

May 18, 2008



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas



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**God's Project:  
Effective Christians  
Who have been Set Free  
Studies in Galatians**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Text</u>
4/27	No Other Gospel	1:1-12
5/04	Salvation by Faith	2:15-3:5
5/11	<i>Mother's Day Special</i>	
5/18	<b>Purpose of the Law</b>	<b>3:19-4:7</b>
5/25	Christian Freedom	5:1-15
6/01	Walking in the Spirit	5:22-6:10

Don't miss

**SENIOR RECOGNITION**

Today

## PURPOSE OF THE LAW

### GAL 3:19-29; 4:4-7

#### Thoughts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

Let's play a game called, "What's wrong with this picture?" A woman gets in her car and tries to drive it down the railroad tracks, what's wrong with this picture? A man on a bicycle tries to ride it across a deep river, what's wrong with this picture? A child picks up a fork and attempts to eat tomato soup with it, what's wrong with this picture? In each case, there is nothing wrong with the tools themselves; each is designed for a specific function and can perform that function well. The problem in each case lies in trying to use a tool that is not suited for what is desired to be accomplished. The Old Covenant law had a definite purpose. Today's lesson will help us understand what that purpose was as we continue in the grace of God. There are many items in life that have a purpose, but are only temporary. Training wheels have a significant part to play in learning to ride a bicycle, but no one would argue that it is superior to riding without them. Braces have a purpose, but no one would argue that wearing braces is superior to unadorned, straight teeth. That something is temporary does not negate its importance or, in some cases, its necessity. To Paul, the law of Moses was temporary, but necessary. It is fascinating to think that someone like Paul became the one to convey such a message as this. He had, at one time, given his entire life to the law and claimed that he was "faultless" concerning "legalistic righteousness" (Philippians 3:6). Then came the dramatic encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus, after which Paul gave his life to Christ and to the cause he had once tried to eliminate from the face of the earth. This Christ declared on one occasion that he had not come to destroy the law and the prophets, but to fulfill them (Matthew 5:17). Paul accepted this new perspective on the law; however, as we have noted during our studies from Galatians, not all first-century Christians were as willing to do so. Clarifying the purpose of the law was one of the reasons for Paul's letter to the Galatians. In today's text, Paul continues his efforts to instruct the Galatian Christians about the correct relationship between law and grace. Because of Paul's preaching of the gospel of grace, some opponents accused Paul of having no use for the Old Testament law at all. While Paul presented the new message of grace without apology, he also readily acknowledged that there was a purpose for the old law of Moses. He strenuously maintained that the new is superior, but that the old had a purpose in God's plan. The verses that precede our lesson text from Galatians 3 deal with God's covenant with Abraham. Paul raises this issue in order to show that God dealt with people on the basis of grace before the law of Moses was given. He shows that God's covenant with Abraham was based on grace and that Abraham had to respond to God by faith. He "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness" (Galatians 3:6). Paul then notes that in one sense, God "announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: 'All nations will be blessed through you'" (v. 8). We will see in our lesson today how Paul develops this thought and concludes by describing Christians as "Abraham's seed."

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### TO LEAD TO JESUS (GAL 3:19-20)

*By identifying transgressions (vs 19)*

Sin would not be known except through the law (Rom 7:7-12)

All are held accountable to God because it is through the law the people become conscious of sin (Rom 3:19-20)

The law was made to be used to identify the ungodly and sinful (1 Tim 1:8-10)

*By identifying promises (vs 19)*

It was through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise (Rom 4:13-14)

Those who listen to God's words hear God's promises to His people (Ps 85:8)

The law tells of how God's promises are tested and are proved true (Ps 119:140-142)

*By appointing a mediator (vs 19-20)*

The one and only mediator of Jesus (1 Tim 2:5-6)

The mediator of a superior covenant (Heb 8:6)

The mediator of an eternal inheritance (Heb 9:15)

### TO PROMOTE FAITH (GAL 3:21-23)

*By the law not being able to provide spiritual life and righteousness (vs 21)*

The law was powerless because it was weakened by the sinful nature (Rom 8:3)

God's righteousness is apart from the law (Rom 3:21-22)

The righteousness that comes from God is by faith (Phil 3:9)

*By the law confining all under sin (vs 22)*

All are confined by the law because there are none who are righteous (Rom 3:9-12)

All are confined by the law because all have sinned against God (Rom 3:23)

All are confined by the law because sin came in the world through one man (Rom 5:12-13)

*By the law, through the Holy Spirit, being a guardian (vs 23)*

A guardian that obligates the believer (Rom 8:12-14)

A guardian of one who is controlled by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:6-9)

A guardian that requires one to live by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16-18)

### TO BE A TEACHER (GAL 3:24-29)

*By bringing us to Christ (vs 24)*

Bringing to Jesus so that there will be no condemnation (Rom 8:1-2)

Bringing to Jesus so that I can stand firm (2 Cor 1:21-22)

Bringing to Jesus to become a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)

*By leading to justification by faith (vs 24-26)*

Justification by faith to fulfill God's promise (Rom 4:16)

Justification by faith because that is the only way (Gal 2:16)

Justification by faith for those who believe in Jesus (Acts 13:39)

*By teaching how to be baptized into Christ (vs 27-29)*

Baptized in Jesus and His death (Rom 6:3)

Baptized in Jesus' name to become a disciple (Matt 28:19)

Baptized in Jesus so as to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)

### TO LEAD TO ADOPTION (GAL 4:4-7)

*By Jesus being born under the law (vs 4)*

Born under the law to fulfill all righteousness (Matt 3:15)

Jesus also grew up under the law (Luke 2:21-24)

Born under the law to fulfill God's prophecy (Gen 3:15)

*By being redeemed from the law through Jesus (vs 5)*

Jesus redeemed me from the curse of the law (Gal 3:13)

I have redemption through Jesus' blood (Eph 1:7)

Jesus' redemption is eternal (Heb 9:12)

*By having the Holy Spirit indwelling (vs 6)*

Indwelling because of being the temple of God (1 Cor 3:16)

Indwelling that is the good deposit guaranteeing salvation (2 Tim 1:14)

Indwelling because of loving God and Jesus (John 14:23)

*By becoming an heir through Jesus (vs 7)*

Heir through faith (Rom 4:13)

Heir through the gospel (Eph 3:6)

Heirs that have the oath of God (Heb 6:16-18)