

May 25, 2008



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

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



Lesson Leader:
James Haymon

Class Leaders:
Joe & Comella Liles

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	Purpose of the Law	3:19-4:7
5/25	Purpose of Law Pt 2	3:19-4:7
6/01	Christian Freedom	5:1-15
6/08	Walking in the Spirit	5:22-6:10

VBS 2008

Outrigger Island

Living God's
Unspeakable Truth

June 16th thru June 20th
6:pm—8:30pm

PURPOSE OF THE LAW - PART 2

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

Thoughts from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

The Apostle Paul faced a major problem in the churches of Galatia. The people were turning from the grace of God and to the Law of Moses. They misunderstood the purpose of the law, and in this week's lesson we see how Paul handled their situation. Because Christian teachers often make a contrast between an age of law and an age of grace, contemporary Christians have difficulty at times sorting out how the law interacts with grace. Hopefully, Paul's comments will cause us to look at the law correctly.

The law was added (Gal. 3:19)

Before the Mosaic law was given, there still was sin and all people were sinners. The law simply gave a moral standard so that people could have a criterion by which to govern their lives. Its temporary nature is seen in that it was added until a particular point in salvation history.

The law did not subtract (Gal. 3:20-21)

In place before the law was the promise of God. God gave the promise personally. Then, because of sin, the law was added for a time until the fulfilling of the promise. The law was not greater than the promise, nor did it replace the promise. Its secondary nature compared to the promise is seen in that it was given through a mediator (Moses), whereas the promise had been given directly by God. The law took nothing away from the promise.

The law took people to school (Gal. 3:22-24)

The law was to be a tool for teaching sinful man that the righteousness the law set forth as God's will for him was not attainable by himself. Man might find it in himself to obey certain parts of the law, but he would find it impossible to keep it all. Such awareness learned through time and experience was to convince man of his need for the help of the Lawgiver. When such awareness struck home, man was to throw himself on the mercy of God, believe the promise, and by faith live in anticipation of its fulfillment. The law, Paul wrote, was a schoolmaster to us, something that took us to the point in life where we would learn that righteousness cannot be achieved by law keeping since no one can perfectly keep the law.

Graduation from this school comes by faith (Gal. 3:25-29)

A person who is properly convicted of his helplessness to keep the law finds his freedom from the law by believing in Jesus Christ. When that happens, the law has done what it was intended to do. It has brought a sinner to Christ. The law still has a function today in that sin and sinners abound and lost sinners need Christ. Conviction for sin is preceded by an awareness of sin, and the law stands ready to produce that and to lead one to Christ. Once saved, a person still profits from God's law in being reminded of what sin is and who it was who redeemed him.

The new standing of the graduate (Gal. 4:4-7)

One who has come to Christ and entered into His grace is set free from the domination of the law. That one is no longer a servant to the law but finds himself in a totally new position. He is a son of God, taken into the family of God by the Spirit of the Lord sent to dwell in him. He is a sinner who has gone from the very doorstep of hell to the safety and sanctuary of the house of God. May we appreciate and respect the law but love God and live by grace.

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 - 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)