



The Purpose of the Law

Galatians 3:19-24



¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. ²⁰ Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. 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 be by the law. ²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

OT History



1. Abraham & the Covenant (Genesis)

- A. Promises
- B. Faith
- C. Unilateral/Unconditional

2. Moses & the Covenant (Exodus)

- A. Laws & Promises
- B. Obedience
- C. Bilateral/Conditional



Context Is a Must to understanding chapter 3



**Loyalists to the Mosaic
Law were teaching Jewish
converts to Christ that
keeping the law was still
necessary for achieving
righteousness.**



Paul takes these Jewish converts back to the blessing of the Abrahamic covenant fulfilled in Christ Jesus through faith in the promises of God AND shows how the law accomplished nothing.



Galatians 3:2

- Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?



Galatians 3:5

- Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—



Galatians 3:10

- For all who **rely on works of the law are under a curse**; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”



Galatians 3:11

- Now it is evident that **no one is justified before God by the law,** for “The righteous shall live by faith.”



Galatians 3:12

- **But the law is not of faith,**
rather “The one who does them shall
live by them.”



Galatians 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 hanged on a tree”—



Galatians 3:17

- This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void.



Summary

No one received the Holy Spirit by keeping the law	v. 2 & 5
Those who rely on the law are under a curse	v. 10
No one is justified by keeping the law	v. 11
Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law	v. 13



Galatians 3:19

- Why then the law?



**After decimating the covenant
God made with Moses Paul now
answers the most pressing
question:**

Why then the law?

The Purpose of the Law



- A. Moral/ ethical**
- B. Pragmatic/ practical**
- C. Sanctification/ set apart**
- D. Theological/ redemptive**



**Why does any
group,
organization, or
society needs rules
(laws)?**



Galatians 3:19

- Why then the law? **It was added because of transgressions,**



What is a transgression?

- to go beyond limits set or prescribed
- to violate a command or law: sin

Merriam-Webster

**Humans whose nature has
been corrupted need civil and
moral laws.**



**You can't just say do the right
thing—transgressors need to be
told what the right thing is or
isn't.**





Galatians 3:19

- Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, **until the offspring** should come to whom the promise had been made,



Who is the
Offspring to the
whom the promise
was made?

Next



Paul continues to decimate the law by pointing out that God gave it to Israel through an intermediary and angels.

Whereas God made the covenant with Abraham directly and Christ himself established the New Covenant.



Galatians 3:20

- and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.
- Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.



Next Question

v. 21



Galatians 3:21

- Is the law then contrary to the promises of God?



Galatians 3:21

•Certainly not!

- For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.

**One rule, just one law, was given
to the first two humans in the Garden
yet neither one of them could keep
the law.**



**But this was not a
disappointment or surprise to
God.**



See God's Plan

In v. 22



Galatians 3:22

- But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise **by faith** in Jesus Christ might be given to those **who believe**.

By faith



Who believe

So where does repentance fit
into this equation?

1. Repentance can't be a work of the flesh or Paul's entire argument falls apart.



2. The promise is based on faith for those who believe, YET on more than one occasion, people are told to repent.



Luke 24:47

- and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.



The only repentance that could be proclaimed which would result in the forgiveness of sins is the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thus Paul preached repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



Acts 20:21

- testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of **repentance toward God** and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.



Salvific Repentance

**Change
of Mind**

**Faith
in
Christ**



**Twice Repentance
is said to be:**

A gift from God



Acts 11:18

- When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”



2 Timothy 2:25

- correcting his opponents with gentleness. **God may perhaps grant them repentance** leading to a knowledge of the truth,



Galatians 3:23

- Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.

Look back @ v. 22



Galatians 3:22

- But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that **the promise by faith in Jesus Christ** might be given to those who believe.

This must be a reference to the New Covenant established by Christ.

