

“The Law vs. The Promise”

Christian Liberty

Galatians 3:15-22

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I. Background

- A. Book level – The *who* and *how* of the people of God; Judaizers preaching an anti-grace ‘*different gospel*’ (1:6); faith + ‘works’/’law’ = salvation.
- B. Chapter level – arguments for *sola fide*:
 - 1. Personal/experiential (3:1-5)
 - 2. Historical (6-12)
 - 3. Christological (13-14)
- C. Paragraph level – the law and the promise compared and contrasted (15-22)

II. Biblical Argument

- A. The promise > the law (15-18)
 - 1. Illustration - terms of will and testament doesn’t change; Christ is recipient of promise (15-16)
 - 2. Illustration explained – Promise came before law. Therefore, law doesn’t annul the promise (17)
 - 3. Summary of point (18)
- B. The purpose of the law (19-20) ‘*Why then the law?*’
 - It puts a name on sin ‘...*because of transgressions*’
- C. The promise and the law: their relationship (21-22)
 - 1. Law leaves sense of lifelessness & inability but ‘*promise by faith*’ brings life
 - 2. Law leads man to see and seek the ‘*promise by faith*’

III. Being a Doer: Application

- A. Practical dynamic – ‘*law*’ (contractual) vs ‘*promise*’ (covenantal) relating
- B. Preferential – problem of (Jewish) ‘*law*’ is a problem of cultural preference - ‘*circumcision*’
- C. Principle – psychology of *sola fide*; the daily battle to ‘*beat it into [our] heads continually*’ (Luther)