

Gal.3:15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.

3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

3:17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.

3:18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

3:19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

3:20 Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.

3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.

3:22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

3:25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

February 15, 2026 Galatians 3:15-29

Sermon Title: "The Foster Parent Who Leads to Christ"

[From Today's Sermon]

As it was said, "We are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners," the pride of God's people, Israel and the Jews, was immense. But Paul declares that God "promised Abraham the good news: 'All nations will be blessed through you.'"

Jesus told the Samaritan woman, "Woman, believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. Salvation comes from the

Jews. But the time is coming, indeed it is here now, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. For the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

As Jonah said, "How could I not be concerned about this great city of Nineveh, with its more than 120,000 people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and also the many animals?" He is not saying that only the Jews are everything concerning salvation. All people are sinners, unable to fulfill the law. They are justified only through the Lord's atonement on the cross and call upon God in gratitude through the name of Jesus.

Good morning, everyone.

Last Sunday at this time, I was astonished to see the snow pile up rapidly within just one or two hours. The cold has since eased somewhat, but I hope you have all been keeping well.

Today, I plan to change our scheduled Bible passage and proceed straight through to the end of Chapter 3.

Last week's passage stated this:

3:4 Was all that great experience in vain? Surely it was not in vain.

3:5 Did God give you the Spirit and work miracles among you because you observed the law, or because you heard and believed?

3:6 Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.

3:7 So we know that those who have faith are the children of Abraham.

3:8 The Scriptures foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the good news beforehand to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."

3:9 So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

3:10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse, since it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

3:11 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because "the righteous will live by faith."

3:12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "the one who does the works of the law will live by them."

3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written,

“Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

3:14 This was so that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

“Such a great experience” refers to nothing other than “Christ became a curse for us, redeeming us from the curse of the law.”

If people could be justified by works of the law, then Jesus would not have needed to be crucified. He died in our place by grace. If salvation comes through the law, then why bring up salvation by the law? If salvation does not come through the law, then why insist on circumcision for the Gentiles? If the Gentiles cannot be accepted without the law, Paul's message today is this: fix your eyes on God's work in foretelling the good news to the Gentiles through Abraham—“All nations will be blessed through you”—and note that the blessing to the Gentiles promised to Abraham by God 430 years before Moses received the Law on Mount Sinai was already decisive before the Law was given.

3:15 Brothers and sisters, Let us take an example from the world. Even a human will, once it has been established, cannot be nullified or added to by anyone.

3:16 Now the promise was made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to your offspring,” referring to many, but “And to your offspring,” referring to one person, that is, Christ.

3:17 What I mean is this: The covenant previously established by God cannot be nullified by the law that came 430 years later, so that the promise becomes void.

3:18 If the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise. But God gave the inheritance to Abraham through the promise.

To understand this passage, we should look at the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 12.

12:1 The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your native land, your relatives, and your father's household, and go to the land I will show you.

12:2 I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

12:4 So Abram left, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. When Abram set out

from Haran, he was seventy-five years old.

12:5 Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the people they had acquired in Haran. They set out for the land of Canaan, and they entered the land.

12:6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

12:7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So Abram built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him. 12:8 From there he moved to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built another altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. 12:7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." Paul seems to be quoting this passage. He points to one person, not "to your offspring this land," but "to your offspring I will give this land," and that person is Jesus Christ.

After Abraham, God gave the Law to Moses, but the blessing and promise of salvation given to Abraham beforehand never became void. Therefore, the good news foretold to Abraham—"All nations will be blessed through you"—also remains valid. Paul declared that Jesus Christ is the true heir of the promise made to Abraham.

3:17 What I mean is this: The covenant previously established by God cannot be nullified by the law that came 430 years later, so that the promise becomes void.

3:18 If the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise. But God gave the inheritance to Abraham through the promise.

Paul states that God's promise of blessing was not inherited by the people of the law, but by Abraham and his descendants, those who would inherit through Jesus Christ—not by fulfilling the law. He explains that when the promise of inheritance was made, the law did not yet exist; therefore, the blessing of inheritance is not brought about by the law.

3:19 What, then, is the purpose of the law? It was added later because of transgressions, until the promised offspring came; and it was ordained through angels by means of a mediator.

3:20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

3:21 Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been

given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed have been realized through the law.

3:22 But the Scripture has imprisoned all under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

The people who had the Law bear responsibility for knowing the Law yet failing to keep and fulfill it. Even if they claimed they kept it, that would not be true. The promise given to the Jews after Abraham's promise indicates that this promise is not brought about by keeping the Law, but by Jesus Christ.

“What is the law? It was added later to provoke transgression, and it was in force only until the promised offspring (Jesus Christ) came.”

“If a law had been given that could give life, righteousness would indeed have been realized through the law.”

“But the Scripture imprisoned all under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.”

3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, imprisoned until the coming of the faith that was revealed.

3:24 So the law served as our guardian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith.

3:25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

3:26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Before faith appeared, we were under the old covenant (the Old Testament). It was a world governed by the law, where salvation was attainable only through our own righteous deeds.

We were placed under the law's supervision, constantly receiving the verdict that we fell short of its demands.

But the time for faith to be revealed arrived.

It was God's promise of salvation and blessing, spoken to Abraham before the Law.

The Law continued to guide us strictly as a tutor, but when the new Covenant (the ancient promise to Abraham) appeared, the old passed away, and all things became new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,

11:24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

11:25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

11:26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

3:26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

3:29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

Appendix: Words of Grace

Romans 3:9 What then? Are we any better? Not at all! As we have already charged, all, both Jews and Greeks, have fallen short of the glory of God.

3:10 For as it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

3:11 There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

3:12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.

3:13 Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit; the poison of vipers is under their lips.

3:14 Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.

3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood;

3:16 destruction and misery are in their paths.

3:17 The way of peace they have not known.

3:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes."

3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that

every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

3:20 For no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

8:3 For what the law could not do, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin: That is, to take away sin, God sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and condemned sin in the flesh.

Galatians 3:10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

3:11 Clearly, no one is justified before God by the law, for "the righteous will live by faith."

3:12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "the one who does these things will live by them."

3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written:

For it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 2:10 For you who were once not a people are now the people of God; you who had not received mercy have now received mercy. 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith should be revealed. 3:24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. 3:25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. 3:26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 3:29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise. ◇Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for today's worship. We give thanks for Your grace, as it is written: "For what the law could not do, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering" (Romans 8:3). Please lead all who suffer into Your salvation and peace. Bless our families and our neighbors. Use us for Your purposes. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.