confined under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith was revealed.

- Under Law, we were delivered to the prison guard and locked up!
- Luther says that the “beast, the presumption of righteousness,” must be killed by the Law

Cursed by Works or Blessed by Faith

Works

No justification (Gal. 2:16)
Cursed (3:10, 13)
Imprisoned (3:22, 23)
Under guard (3:23)
Under custody (3:24, 25)
Slave status (4:1)
Under guardians (4:2)
Under stewards (4:2)
Slaves to the *Stoichea* (4:3, 9)
Enslaved to idols (4:8)

Faith

Justified (Gal. 2:16)
Blessed (3:9)
Redeemed (3:13)
Received the Spirit (3:14)
Brothers in Christ (3:15)
Believe the promise (3:22)
Released from prison (3:23)
New status in Christ (3:27)
No longer under *Stoichea* (4:3-7)
Sons & heirs of Christ (4:7)

The Great “Until”!

Galatians 3:24 (HCSB)

The law, then, was our guardian **until** Christ, so that we could be justified by faith.

- “Guardian” is *paidago_gos* which has a range of meaning and usage
- “until” shows the timing of termination
- The contrast between the law and Christ is profound and stark
- The issue is temporal not causal

No Longer in Custody

Galatians 3:25 (HCSB)

But since that faith has come, we are **no longer** under a guardian

- “No longer” expresses the temporal idea again (as did “until” in vs. 24)
- Since Christ, there is a new era in salvation history
- To go back would be to renounce Christ and be under the curse of the Law

Implications and Applications

- The Law kills, but for a saving purpose
- When faith in Christ comes, the prison of the law dies
- God resists the proud to cause humility

The Law Kills the Proud Sinner

Romans 7:9-11 (NASB)

I was once alive apart from the Law; but **when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died**; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

A Life and Death Issue!

1 Corinthians 15:56, 57 (NASB)

The sting of **death** is sin, and **the power of sin is the law**; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:22 (NASB)

For as in Adam **all die**, so also in Christ **all will be made alive**.

Law Works Do Not Give Life

Romans 6:10, 11 (NASB)

For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so **consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God** in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:20 (NASB)

...because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for **through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.**

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The Law Produces Failure Which Should Produce Humility

Romans 5:20 (NASB)

The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, **grace abounded all the more,**

James 4:6 (NASB)

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, **"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."**

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