



# **Liberated to Live Free in Christ**

a study of Galatians

Rev. Larrin Robertson  
Pastor



Starting where you are

# Galatians 3:15-29

- The BIG Idea: Justification by faith
- Clarifying the Role of the Promise (3:15-18)
- Clarifying the Purpose of the Law (3:19-26)
- Clarifying the Outcome of Grace (3:27-29)

October 12, 2023

# The BIG Idea:

- Justification by faith is an outcome of being saved by grace.
- Works-based faith (i.e., adherence to the Law as a means of salvation) contradicts the experience of salvation.
- Faith in Jesus identifies believers with the faith of Abraham.
- Redemption occurs through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

**The Reformation formula:** Saved by *grace* alone, by *faith* alone, in *Christ* alone, according to *Scripture* alone, to the *glory of God* alone.

October 12, 2023



Arguments to prove that God saves sinners through faith in Jesus Christ, not by works of the law:

Personal  
3:1-5

Scriptural  
3:6-14


Logical  
3:15-29

Historical  
4:1-11


Sentimental  
4:12-18

Allegorical  
4:19-31

October 12, 2023



There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.



# Clarifying the Role of the Promise (3:15-18)

Key word: *promise* □ *epangelai*: epi and aggelos; an announcement, or an assertion.

- *Gen. 12:1-3; 15:5; 17:8; 22:17-18*
- *Gal. 3:6-9*

## □ The particulars of the Promise

- The timing
- The parties
- The executor
- The beneficiaries

October 12, 2023

# Clarifying the Role of the Promise (3:15-18 cont'd.)

## **The Timing**

How does Paul calculate 430 years?

430 years is the approximate time between Jacob's arrival in Egypt when God reaffirmed the covenant (Gen 46:1-4) until the time God gave the Law to Moses.

The Point: a law given no less than 4 centuries after the promise was made can change the covenant b/t the covenanting parties.

October 12, 2023



How can you be certain that you are a beneficiary of God's promise to Abraham? How can your response apply to other people?



# Clarifying the Purpose of the Law (3:19-26)

2 Truths:

1. The Law  $\neq$  or  $>$  the Promise.
2. The Law is not contrary to the Promise.

Why, then, the law?

- Preparation for the need of faith
- Provision for people of faith

October 12, 2023

# Clarifying the Purpose of the Law (3:19-26 cont'd.)

- Preparation for the need of faith (3:19-20)
  - The purpose of the Law
  - The duration of the Law
  - The end of the Law
  
- Provision for people of faith (3:21-26)
  - To regulate life, not to give life
  - To reveal sin
  - To prepare the way for Christ

October 12, 2023

Whether seen as a guard  
or a trainer, how was the  
Law a beneficial forerunner  
of grace?



# Clarifying the Outcome of Grace (3:27-29)

- To provide believers with a new way of life
- To promote union among believers through union with Christ
  - Oneness with Christ
  - Oneness with other believers
  - A radical equality under God's grace
  - Heir of God's promise to Abraham
- To provide believers with the blessing of spiritual relationship

October 12, 2023

What behaviors and thoughts  
can be further enhanced to  
identify you as a recipient of  
God's grace?



Questions

