

The Gospel in Galatians
Lesson #6 **The Priority of the Promise**

Memory Verse **Hand Out Scriptures to read**

Galatians 3:18 (ESV) *“For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise”*

Gal 3:15–20, Gen 9:11–17, Matt 5:17–20, Exod 16:22–26, Gen 15:1–6.

Years ago a man was crossing a frozen Missouri river on his hands and knees when a wagon and horses loaded with coal went galloping by.

Law and Faith (Gal. 3:15–18)

Galatians 3:15–18 (NKJV) *Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man’s covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. ¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ. ¹⁷ And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.*

Isaiah 46:11 (NKJV) *Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.*

***Numbers 23:19** (NKJV) *“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”*

God’s Perfect Credit Score -A credit history tells if you can be trusted. A credit score range is 300 to 850.

As with a human will, God’s promise concerns a specific beneficiary, Abraham and his offspring (Gen. 12:1–5, Gal. 3:16); it also involves an inheritance (Gen. 13:15, 17:8, Rom. 4:13, Gal. 3:29).

Romans 4:13–14 (NKJV) *For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect,*

Hebrews 6:17–18 (NKJV) *Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, ¹⁸ that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.*

Faith and Law

Romans 2:13 (NKJV) *for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;*

Romans 3:31 (NKJV) *Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.*

“This faith works by love and purifies the soul. It works in the life of the follower of Christ true obedience to God’s commandments; for love to God and love to man will be the result of vital connection with Christ.”
1Slected Messages, Pg. 334

Romans 7:7 (NKJV) *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”*

Romans 7:12 (NKJV) *Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.*

***Galatians 3:21** (NKJV) *Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not!*

Romans 8:3–4 (NKJV) *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Matthew 5:17–19 (NKJV) *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

“Though Christ is said to have fulfilled the law for us, yet it is nowhere intimated in the Scripture that he has so fulfilled these Ten Laws, as to exempt us from the necessity and privilege of being no idolaters, swearers, Sabbath-breakers, disobedient and cruel children, murderers, adulterers, thieves, and corrupt witnesses. All these commandments, it is true, he punctually fulfilled himself; and all these he writes on the heart of every soul redeemed by his blood.” –Adam Clark

Jesus did not come to free us to sin, but from sin.

Law of Liberty

John 8:34–36 (NKJV) *Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

James 1:25 *But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

James 2:11-12 *For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.*

***Psalms 119:44-45** *So shall I keep Your law continually, Forever and ever. And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts.*

Luke 4:18 *“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*

Jesus not only called Lazarus to life but also to be loosed.

Jesus delivered Mary from the demons of lust, He saved James and John from their violent tempers and Peter from his lying and cursing. He can set you free too. Are you in bondage to fear, guilt, no self worth, drugs, anger, dirty thoughts? Allow Jesus to break every link in the chains that bind you. Don't give the Devil a single foothold in your life!

“As a result of Adam's disobedience, every human being is a transgressor of the law, sold under sin. Unless he repents and is converted, he is under bondage to the law, serving Satan, falling into the deceptions of the enemy, and bearing witness against the precepts of Jehovah. But by perfect obedience to the requirements of the law, man is justified. Only through faith in Christ is such obedience possible.”
{Signs of the Times, July 23, 1902 par. 13}

The Purpose of the Law

Galatians 3:19–20 *What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.*

Psalms 68:17 *The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: The Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.*

Deuteronomy 33:2 (NKJV) *And he said: “The Lord came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them.*

Acts 7:38 (NKJV) *“This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us,*

***Acts 7:53** *Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.*

Galatians 3:24–25 (NKJV) *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

The Duration of God's Law

Galatians 3:19 (NKJV) *What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; **The Ceremonial Law***

Romans 10:4 (NKJV) *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. **Do the 10 Commandments still point out sin?***

Hebrews 10:4–7 (NKJV) *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.⁵ Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’ ”*

The Superiority of the Promise

Hebrews 1:1–2 (NKJV) *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; **Conditional Promises?***

Josh 23:14 *“Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that **not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.***

Psa 89:34 *My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.*

Mat 24:35 *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”*

Unclaimed Promises

We learned that when Crowfoot, the great chief of the Blackfoot confederacy in southern Alberta, gave the Canadian Pacific Railway permission to cross the Blackfoot land from Medicine Hat to Calgary, he was given in return a lifetime pass. Crowfoot put it in a leather case and carried it around his neck for the rest of his life. There is no record, however, that he availed himself of the right to travel anywhere on the CPR trains. God's promises are not for decoration.

A sea captain said "once I was sailing by the island of Cuba when the cry ran through the ship, 'Man overboard!' It was impossible to stop the ship, so I instantly seized a rope and threw it over the ship's stern, crying out to the man to seize it as for his life. The struggling sailor caught the rope just as the ship was passing. He was rescued, but he had grasped the rope with such firmness, with such a death-grip, that it took hours before his hold relaxed and his hand could be separated from it. With such eagerness, indeed, had he clutched the object that was to save him, that the strands of rope became embedded in the flesh of his hands!"

