

Guided By Law, Rescued By Promise Galatians 3:15-26

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The Big Idea: We are guided by law, but rescued by promise.

To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. ¹⁶Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. ¹⁷This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.
Galatians 3:15-18 (English Standard Version)

God keeps His promises.

TIPS:

- Twice a year
- Weekly/Quarterly space to center in your need for grace

Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. ²⁰Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. ²¹Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. ²²But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. Galatians 3:19-26 (ESV)

God gives **the law** to guide His people.

A few reasons why we break the law:

- 1) We don't like being told what to do.
- 2) We want something too much (we covet).
- 3) We break the law by omission.

TIPS:

- Our loving actions reveal God's love in us (not our merit).
- Two sign posts of law thinking:
 - a critical spirit
 - a lack of vulnerability