Paul References 3 Covenants



- **Abrahamic Covenant**
- **Mosaic Covenant (the law)**
- **New Covenant (Christ)**



Galatians 3:24

- So then, **the law was our guardian** until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

schoolmaster, tutor, custodian

παιδαγωγός

Transliteration

paidagōgos

Pronunciation

pī-dä-gō-go's (Key)

**Part of Speech**

masculine noun

Root Word (Etymology)

From *παῖς* (G3816) and a reduplicated form of *ἄγω* (G71)

pedagogue

STRONGS NT 3807: παιδαγωγός

[SHOW ALL](#)

παιδαγωγός, παιδαγωγου, ὁ (from παῖς, and ἄγωγός a leader, escort), from Herodotus 8, 75 down; a **tutor** (Latin paedagogus) i. e. a guide and guardian of boys. Among the Greeks and Romans the name was applied to trustworthy slaves who were charged with the duty of supervising the life and morals of boys belonging to the better class. The boys were not allowed so much as to step out of the house without them before arriving at the age of manhood; cf. Fischer under the word in index 1 to Aeschines dial. Socrates; Hermann, Griech. Privatalterthümer, § 34, 15ff; (Smith, Dict. of Greek and Rom. Antiq. under the word; Becker, Charicles (English translation, 4th edition), p. 226f). They are distinguished from οἱ διδάσκαλοι:



The law established Israel's morals

Right & Wrong



Do you have a moral compass?



The Torah or Mosaic Law was the moral compass for the entire Nation of Israel



Where is it found in the OT?

Exodus, Leviticus,
Deuteronomy

The Purpose of the Law



A. Moral/ ethical

B. Pragmatic/ practical

C. Sanctification/ set apart

D. Theological/ redemptive



Exodus 20:17

- “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”



Exodus 20:16

- “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.



**What happens to your
entire system of justice if
men and women routinely
perjury themselves when
giving testimony?**

Exodus 20:15



“You shall not steal.

Leviticus 19:11

“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another.

Deuteronomy 5:19

“ ‘And you shall not steal.



What happens to a society when stealing isn't wrong?

What happens to a society when fraud isn't wrong?

What happens to relationships when people lie one to another?



Who can say
they have
never lied?



Exodus 20:14

- “You shall not commit adultery.



Exodus 20:13

- “You shall not murder.

The Purpose of the Law



A. Moral/ ethical

B. Pragmatic/ practical

C. Sanctification/ set apart

D. Theological/ redemptive



Exodus 20:12

- “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

The Purpose of the Law



A. Moral/ ethical

B. Pragmatic/ practical

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Exodus 20:8

- “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.



Exodus 20:11

- For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.



Exodus 20:7

- “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.



Exodus 20:4

- “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.



Exodus 20:3

- “You shall have no other gods before me.



**Who can say all
these
commandments I
have kept since my
youth?**

The Purpose of the Law



A. Moral/ ethical

B. Pragmatic/ practical

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D. Theological/ redemptive



Exodus 20:1

- And God spoke all these words, saying,

Think about all we learn from the Mosaic Law about God:



1. He is a **VERY** powerful God.
2. He communicates.
3. He is holy.
4. He is just & forgiving.
5. He cares about social justice.



The Law is much more than the 10 Commandments



Exodus 21:16–17

- “Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death. “Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.



Exodus 21:22–25

- “When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman’s husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. ²³ But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, ²⁴ eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵ burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.



Exodus 22:6

- “If fire breaks out and catches in thorns so that the stacked grain or the standing grain or the field is consumed, **he who started the fire shall make full restitution.**

Punishment Under the Law



1) Restitution

a. If a man could not make restitution
he must be sold into servitude

2) Stripes

a. No more than 40

3) Death



Exodus 22:16

- “If a man seduces a virgin who is not betrothed and lies with her, **he shall give the bride-price for her and make her his wife.**



Exodus 22:18–19

- “You shall not permit a sorceress to live.
- ¹⁹ “Whoever lies with an animal shall be put to death.



**Humans are image bearers
of God. Animals are NOT.
Humans are utterly set apart
from all of creation and
procreation with animals is
abominable.**



Exodus 22:21

- “You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.



Exodus 22:25

- “If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him.



Exodus 23:1

- “You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.



Exodus 23:7

- Keep far from a false charge,
and do not kill the
innocent and
righteous, for I will not
acquit the wicked.



Leviticus 20:10

- “If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress **shall surely be put to death.**



Galatians 3:25

- But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian,



Galatians 3:26

- for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.



Galatians 3:27

- For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.



Galatians 3:28

- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



Galatians 3:29

- And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.