



GALATIANS

DEEPLY ROOTED FREEDOM

GALATIANS 3:15-22

GETTING STARTED...

How often do you read the Old Testament? Sometimes it can seem like it is really outdated, or that we simply don't know how to apply it to our lives. We know that we don't just do everything, but why not? As Paul speaks to the Galatians, he wants them to understand how we as Christians should relate to the Old Testament and God's commands that he gives. While we are not called to simply do everything that they did, neither can we ignore it. As Paul deals with the difference between the Law of Moses and the salvation we have in Jesus, he reminds us that while these two parts of Scripture have different purposes, both are given for our good. As Christians we need to be reminded of our inability to save ourselves, and the good news that what we couldn't accomplish, Jesus has already done!

READ THE TEXT: GALATIANS 3:15-22

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ Now 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. ¹⁷ This 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. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

²¹ Is 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.

²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Paul gives a number of reasons why the covenant given to Abraham was better than the law, what are they? Paul also gives a number of reasons why the Law was lesser, what are those reasons?
2. In verses 21-22 Paul outlines the purpose of the law and the promise, how does he put them together?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. What would you say to someone who claims that Christians don't follow all the rules in Bible? How would you respond and point them to Jesus?
6. How should we read the Old Testament properly in light of Jesus?
7. Which area are you more likely to fall into? Everything is law and sin, or everything is grace and freedom? How do we hold these two in balance properly?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*