

AN ALLEGORY OF LAW AND PROMISE

We are currently studying a series of lessons on the New Covenant. The church age is under the New Covenant promise and grace and not under the Old Covenant of law and works.

(1 Cor.11:25) “This cup is the New Covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” (Church Age Eucharist)

Last week we learned that the messianic teachings of the Old Covenant were divided into **Law** (shadow Christology of codex III) and the **Promise** (prophesies of the Coming of Christ).

(Gal.4:4-5) “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law; that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

It is important for the church of the 21st Century to understand that the New Covenant is 100% promise and grace and 0% law and works.

(Rom.3:20-21) “Because by the **works of the Law** no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through **the Law** comes the knowledge of sin. But **apart from the Law** the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets.”

There are those in the Christian church today who want to combine “law and works” with “promise and grace” in their theology.

(Gal.2:21) May it never be! – Paul decreed, “I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ (the Promise) died needlessly.” (Gal.4:6-7; 2:16)

This lesson will study three aspects of Paul’s Allegory of Law and Promise.
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We will confirm that all Church Age Believers (CAB) are under the New Covenant Promise and Grace apart from the Law (Rom.3:20-21).

1. Paul used an allegory between the Hagar and Sarah to illustrate that law and works are incompatible with promise and grace (Gen.16-17, 21). They are diametrical opposites.

We will examine ten differences between the Law and the Promise (Gal.4:21-31).

<u>LAW</u>	<u>DIFFERENCES</u>	<u>PROMISE</u>
Hagar	Mothers	Sarah
Bondwoman	Statuses	Free woman
Flesh	Births	Promise / Spirit
Mosaic Law	Covenants	Promise of Christ
Slaves	Sons	Freed
Present Jerusalem	Places	Jerusalem Above
Persecutor	Suffering	Persecuted
Cast out	Plan of God	Preserved
No heir / inheritance	Futures	Heir / inheritance
Legalism	Beliefs	Grace

2. Paul referred to the present Jerusalem of the 1st Century as persecuting the grace church.

Apostate Pharisaical Judaism persecuted Jesus Christ (Matt.26:1-5) and the infant Christian church (Acts 7-9, 8:1-3; 9:1-2) and the missionary Christian church (Acts 13:44-52; 14:1-5, 19).

Apostate Christian Judaizers were combining law and grace into one Christian theology and attacking faith-grace alone theology.

This led to the first Christian church conference (Acts 15:1-6). As the apostle to the Jews, Peter sided with faith-grace alone for salvation (Acts 15:7-11). The other apostle to the Jews, James, suggested combining some elements of law to CWL (Acts 15:12-21). Paul and Barnabas agreed to one thing – “Remember the poor – the very thing I also was eager to do.” (Gal.2:10)

The legalistic churches who combined law and grace into one theology led to more conflict in the faith-grace alone New Covenant churches (Gal.2:11-13, 21).

1% leaven of legalism leavens the whole lump (Mark 8:14-21; Gal.5:6-9; 1 Cor.5:6-8).

3. Paul grew up as an orthodox pharisaical legalistic Jew (Phil.3:2-9).

It did not prepare him for grace salvation through faith. In fact, it made him an enemy of it!

(Phil.3:5b-7) “**As to the Law**, a Pharisee; **as to zeal**, a persecutor of the church; **as to righteousness** which is in the Law, found blameless. But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of the Christ.” (Acts 9)

(Phil.3:9) “And be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through **faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.**”

(Gal.2:21) “I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.”

(Gal.3:22-25) “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.** But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”

(Rom.4:4-5) “Now to the one who works, his wages is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

(Gal.4:30-31) “**But what does the Scripture say?** ‘Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be an heir with the son of the free woman.’ **So then, brethren**, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.”