

Jesus. And That's All

Galatians 3:15-29

Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. 16 The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. 17 What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. 18 For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

19 Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. 20 A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one. 21 Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. 22 But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

23 Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. 24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. 26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Introduction: Who is this Abraham guy?

Abraham is the patriarch of God's people, Israel. In Genesis 12, he was called by God to leave his home and go to what is now, “The Promised Land,” that is, it was promised by God to him and his descendants. God also made other promises to him, including, that through Abraham's offspring (singular) all people would be blessed (Genesis 22:18). This offspring is none other than our Savior, Jesus Christ, through whom the world is blessed. Indeed, we read in John 8:48, Jesus told the Jews that Abraham “rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day.” Most importantly, in Genesis 15:6, Abraham “believed” God's promises and it was “credited to him as righteousness.”

While many Jews wanted to believe that they were saved by race, Scripture makes it clear that they were saved by grace, received through faith, just as we are. In fact, we, Christians are Abraham's descendants, not Jews, because we received the promises of God in Jesus through faith.

Vs. 15-18 – Remember, who is Paul speaking to? What is his point in these verses?

vs. 19-20 – What is the question that Paul asks in vs. 19? How is this a logical follow-up question to learning about the Gospel? What do some people say?

Romans 6:1-2 - What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may increase?
2Certainly not! How can we who died to sin live in it any longer?

vs. 21-22 - What is Paul's follow-up question and what is his answer? If we can't be saved by the law, what is its purpose? If you were confirmed, recall these three words, *curb, mirror, guide*.

vs. 23-24 - According to these verses, what is the blessed task of the law as a mirror?

vs. 26-27 - How are we clothed in Christ and what does this mean?

vs. 28-29 - Does this mean that it doesn't matter that you are a man or a woman? What does this mean?