



OCTOBER 13, 2024

PROMISE MADE, PROMISE KEPT

Pastor Stephen Lay // Galatians 3:15-22

PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

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15 Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. 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 to your seed," that is, Christ. 17 What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. 18 For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

19 Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. 20 Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one. 21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. 22 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.



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REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- When you were young, did you tend to be a rule follower or a rule breaker?
- What's a memory you have of either a promise kept or a promise broken?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

GROW IN THE WORD

- 01.** Paul argued that even in a human contract, conditions aren't added after its been confirmed. He wrote that God's promise to Abraham, greater than any human contract, was a binding promise confirmed even before the Law came. Paul emphasized that the inheritance of God's people came through the promise made to Abraham, not through the Law (v. 15-18).
 - How does the nature of the Abrahamic Covenant and the fulfillment of the "seed" promise in Christ give you confidence in your faith?

GROW IN THE WORD

- How did Paul's explanation of God's promise to Abraham challenge the lie the Galatians believed about their faith and the Law? See also Romans 4:13-16.

- What truth about the gospel do you need to cling to in order to dispel lies you might believe about your relationship with God?

02. Paul explained that the Law was added because of sins, came through a mediator, and was temporary until the promised child came. He argued that the Law could not impart life and that life could only come through the promise by faith in Jesus Christ (v. 19-22).

- How would you describe the relationship between the Law and God's promises according to Paul? Do they contradict each other? Consider also the NLT or Message translation of verses 21-22.

GROW IN THE WORD

- In what ways does understanding the purpose of the Law in revealing sin affect your view of your own need for grace?
- How can acknowledging your need for Christ's grace lead you to a deeper faith, dependence on him, and humility toward others?

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, October 20 | 12:30 - 4:30 pm

Everyone is invited to join us for an afternoon of fellowship at Morgan's Wonderland during our annual picnic! Admission to the park, including new attractions, is free and we will have food trucks onsite if you'd prefer not bringing in your own lunch. Learn more online.

HYMN SING

October 27 | 5 pm | Fellowship Hall

We hope you can join us for an evening of worship as we gather to sing some of the great hymns of our faith. All are welcome and childcare is not provided.