

Pentecost ~ May 19, 2013



***Life Group & Family
Discussion Guide***

“The Law and the Promise”

Galatians 3:15-29

This week we are looking at one of the most powerful arguments against works-righteousness (the belief that we are righteous because of what we do). Paul shows us that, after the fall, God's law was never intended to be the way human beings become righteous in God's sight. There are other purposes for the law... but gaining a righteous status just isn't one of them. That's good news—as long as we keep in mind the way that we are able to gain a righteous status—and that, of course, is by faith!



DISCUSS WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP:

1. **Read Galatians 3:15-29.** What is Paul seeking to prove? How do his words continue the argument he has been making since 2:15?

2. Paul uses an example from everyday life by referring to a covenant (which is from the Greek word that also means *a last will and testament*). How does this help us understand the preeminence of God's promises over the law?

3. Looking at verses 16 and 19, and referencing 2 Corinthians 1:20, explain why Pastor Matt referred to God as "a Christocentric Promisor" in the sermon.

4. Explain how both God's promise(s) and God's law are designed to point us to Christ.

5. Paul says the law "was added because of transgressions" (vs. 19). How do transgressions (sins) reveal mankind's desperate need for the promised Savior? What do people long for when they realize they are guilty? What do people long for when they realize they are under sin's power?

6. Is Paul suggesting God's law is no longer binding? Should we just do whatever we want? Why not? (If you struggle to answer this question, review 2:19-20.)

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7. Look at Galatians 2:11-14. Then look at 3:26-29. Explain Paul's reason for focusing on the doctrine of Justification by Faith from 2:15 - 3:25?
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DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY:

1. Discuss the purpose of a signed contract. Explain how once it is signed, people cannot change the contract. Use that illustration as Paul does to show that God declares us righteous because of His promises to us, not because of our obedience to the law, which came 430 years after the promise (see 3:15-18).
2. Discuss the ways God's law points us to our need for Jesus to save us. How does Jesus save us from the penalty of sin? How about the power of sin? And how about even the presence of sin (in the future)?
3. Ask your children: Do things go better when we obey God or when we disobey God? Think of some real-life examples of how things went badly because of disobedience and good because of obedience. How does the reality of things going better when we obey cause us to trust Jesus and rely on the Holy Spirit?
4. How does God's law reveal His fatherly love for us?

SERMON NOTES