

Title: Why Then The Law?

Text: Galatians 3:15-25

Main Idea: God's law serves an important purpose in your life.

Division Statements:

1. The Law was not given to invalidate the Promise (vv. 15-18).

It's important to discuss in these verses the meaning of "Seed", it's singular usage in passages such as Gen. 3:15 & 22:18, as well as the nature of the covenant confirmed to Abraham in Genesis 15, where God passes through the pieces by Himself. Paul makes an encouraging comparison between men's covenants and God's.

2. The Law was given as a prison to confine all under sin (vv. 19-23).

A useful cross reference here is Romans 7:13. The purpose of the law is made evident here. It was never given that man might somehow obtain heaven or eternal life by keeping its precepts, but it was given to reveal our sin and wretched state to us. It was given to open our eyes to the truth about ourselves. Note the word "confine" in verse 22, (συγκλείω) - to shut up on all sides, to imprison.

3. The Law was given as a tutor to bring you to Christ (vv. 24-25).

"Tutor", (παιδαγωγός) - a guide and guardian. Among the Greeks and Romans the name was applied to trustworthy slaves who were charged with the duty of supervising the life and morals of boys belonging to the better class. The boys were not allowed so much as to step out of the house without them before arriving at the age of manhood. Note: the law prepares the soul for Christ, because those who have learned by experience with the law know that they are not and cannot be commended to God by their works. They, therefore eagerly welcome the hope of salvation offered them by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus.

Bridging From Text To Sermon

Textual Idea: Paul explains the relationship between the law and the promised Messiah in the Old Testament.

Sermon Proposition: God's law serves an important purpose in your life.

Interrogative: What is the role of God's law in your life?

Transition: The text reveals some purposes of the law.

Copyright © 2009 Chris Rice

Permissions:

You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material for use as sermon or lesson notes. For such use, you may feel free to alter the wording as necessary to meet your teaching needs. You are also permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in other formats provided that you do not alter the wording in any way, do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction and give appropriate attribution to the author. For web posting, a link to this document on www.fearingthelord.com is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be approved in writing by the author prior to use.

For all formats other than handouts to be used in the personal delivery of sermons or lessons, please include the following statement on any distributed copy: By Chris Rice. © 2009 Chris Rice. Website: fearingthelord.com