

GALATIANS – Lesson 12

3:19-22 - “The Law: Shut Up Under Sin”

January 26, 2014
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1. WHY THE LAW? – to show us our sin

GALATIANS 3:19-22

19 Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

20 Now a mediator is not for one *party only*; whereas God is *only* one.

21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.

22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

ROMANS 7:7

What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.”

GALATIANS 2:19

For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.

ROMANS 3:19-20

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for **through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.**

2. WHY THE LAW? – to show us God’s perfect standard

GALATIANS 3:10

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.”

JAMES 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.

MATTHEW 5:17-18, 48

17 “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

48 **Therefore you are to be perfect**, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

ROMANS 3:31

Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.

ROMANS 7:12

So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

3. WHY THE LAW? – to point us to Christ

GALATIANS 3: 23-24

23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.

24 Therefore **the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ**, so that we may be justified by faith.

ACTS 13:39

[Paul to the Galatians on his first missionary journey] And through [Jesus] everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

From the THEOLOGICAL to the PRACTICAL

- 1.** God's moral code (rules) tell me that **I am a sinner in need of guidelines and accountability.**

Example: When I am taught that I should not lie, it reminds me that I am a liar. Without that standard I would lie freely in my natural self without being held accountable.

- 2.** God's moral code is His perfect standard of right behavior. **God's standard of perfection in matters of morality and integrity are worthy of my aspiration.**

God still wants me to worship Him alone, honor my parents, cease from lying, murdering, committing adultery and coveting. God wants me to live a holy lifestyle, just as He is holy. (1 Peter 1:15-16).

- 3.** My inability to do so consistently and perfectly should drive me to obtain aid (salvation) from the only One who did attain God's standard on the earth and can help me – Jesus Christ. **The very rules I fail to keep should point me to the One who can help me keep them.** Therefore, it is FAITH that will allow me to walk the Christian life successfully (pleasing God).