

Faith or the Law
Lesson #14
Galatians 3:1-25

In Chapter 2, Paul had written about a situation that took place in Antioch where Peter (and other Jewish believers) had separated themselves from the Gentile believers after the arrival of some Jews from Jerusalem. Paul immediately reprimanded Peter saying, *"Man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ."* (Galatians 2:16) He added personal testimony of how that had worked in his life and then concluded by saying, *"If righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"* (Galatians 2:21)

1. Paul's frustration is easily picked up in this next section. What did he call the believers in Galatia and what did he ask them? (Galatians 3:1a, b)
2. What did Paul say took place, *"Before your very eyes?"* (Galatians 3:1c)
3. He continued saying, *"I would like to learn just one thing."* What was that one thing? (Galatians 3:2)
4. Paul asked, *"Are you so foolish?"* What caused him to ask that question? (Galatians 3:3)
5. He asked if they had suffered (for faith in Christ) for nothing. What else did Paul ask these Galatian believers? (Galatians 3:5)
6. Using Abraham as an example, Paul said to consider his life. It was when Abraham believed God that it was credited to him as righteousness. Who did Paul say are the true children of Abraham? (Galatians 3:7)

7. Wow – that has huge implications, so Paul kept going to prove his argument. What did Paul say the Scriptures foresaw? (Galatians 3:8)

Reflect: When did God make that announcement to Abraham (Abram)? (Genesis 12:1-4)

- What does that say to you about God’s plan to include Gentiles?
8. What else did Paul say about “*those who have faith?*” (Galatians 3:9)
 9. After establishing that Abraham was justified by faith, not the law, what did Paul say about those who rely on observance of the Law for their justification? (Galatians 3:10)
 10. What did Paul say is clear? (Galatians 3:11)
 11. What fundamental point did Paul make about the law? (Galatians 3:12a)
 12. But the law was given by God. Summarize what Paul said Christ (Jesus) did for us according to the law? (Galatians 3:13, 14)
 13. This is so important to salvation that Paul wanted to make sure the Galatian believers understood. He cites “an example from every day life.” What was his example? (Galatians 3:15)

14. With his point clearly made, he applied that to the promise God made to Abraham. To whom did the Scriptures say the promises were spoken? (Galatians 3:16)
15. Bringing all his points together, what was Paul's argument regarding the law? (Galatians 3:17)
16. *"If the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise."* What does Paul remind them? (Galatians 3:17b)
17. After establishing the fact that we are justified by faith and not by observing the law, Paul continued with the next obvious question, *"What then is the purpose of the law?"* Why did Paul say the law was added? (Galatians 3:19b)

Reflect: on what Paul just said. The law had a purpose (which he'll explain later). But how long did Paul say the law was in effect? (Galatians 3:19b)

- Please comment on what Paul just said to these Gentile believers.

18. Paul's next point was to compare the promise to the law. Paul said that the law was put into effect by a mediator. Why is that significant? (Galatians 3:20a)
19. But God is one; does that mean that the law is opposed to the promises of God? Galatians 3:21a)
 - Why or why not? (Galatians 3:21b)

20. What is the problem in trying to become righteous through keeping of the law?
(Galatians 3:22a)

Note the language Paul used in Gal. 3:22; it will help later to understand Paul's references to slave vs. free.

21. What about the promise? (Galatians 3:22b)
22. Before faith came, how did Paul describe the role of the law? (Galatians 3:23)
23. Returning to his original question in verse 19, what did Paul finally say was the purpose of the law? (Galatians 3:24)
24. "*Now that faith has come,*" how did Paul say the role of the law changed? (Galatians 3:25)