

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
The Promise Confirmed Before By God To Christ
Galatians 3:15-20

Last time...the Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit

- asked the Galatians a handful of questions regarding the 2 “competing” and contradictory gospels (salvation by faith vs salvation by works of the law), that led to a single, simple answer – v6
- made a Great Declaration heard the world over regarding that answer – v11

This time...Paul examines God’s Law and God’s promise

v13-14

- The curse/condemnation of the Law is satisfied in Jesus Christ for whosoever believes as did Abraham
- With belief/faith/trust comes the blessing of Abraham – God’s promise/pledge of everlasting Life; God’s promise/pledge is Life

With the nature of the Gospel/salvation at stake, what is the relationship between the Law of God and the promise of God?

We will be in Gal 3

v15 speak after the manner of men:

Paul is speaking to the brethren...the family of God, not strangers or lost... about The Law and The Promise

He gives an illustration regarding the promise of God – a promise of man

If a person’s promise is confirmed, it is considered to be authoritative

No one can

- disannul
 - void
 - set aside
- add to

the promise

So if a man’s promise is authoritative, how much more so is the promise of God?!

v16 Abraham and his seed...Christ:

The promise/pledge of God is the promise of the Spirit thru faith (v14)...Life,
the making eternally alive of the dead by the Eternal Spirit thru believing
that God will keep His pledge, do what He said

The promise of God is **His** solution to mankind's sin problem – separation from
Him, condemnation, death

That promise, God's blessing (v14) for believing/trusting Him (v6), was given by
God **to**

1. Abraham
2. Abraham's seed

Abraham's seed is not plural (a multitude of people)
but singular (a specific Person) – Jesus Christ,

- the Son of Promise, foreshadowed in Isaac (vs Ishmael)
- the Seed of the Woman promised in Gen 3:15
- God's promised Messiah/Savior

1 John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the
Son *to be* the Saviour of the world

The promise of the Spirit thru faith, God's blessing (v14) for believing/trusting
Him, was given to

1. Abraham...v6
2. Jesus Christ...the Son's faith in the pledge of His Father,
"faith of Christ"

Therefore,

- the promise of the Spirit thru faith is to Abraham and to Jesus Christ
- justification/salvation of fallen man is
 - thru faith...v9
 - not of the Jews (a multitude of people) in the "one must be
Jewish to be saved" sense (ala Acts 15:5)
 - but is of the Jews in the "The Savior of the world is Jewish"
sense
 - is appointed to whosoever would believe in the Son the
Father sent, Jew and Gentile

v17 the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law...cannot disannul:

We must take this verse slowly, studying carefully the Scripture in order to rightly
divide the Word of Truth

This may come across as academic when it comes to the prepositions,
but it is important to know what God is saying

Please

- listen carefully
- receive this with readiness of mind
- listen carefully again to the recording, making liberal use of the Pause button
- search the Scriptures yourself
- ask the Holy Spirit to teach you what He is saying

The Covenant/Contract/Promise: The (Life-quicken) Spirit thru faith

- was confirmed/ratified
- before...the Law was given
- of God...by God
- in Christ...“eis” Christ (The Seed, v16)

“en”: in, on, at, with, by, among...primarily “in”

Eph 1:12-13

“eis”: to, into, for, towards, among...primarily “to”

Per v16...the promise of the Spirit thru faith is **to**

1. Abraham
2. his seed, Christ Jesus

If “eis” = “in”, then the promise from the Father is

- the Spirit in Jesus Christ
- to those of v9...believers thru their faith

If “eis” = “to”, then the promise from the Father is

- Life...the Spirit
- to Jesus Christ, the Son, thru His faith

Both are true but they have two radically different meanings!

“to” Christ is a radically higher promise than “in” Christ

“to” Christ was made in heaven, Father to Son

“in” Christ was made on earth, God to man

“to” Christ gives power to “the faith of Christ”

“to” is what v16 says

So which is the primary meaning of the Holy Spirit?

