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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
PT: Ron Adema
Series: Book of Galatians

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Galatians.3:19-25
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GOD'S PURPOSE OF FOR THE MOSAIC LAW

In **Gal.3:1-18**, Paul established that the Abrahamic Covenant trumps the Mosaic Law (ML) as an unconditional divine covenant because of Christ.

(Gal.3:17) "What I say is this: the Law (which came 430 years later) does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise."

(Gal.3:16) "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds.' As referring to many, but rather to one, 'And your seed, that is, Christ.'"

Now in **Gal.3:19-25**, Paul turns his attention to **God's Purpose of Mosaic Law**. Paul will ask two rhetorical questions and answer them in our lesson text.

We will study the two rhetorical questions and Paul's six answers to **God's Purpose of Mosaic Law**.

(Gal.3:19) "Why **the Law** then?"

(Gal.3:21) "Is the Law then contrary to (kata+genitive of opposition/ against) **the promises** of God?"

Paul is addressing this problem because Judaizer believers have made the Mosaic Law (ML) a source of both salvation and spirituality (Acts 15:1, **5**; Gal.2:21; 3:2-3).

We will study Paul's <u>six answers</u> to God's Purpose of ML from the two rhetorical questions.
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1. First question: "Why then the Law?" Paul gave first two answers (Gal.3:19-20).

1st answer - "It (ML) was added (prostithemi/ a.p.ind.3ps) [at a point in the past to something already in existence] because (charin+gen) [of reason] of the transgressions (ton parabasis)" (Gal.3:19a)

The ML was added to the transgressions of Adam's original sin (AOS) of (Gen.2:16-17) (Rom.5:12-21/ 14, 20).

(Rom.3:20) "Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin."

2nd answer – ML - "having been ordained (diatasso/ a.p.ptc.nsm) [Decreed at the ELC for 15th century BC until the Seed] (Gal.3:19) through angels by the agency of a mediator (Moses) (Matt.17:1-13) **until** (achris+ean) [Decreed into biblical history by place and time] **the seed** (to sperma) [Christ] **should come** to whom the promise had been made." (Gal.3:19b)

(Rom.10:4) "For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

2. Second rhetorical question: "Is the Law then **contrary to** (kata+gen of in opposition to) the promises of God? Paul gave four additional answers (**Gal.3:21-25**).

3rd answer – “For if (2cc) [**contrary to truth**] the Law had been given which was able (dunamai/ p.m.ptc.nsm) to impart life (zoopoieo/ a.a.infin), then righteousness would indeed have been based on Law - BUT IT ISN’T ABLE TO!” (Gal.3:21)

The ML was never designed by God to impart eternal life (1 John 5:11-13) or righteousness of God (2 Cor.5:21).

4th answer – “**But before faith came**, we were kept in custody (**phroureo**/ impf.p.ind.1pl) [military blocking every way of escape] under the Law, being shut up (**sugkleio**/ p.p.ptc.nplm) [to shut in on all sides/ impossibility of escape] to **the faith which was later to be revealed** (**apokalupto**/ a.p.infin).” (Gal.3:23)

Works of the law are unable to redeem us from the curse of the Law; only faith in Christ can do it (Gal.3:13- 14).

5th answer – “**Therefore** (custody and shut up) the Law has become (ginomai/ perf.a.ind.3ps) our tutor to lead (**paidagogos**) [Superintendent or principal] us to Christ, **that we may be justified by faith.**” (Gal.3:24)

Write what positive purpose Paul gave _____.

6th answer – “But now that **faith** (tes pistis/ gsf) has come (erchomai/ a.a.ptc.gsf) we are (eimi/p.a.ind.1pl) **no longer** (**ouketi**/ **temporal adv.**) **under** (hupo+acc of beneath) a tutor (paidagogos/asm).” (Gal.3:25)

Faith (mentioned 12 times) and Law (mentioned 11 times) dominates the discussion of Gal.Ch.3.

The ML was designed by God to teach that only **ONE man** could fulfill the letter of the Law and redeem mankind from the 13 judicial charges of Adam’s Original Sin (AOS) (Gen.2:16-17). That ONE man was **Jesus Christ** (Matt.1:21; 1 Cor.15:22; Rom.10:4).

(Gal.3:13-14) “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us - for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’ – in order that in Christ Jesus the **blessing of Abraham** might come to the **Gentiles**, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

Paul referred to the **OT canon of Scriptures** three times in the Book of Galatians. (Gal.3:8, 22; 4:30). The OT canon of Scriptures consisted of three divisions (Luke 24:44-49)

- Law
- Prophets
- Psalms (five books of Wisdom Literature).