Has not God let down from heaven a rope to every sinner on the earth? Is not every strand a precious promise, and ought we not to lay hold of it as for our very lives?

One day, President Abraham Lincoln was riding in a coach with a colonel from Kentucky. The colonel took a bottle of whiskey out of his pocket. He offered Mr. Lincoln a drink. Mr. Lincoln said, "No thank you, Colonel. I never drink whiskey." In a little while, the colonel took some cigars out of his pocket and offered one to Mr. Lincoln. Again Mr. Lincoln said, "No, thank you, Colonel." Then Mr. Lincoln said, "I want to tell you a story."

"One day, when I was about nine years old, my mother called me to her bed. She was very sick. She said, 'Abe, the doctor tells me that I am not going to get well. I want you to be a good boy. I want you to promise me before I go that you will never use whiskey or tobacco as long as you live.' I promised my mother that I never would, and up to this hour, I kept this promise! Would you advise me to break that promise?"

The colonel put his hand on Mr. Lincoln's shoulder and said, "Mr. Lincoln, I would not have you break that promise for the world! It is one of the best promises you ever made. I would give a thousand dollars today if I had made my mother a promise like that and had kept it like you have done. I would be a much better man than I am!"

Some time ago an elderly man living in New Jersey made an unusual discovery as he leafed through an old family Bible. Many years earlier, his aunt had died and left it to him. Part of her will read: "To my beloved Steven Marsh I bequeath my family Bible and all it contains, along with the residue of my estate after my funeral expenses and just and lawful debts are paid." When everything had been settled the nephew got a few hundred dollars plus the old volume mentioned in the will.

After the money was used up, his only support was a small pension, and for more than 30 years he lived in poverty. Then one day he cleaned out his attic in preparation for a move to his son's home where he hoped to spend his old age. There in a trunk was the family Bible he had inherited. Opening it, he was amazed to find bank notes scattered throughout its pages. He counted over \$5000 in cash. Within his reach were riches he could have been enjoying all along.

Starving Indian with a Pension for Life from George Washington
An aged Indian, half naked and famished, wandered into one of our Western settlements, begging for food to keep him from starving. While eagerly devouring the bread bestowed by the hand of charity, a bright colored ribbon, from which was suspended a small dirty pouch, was seen around his neck. On being questioned, he said it was a charm given him in his younger days; and opening it, displayed a faded, greasy paper, which he handed to the investigator for inspection. It proved to be a regular discharge from the Federal Army, entitling him to a pension for life and signed by General Washington Himself.

In the early days of our country a weary traveler came to the banks of the Missouri River for the first time. There was no bridge. It was early winter, and the surface of the mighty stream was covered with ice. Could he dare cross over? Would the uncertain ice be able to bear his weight?

Night was falling, and it was urgent that he reach the other side. Finally, after much hesitation and with many fears, he began to creep cautiously across the surface of the ice on his hands and knees. He thought that he might distribute his weight as much as possible and keep the ice from breaking beneath him.

About halfway over he heard the sound of singing behind him. Out of the dusk there came a man, driving a horse-drawn load of coal across the ice and singing merrily as he went his way.

Here he was--on his hands and knees, trembling lest the ice be not strong enough to bear him up! And there, as if whisked away by the winter's wind, went the man, his horses, his sleigh, and his load of coal, upheld by the same ice on which he was creeping!

Like this weary traveler, some of us have learned only to creep upon the promises of God. Cautiously, timidly, tremblingly we venture forth upon His promises, as though the lightness of our step might make His promises more secure. As though we could contribute even in the slightest to the strength of His assurances!

He has promised to be with us. Let us believe that promise! He has promised to uphold us. Let us believe Him when He says so. He has promised to grant us victory over all our spiritual enemies. Let us trust His truthfulness. Above all, He has promised to grant us full and free forgiveness of all our sins because of Jesus Christ, our Savior. And He has promised to come and take us to His heavenly home. Let us take Him at His word.

We are not to creep upon these promises as though they were too fragile to uphold us. We are to stand upon them--confident that God is as good as His word and that He will do what He has pledged.

France's Jeanne Calment, world's oldest woman, dead at 121

In her later years, she lived mostly off the income from her apartment, which she sold cheaply more than 30 years earlier to a lawyer, Andre-Francois Raffray. He had agreed to make monthly payments on the apartment in exchange for taking possession when she died, but never got to do so. He died more than a year ago at 77; his family was required to keep making the payments. Lubbock Avalanche-Journal 1997

In the early times when land was sold, the owner cut a section of turf and cast it into the cap of the purchaser as a token that it was his--or he tore off the branch of a tree and put it into the new owner's hand to show that he was entitled to all the products of the soil. And when the purchaser of a house received possession, the key of the door or a bundle of thatch from the roof signified that the building was yielded up to him. The God of all grace has given to his people all the perfections of heaven to be their heritage forever, and the down-payment of his Spirit is to them the blessed token that all things are theirs. The Spirit's work of comfort and sanctification is a part of heaven's covenant blessings--a turf from the soil of Canaan, a twig from the tree of life, the key to the mansions in the skies. Possessing the down-payment of the Spirit we have received possession of heaven.