

The Law and Grace  
Galatians 3.1-29

# Galatians

- Is a region in modern Turkey
- Paul and Barnabas went there on their first missionary journey (Acts 13-14)
- Lystra, Derbe, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia are the cities mentioned in Acts
- And these believers were very quickly influenced by Jews who wanted them to embrace Judaism
- Paul resists this, by teaching them the place of the Law

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- Grace through faith is how we obtain the righteousness of God. 2.21-3.5
- 2.21—Grace or Law
- 3.5—Law or “hearing of faith”
- The Spirit is the evidence of God’s acceptance: 3.2, 3.3, 3.5

- Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
- Titus 3.4-7

This has ALWAYS been the truth.

3.6-14

- Paul states this fact, “positively:”  
It has ALWAYS been faith. 3.6-14
- 3.6 Abraham’s faith (Genesis  
15.4-6)
- 3.7 all of us who are “out of faith”

- 3.8 the Bible, taking the “long view,” saw that God would save Gentiles through (“out of”) faith
- 3.9 So, all who are “out of” faith share Abraham’s blessing

- Paul states this fact, “negatively,” it has NEVER been works. 3.10-13
- All who come to God “out of” the works of the Law are under the curse (Deuteronomy 27.26) 3.10
- The OT is clear that none are made righteous by the Law (Habakkuk 2.4) 3.11

- The Law doesn't come "out of" faith. (Deuteronomy 27.26 again). 3.12
- Christ redeemed us—paid the price to recover us from—the curse of the Law. 3.13
- 3.14 Summarizes: So that we might receive God's promise through faith.

# The Law and Faith are compared. 3.15-29

- Valid human contracts are binding, 3.15
- God's promise is like a contract, 3.16
- The promises (plural) were to one seed (singular), who is Christ.

- This covenant came 430 years before the Law, and cannot void the promise. 3.17
- Because if the inheritance (the things promised) came out of the Law, that would be the end of the promise. 3.18

- Question: “Then why even bother with the Law?” 3.19
- It was ADDED
- It was added because of SIN
- It was added because of sin, until the SEED should come, to whom the promise was made
- 3.20 is an important, “technical” note: God is not a third party mediator.

- Question: “If the Law was added later, is it in opposition to the promise?” 3.21
- No. If ANY Law could have given us life, God’s Law would be the one.  
3.21
- But the Bible shows that we are all “caught in the net of sin” (concluded), 3.22

- The Law encircled the Jews, functioning as a guard (kept) until Christ came, 3.23-24
- Now that Christ has come, the Law has gone.3.25
- And the end of the Law, and faith in Christ, has created an entirely new “entity,” 3.26-29

## Concluding observations

- Note that Paul is contrasting Law and faith, not Law and grace.
- The Law is not compatible with faith.  
3.10-11
- We who are “out of faith” are not under the Law of Moses in ANY form: not ceremonial, not civil, not moral