

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“Why the Law Then?”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 3:19-22

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-8.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 9.** Today we continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #23. I have titled today’s message *“Why the Law Then?”* (v19)
-) Most, if not all of us, have worked somewhere. And that place where you worked had rules—they had laws. Within that company there were certain things you were allowed to do and certain things you were not allowed to do.
-) The companies I worked for had rules about the hours you worked—clocking in, being on time, when to take your lunch break, and absenteeism. There were rules about what you were allowed to eat and drink at your workstation. There were rules about your state of mind while working such as you cannot come to work intoxicated or high on drugs.
-) Good employees will obey these basic rules. And this obedience can put the employee in favor with management. And that favor along with how well we perform at our job could result in promotions and pay raises. In a work environment, we all understand the rewards of obedience to the rules and laws.
-) The same applies to children. When we were younger, getting along with our parents was much easier if we obeyed them than if we disobeyed them. Again, there were rewards in being a good little boy or girl. And punishments when not.
-) Rewards and punishments. Do good and be obedient, there is a reward. Be disobedient, and there is punishment.

-) Remember this example. We will come back to it.
-) I'm sure it could be debated as to what are the three biggest lies Satan has made the world believe. Here's what I think.
-) **SLIDE 10.** The biggest lie is what he said to Eve in GENESIS 3:1. "*Has God said?*" He wanted Eve and every person born after that to doubt the Word of God.
-) **SLIDE 11.** The second biggest lie is what he said to Eve in GEN 3:5. "*You will surely not die. You will be like God.*" He wanted Eve and every person born after that to think they could somehow somehow reach godhood. That's Mormon theology and Word Faith theology. You are little gods. Creflo Dollar.
-) **SLIDE 12.** And what I believe to be the third biggest lie told by Satan is that being a good person earns or contributes in some way to your entrance into heaven (paradise). Every religious system outside of true Christianity will teach this lie. Just be a good person and be faithful to your religious system. People throughout human history have always believed this.
-) And the people living 2000 years ago at the time the Book of GALATIANS was written believed this too. The Gentiles had their pagan gods they had to appease. The Jews had their Law they had to keep. And the result was the same in the minds of both groups. Just be obedient to your religious system, whatever it is, and there will be rewards in eternity.
-) So, I ask. Why is this mentality so convincing to people? Because we have been conditioned as children and as employees and as citizens of government that obedience brings about reward in all cases for all situations, including our eternal destination. Bottom line is this: just be good.
-) In our text today, the apostle Paul asks this question: *Why the Law then?* **SLIDE 13.** He already told us in verses 1-5 that the Law cannot save us. He already told us in verses 10-14 that the Law only brings a curse to those who try to keep it.

-) And he already told us in verses 15-18 that the Law does not and will never nullify the promise God spoke to Abraham. So, why the Law then?
-) The Law served many purposes. But, when it comes to transgressions, I see the Law serving two main purposes. The first purpose I will cover this morning and the second we will cover next week.
-) **SLIDE 14.** To answer the first purpose of the Law concerning transgressions, we could just read what Paul writes. He asks the question: "*Why the Law then?*" How does he answer his own question? V19.
-) There's more to that verse but for now, let's focus on the words "*It was added because of transgressions.*" Let's talk about the Law and transgressions.
-) **SLIDE 15.** What is a transgression? Webster.
-) For the remainder of our time this morning I will be answering that question by going back to a message I delivered back on 2/5/2017. So, if what I'm about to say sounds familiar, it is. And what I said then fits perfectly with what needs to be answered today. The truth is always worth repeating.
-) **SLIDE 16.** ROMANS 3:10-12 tells us that no one is righteous.
-) **SLIDE 17.** ROMANS 3:23 tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
-) Let me ask a series of rhetorical questions. Are we all sinners today? Was every person between Jesus' time and now sinners? Was everyone between Moses and Jesus sinners? Was everyone between Abraham and Moses sinners? Was everyone between Adam and Abraham sinners? And this does include Mary, the mother of Jesus.
-) **SLIDE 18.** Therefore, everyone is a sinner regardless of when they **LIVED** or what **KNOWLEDGE** of sin they may have had.

-) It makes no difference of who you are or where you are or when you are. Everyone is guilty of sin.
-) **SLIDE 19**. ROMANS 2:12 clearly tells us this truth.
-) **SLIDE 20**. Explain natural theology and sermon series.
-) Allow me to explain this truth with a hypothetical story about Wally and Sally.
-) In this story, we see the same piece of property under two different conditions. You probably recognized that one difference between Wally and Sally is that Wally was not aware that there was a law about trespassing and Sally was.
-) Sally saw the signs and based her decisions on what was written on the signs. Wally did not have the luxury of having signs posted and suffered the consequences. Some will argue that Wally did not know there was a law about walking on that land, therefore he should not be held responsible. It's not fair.
-) Let's learn a very important truth about God. The analogy of the story is this. God is the landowner. God does not have to be fair. God has to be God. He doesn't owe anyone anything. No explanations. No signs. No warnings. It's His land and it's His rules. In this story, God exercises His right to be just.
-) The people on the face of the earth at the time of Noah suffered the wrath of God because of their sin and wickedness and they had no posted signs. There was no Mosaic Law.
-) The people in Sodom and Gomorrah suffered the wrath of God because of their sin and wickedness and they had no posted signs. There was no Mosaic Law.
-) Wally will suffer the wrath of the landowner. And God will be just in doing so. The Bible never says anywhere that God has to be fair. We must remember that God does not do something because it is right. It is right because God does it.

-) Allow me to present another example to help answer the question: *“Why the Law then?”*
-) Use prescription bottle prop. No label. No sign. You have no idea what’s inside this bottle, but the world is telling you to take them. And you take them because the world tells you to take it. Actually, you like taking these things.
-) You have no idea what harm you may be bringing upon yourself by taking these pills nor do you care. There’s no label. No sign. So, I’ll assume there are no consequences.
-) (Place label on bottle.) But God takes the bottle and places His label on it telling us the contents and their consequences. Now we know, whereas before we didn’t know.
-) **SLIDE 21.** *“Why the Law then?”* The Law provided God’s people with the knowledge of their **SIN**. They go from a *“no-label bottle”* to one that has warnings and consequences written all over it. The same ingredients. But now we know what’s in the bottle.
-) And we must look at this as a very wonderful thing. God cares so much for His people that He would attach a label full of warnings to protect them. God cares so much for His people that He would give them the Law to protect them.
-) BUT ... that is all the Law could do. All the Law could ever do was put the label on the prescription bottle. All the Law could ever do was put a sign on the property.
-) **SLIDE 22.** That is why God’s Word says this in v21. Explain.
-) Regardless of what we have been taught through life about obedience and rewards either as children or as employees or as citizens of a government, the Law brings about no eternal reward. The Law only makes us aware of our transgressions.
-) Now we know we have violated the ordinances of God and are without excuse.

-) But even without the Law, we still violate the laws of God. Don't we? Why? Because ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. With or without the Law.
-) I said earlier that there were two main purposes of the Law concerning transgressions. We have now covered that first purpose. The Law only makes us aware of our transgressions. But knowing just this first purpose is useless without knowing the second purpose. Next week we look at that very important second purpose and see how these two purposes fit so well together.

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