



## The Law and The Promise

### 10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

### 20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: Study the contrast between The Law and The Promise as taught by Paul!

#### Read Galatians 3:15 - 3:18 - Inheriting The Promise

- Paul addressing his audience, lays out the idea of a covenant. He points to the fact that even a man-made covenant does not allow for addition to, nor deletion from a ratified covenant!
- His purpose in pointing to the function of a covenant is the Abrahamic Covenant, Paul was about to use this time as an opportunity to point to the covenant that God ratified with Abraham!
- Paul’s purpose in defining the covenant and then pointing to Abraham was to clarify that the Law was not able to nullify the original covenant made by God with Abraham - the Law did not nullify the Promise - the Promise that Christ fulfilled!
- Inheritance stills comes through the Promise, it is not earned by the Law!

#### Read Galatians 3:19 - 3:22 - The Law and The Promise

- So what was the need for the Law? If the Promise was God’s Purpose, why enact the Law?
- Paul makes clear the need for the Law, the Law was put in place due to the transgressions of man and was to remain in place until the offspring to whom the Promise was made arrived.
- The Law was put in place to wait upon the coming of Christ - Christ then fulfilled the Law!
- Was the Law contrary to the Promise? Paul confronts that question with a resounding “Certainly Not!” The Law cannot give life and is not the basis of righteousness - the Promise gives life and atones for our righteousness through Jesus Christ!
- Scripture itself revealed sin and works as an arresting force against sinful nature, allowing for those whose faith is in Christ to receive the inheritance of the Promise!

#### Read Galatians 3:23 - 3:29 - All Encompassing Faith!

- Before faith arrived, the Law held captive those who were under the Law!
- Paul goes on to call the Law “Our Guardian”, a guardian that remained until Christ came!
- Faith in Christ is our Justification!
- With the arrival of Christ and our faith in Him, we are no longer under the Law as our guardian.
- When we are in Christ, we need to fully realize the unifying work of Christ. Being in Christ, we must see that all racial, socio-economic, and backgrounds are all nothing in comparison to being one in Christ! There is neither Jew nor Greek - amazing and bold words coming from Paul. Words that shattered everything that he was raised on in relation to the supremacy of the Jew vs Gentiles!



## 20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Do you understand the favor that exists in the fact that the Law could not undo the Promise?

- The Law was given to the Jews, where the Promise was given to Abraham and his offspring!
- There was no limitation to the Promise in regard to natural heritage or blood lines, the inheritance was enacted for all who were to come through the offspring - the offspring being Christ!
- So the Law does not limit you and I from the inheritance of the Promise of God, because if our faith is in Christ and we are in Him - we are Joint Heirs of the Promise!

Question 2: Do you understand how the contrast between Law and Promise relates to us today?

- The contrast is most important in showing the inheritance remains!
- Another important factor of this contrast by Paul, is that we are again able to see that our works do not define our inheritance of the Promise! The Promise is inherited by faith and our works flow out of our faith!
- We must be vigilant in our adherence to faith and allowing our Godly works to flow out of faith!

Question 3: Do you understand the overflowing nature of our Faith?

- Our faith is birthed in and dwells in the Person and Nature of Jesus Christ!
- Christ, though a Jew by natural birth, brought overarching salvation - Neither Jew nor Greek - shattered the prejudiced nature of the times!
- A faith that can overcome the lawlessness of Biblical times through amazing unity grounded in the Grace of God, is a Faith that can only come from the Most High God!
- The Promise that is our faith accomplished what the Law never could - fulfilling the Promise through Christ - establishing the inheritance promised to Abraham!

## 10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

## Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

## Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data