

Galatians Handout

Week Sixteen

The big picture: Redemptive historical progression.

Jn. 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me...46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

Mat. 1:1 The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

19 Why the Law then? It was added because (charin/as a grace gift) of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. 20 Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one. 21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. 22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Paul is explaining the differences and the purposes of each.

Covenant of promise

Covenant of law

Ordained through angels!

Deut. 33:2 The Lord came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; at His right hand there was flashing lightning for them. "Indeed, He loves the people; all Your holy ones are in Your hand, and they followed in Your steps; everyone receives of Your words. Moses charged us with a law,

Ps. 68:17 The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands; the Lord is among them as at Sinai, in holiness.

It was added **Because of transgressions.**

The law is a grace gift. How is that possible

-To make plain to us that there is sin. To make clear to us that it is an offense against God that He takes note of.
Rom. 5:13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed (put on your account) when there is no law.

-To expose us, convict us

Rom. 3:20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

-Even to provoke sin. "Keep off the grass"

Rom. 7:8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind

-To make us painfully aware of our inability to uphold the law to God's standard

Rom. 3:19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight.

-To drive us to the cross

-To point to/foreshadow/make us long for a better way---Christ.

Col. 2:16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

-To shut us up (under guard), keep us under a tutor (paidagogos, custodian of a minor), to *lead us to Christ*.

Summary: Reveals, restrains, convicts, points, leads

3:20. Is the law contrary to the promises of God?

The law isn't against the promise it is working_____ the purpose of God.

The distraction...

The moral law (10 commandments), the ceremonial (priestly/sacrifice stuff), the civil (clothes, kids, inheritance)

Basic law: Love God, love neighbor...

Can you be saved by obeying the moral law, or any law? Then the distinction is irrelevant. We still have to figure out what the legitimate use of the law is.

1 Tim. 1:5 But the end goal of our instruction (the commandment) is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions. But we know that *the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully*

What the law *can* do.

Political/societal use:

Rom. 13:2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

Diagnostic use:

Lk. 18:10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

Teaching use: The law teaches us God’s righteousness. The promise teaches us His grace. We need both.

The law teaches us what God values—

The law tells us what love looks like, how to be morally beautiful.

Jn. 14:21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

Jn. 15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

1 Jn. 2:4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

2 Jn. 1:5-6 Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments.

What changed then?! What did the coming of Jesus change?

1. Jesus changed our

Rom. 10:1 Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about *God’s* righteousness and seeking to establish *their own*, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Kevin DeYoung: Let’s not be afraid to land on law—never as the means of meriting justification, but as the proper expression of having received it. The law can, and should, be urged upon true believers—not to condemn, but to correct and promote Christlikeness.

2. Jesus changed

All of the law should be obeyed but it is applied to us in and through its fulfillment in Christ. It’s all instructive but not implemented or applied the same way.

Examples

-Don’t reap the corners of your field.

-You must offer a sacrifice through a priest. You can only enter God’s presence by passing through the veil.

Heb. 10:19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

2 Pt. 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

What the law *cannot* do.

-It tells us how we should live but it cannot

It can tell us what love looks like but it cannot

We must abandon our trust in it and our hope that it will change things. The power is in the _____

What happens when we get it wrong?

We water down God's law.

-We multiply laws.

Col. 2:23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of *no value against fleshly indulgence*.

-Church becomes politicized.

-We motivate each other inappropriately.

-We shun the law.

Eph. 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Gal. 3:25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

But now:

Discussion

Should we celebrate/observe the feasts detailed in the Old Testament, Lev. 23? If so, how and why, with what understanding?

Ex. 12: 24 And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever.

Ezek. 20:20 Sanctify (observe/proclaim) My sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the Lord your God.

Passover, Feast of unleavened bread, First Fruits, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Booths

Check out this scripture clearly discussing the end times.

Zech. 14: 9 And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one... 6 Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.