

# FREEDOM

(For FREEDOM Christ has set us free! Gal 5:1)

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, October 10/11, 2015

Ray Davis

## “The Promise of the Gospel” Galatians 3:15-25

Is our salvation through God’s promise or our performance?

False Teachers: Believe and Obey and you’ll be Saved

Gospel: Believe and be Saved and you’ll Obey

Gal3:1-5 We are not only justified but also sanctified by faith in Christ.  
Vv6-14 He makes a case proving it from scripture (The life of Abraham).  
Vv15-25 He uses the example of a legal will (promise) to underline it and then discusses the role of God’s law (performance) in a gospel-based life.

### What is the Promise of the Gospel? Vv15-18

- 1) It was the promise of relationship with God (to see & experience God) along with land (fulfillment) & lineage (fruitfulness). Gal3:6-9; Gen12:2-3, 13:15-16, 17:8, 24:7
- 2) This is an Old Testament Picture (Type) pointing to the New Testament Person (Truth) of Christ. V16 “offspring” = Christ! Luke 24:27,44; Jn5:39-40
- 3) How much faith do you need to receive the promise of the Gospel through Christ Jesus? Just enough to reach out and grab it! It’s not the size of your faith but the object of your faith that saves you. w15, 17-18; Gen15; Jer34:18

### What is the Purpose of the Law? Vv19-24

- 1) The law doesn’t save us but reveals our need for the Promise of the Gospel. Vv19-21
- 2) The law makes us see and feel that we are morally helpless. We are not simply sinners, but prisoners of sin, helpless to free or cure ourselves. V22; Vv23-24 The law works as a Guard (as in a prison) and Guardian (as in child rearing) to lead us to Christ. Matt22:34-40
- 3) Unless we see how helpless and profoundly sinful we are, the message of salvation will not be exhilarating and liberating. Unless we know how big our debt is, we cannot have any idea of how great Christ’s payment was. Luke7:47

Now that the law has done its job to lead us to Christ, does this mean we can now forget about it? Absolutely not! i.e. Childrearing

### How Does the Promise and the Law Go Together?

- 1) When salvation by Promise gets a hold of our heart we are filled with gratitude and desire to be like our Savior by obeying the law. Rom5:8; 1Jn4:19; 1Jn5:3
- 2) The Promise of the Gospel makes it safe for us to confess and repent of our failure to keep the law because we are not saved by the law but for the law. 1Jn1:7-9
- 3) This gives us greater endurance in our obedience because we are motivated by grateful joy rather than fearful compliance. Our obedience isn’t for our sake (glory) but for God’s sake (glory). Psalm 1:1-3, 119:11, 20 97, 103, 105, 162; Matt22:34-40

### Growing Notes

- 1) If we are saved by grace through faith in Christ and not by the law, does that mean we don’t have to obey the law of God? If I am saved only by Christ’s performance and not my own, why should I strive to live a holy life? Do I have any obligation to keep God’s law, and why?
- 2) Read Galatians 3:15-25. What stands out to you from this text? What is the promise of the Gospel as seen through Abraham’s life (vv6-18)? Through whom were the promises of Abraham fulfilled (v16)? How much faith do you need to receive the promise of the Gospel through Christ Jesus?
- 3) If we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ then what is the purpose of the law (vv19-24)? Unless we see how helpless and profoundly sinful we are, the message of salvation will not be exhilarating and liberating (Luke7:47). Explain.
- 4) How does the promise of the Gospel and the law go together (Rom5:8; 1Jn4:19, 5:3)? Why do you think the promise of the Gospel makes it safe for us to confess and repent of our sins (1Jn1:7-9)? What should be our attitude toward God’s law now that we are saved by God’s grace (Psalm 1:1-3, 119:11, 20 97, 103, 105, 162)? Thank God for the Promise of the Gospel!