

Galatians

No Other

WHY THEN THE LAW?

Darin Slack
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Galatians

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Galatians 3:19-29

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“Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. Now an

~ Galatians 3:19-29

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intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the

~ Galatians 3:19-29

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Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law imprisoned until the coming faith

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would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God,

~ Galatians 3:19-29

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through faith.

*For as many of you as were
baptized into Christ have put on
Christ. There is neither Jew nor
Greek, there is neither slave nor
free, there is no male and
female, for you are all one in*

~ Galatians 3:19-29

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*Christ Jesus. And if you are
Christ's, then you are Abraham's
offspring, heirs according to
promise."*

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I. Why Then The Law?

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“Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. Now an

~ Galatians 3:19-25

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under sin, so that the promise by
faith in Jesus Christ might be
given to those who believe.
Now before faith came, we were
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would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

~ Galatians 3:19-25

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“some things in his letters
that were hard to
understand...”

~ 2 Peter 3:16

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“Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. Now an

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*intermediary implies more than
one, but God is one”*

~ Galatians 3:19

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“To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to

~ Galatians 3:15-18

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offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ. This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make

~ Galatians 3:15-18

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the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.”

~ Galatians 3:15-18

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He started by establishing...

1. ...that the promise cannot be changed by the law – *“it has been ratified.”* (v. 15)

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2. ...who the promise was made to, not those under the law – “offsprings” – but to Christ (v. 16)

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3. ...where the law fits as secondary in the timeline of God's plan – it came 430 years after the promise. (v. 17)

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4. ...how the inheritance can only come by promise, not by the law – *“if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.”* (v. 18)

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5. ...how the law came into being because of sin – “*because of transgressions*” (v.19) to reveal and restrain sin.

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5. ...how the law came into being because of sin – “*because of transgressions*” (v.19) to reveal and restrain sin.
- a. To reveal sin –

“What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet. But sin,

~ Romans 7:7-8

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*seizing an opportunity through
the commandment, produced in
me all kinds of covetousness.”*

~ Romans 7:7-8

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“Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more...”

~ Romans 5:20

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5. ...how the law came into being because of sin – “*because of transgressions*” (v.19) to reveal and restrain sin.

a. To reveal sin –

b. To restrain sin -

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6. ...the law was limited and temporary – “*until the time of the offspring should come to whom the promise was made...*” (v.19)

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7. ...the law was put in place by a third party - *“and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.”* (vv. 19-20)

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“This is the one (Moses) who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.”

~ Acts 7:38

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*“The promise came firsthand
from God and the law comes to
the people third hand – God –
Angels – Moses the mediator –
the people.”*

~ Stephen Neill

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“Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.”

~ Galatians 3:21

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“But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.”

~ Galatians 3:22-23

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8. ...the law imprisons everyone – SO THAT the promise by FAITH in Jesus Christ might be given

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“So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.”

~ Galatians 3:24

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9. ...the law is a guardian
(pedagogue) – *until Christ
came, SO THAT we might
be justified by faith*

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“Therefore, the true function and the chief and proper use of the law is to reveal to man his sin, blindness, misery, wickedness, ignorance, hate, and contempt of God, death, hell, judgment, and the well-deserved wrath of

~ Martin Luther

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*God...Not until the law has
bruised and smitten us will we
admit our need of the gospel to
bind up our wounds. Not until
the law has arrested and
imprisoned us will we pine for
Christ to set us free. Not until*

~ Martin Luther

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*the law has condemned and
killed us will we call upon Christ
for justification and life. Not until
the law has driven us to despair
of ourselves will we ever believe
in Jesus. Not until the law has
humbled us even*

~ Martin Luther

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*to hell will we turn to the gospel
to raise us to heaven.”*

~ Martin Luther

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II. The Law Points The Way To The Promise – Sonship In Christ Jesus

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“...for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.”

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and,

~ Galatians 3:26-29

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*for you are all one in Christ
Jesus. And if you are Christ's,
then you are Abraham's
offspring, heirs according to
promise."*

~ Galatians 3:26-29

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I had to allow the love of the Father to reveal that I was His son, in His Son, in whom He was well pleased. When I did that, the gospel helped me see I would never be better than anyone else, but it made me want to get better for everyone

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**else. Because He so loved me,
I want to love others that way.**

**The law doesn't understand
love, and therefore it cannot
give it. But we fulfill the law in
loving the Lord God with all
our heart, mind, soul and
strength, and we love our**

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**neighbor as our ourselves,
because He first loved us and
showed us what love is.**

**The law showed us what sin is,
the gospel showed us what
love is.**

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10. ...the law confirms our illegitimacy - the promise our identity - *for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.*—
sonship (vv. 26-29)

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“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

~ Romans 8:15-17

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*and if children, then heirs—heirs
of God and fellow heirs with
Christ,”*

~ Romans 8:15-17

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