Other English translations of Gal 3:17:

NIV, ESV, NASB: no mention of Christ at all

NKJV: in Christ

Young’s Literal, The Interlinear: to Christ

“eis” Christ...to Christ, The Seed (v16)

The promise/pledge of the Father “in” or “to” the Son?

Could it be, by foreknowledge, within the Godhead before the foundation of the world:

A. Father to Son

- We will create man in our image
 - Man will be made lower than the angels
 - Lucifer will tempt man and man will fall/sin/die
 - You, Son, set aside your glory and become a Man in order to die for the sins of the world/mankind
 - I will raise You up again unto eternal life on the 3rd day,
 - to satisfy My justice for Man's sin
 - to defeat man's enemy – death (and the devil)
 - to reconcile man, whosoever will believe
- Our report

B. Son to Father

- I love You, I trust You, I will do as You will
(the faith of Christ, His work of faith)

C. Father to Son

- In You all nations will be blessed
by The Resurrection, the power of God over death

Does the promise “before by God **to** Christ” add clarity, understanding, and meaning to all these passages?!

John 10:17-18

John 17:1-5

1 Cor 15:3-4, 20-23

Heb 1:1-9

Heb 2:9-18

Ps 2:6-8

Is 42:1-7

Is 49:5-10

The Law:

- was given by God 430 years AFTER God gave His promise to Abraham
- CANNOT disannul/invalidate/set aside/override/render empty God's promise
 - to Abraham and his Seed
 - yes, to Isaac (Gen 21:12 and Gen 26:4), the son of promise
 - but the Substance of that shadow is the far greater reality
 - to Christ
- God's Law CANNOT make God a liar
 - Rom 3:4a let God be true, but every man a liar
 - Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began
 - Heb 6:18-20 That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

v18 inheritance...but God:

If Abraham's inheritance...the Eternal Spirit of God (v14)...comes by the Law,
then God's promise...His Word...means nothing

- to Abraham
- to His Son Jesus Christ
- to all of us
- to all of mankind

But God gave Abraham the inheritance by His promise

The Law does not affect the Promise in any way!

v19a Wherefore then serveth the law:

So...what good is the Law?

What purpose does it serve?

Why was it given?

The Law was put in place because of sin...

1 Tim 1:8-10

until

- The Seed...singular, specific Person, Jesus Christ
- should come...appear
- to Whom the promise of God was made (“by God to Christ”, v17)

God’s Law does not change/affect God’s promise in any way, but reveals the sinner’s need for God’s promise to Christ

John 3:16

Matt 5:17

Rom 10:1-4

v19b-20 mediator:

The Law was ordained/instituted by angels in the hand of a mediator/reconciler/
go-between...because Is 59:1-2

A mediator is needed to bring reconciliation between two estranged parties

God is the offended party

Mankind in the offending party

Mankind is estranged from God

Therefore

- no mortal man is able to be his own mediator, much less for others
 - Job 9:1-3, 10-11, 15, 20, 32-33
 - Job 13:15-16
 - Job 19:25-26

Rom 3:10

Rom 3:23

Rom 3:19

- But God is able to be the Mediator for all mankind
 - the Mediator must be God
 - God must become a man to mediate between God and man

1 John 3:5 ye know that he was manifested to take
away our sins; and in him is no sin
2 Cor 5:19a that God was in Christ, reconciling the
world unto himself, not imputing their
trespasses unto them

Rom 6:23

Rom 5:1

Thus...v17a – the covenant was confirmed before by God **to** Christ

Application/Lessons

Consider the weight of the promise in v17...and our position before God (in Christ”)!!!

What is the relationship between the Law of God and the promise of God?

- complementary, not contradictory
- both are fulfilled in Jesus Christ

Know why!

God promised...the Father made a pledge to the Son...and He cannot lie

By faith

the faith of Christ...His work of faith

our faith in Christ...our work of faith to believe what God has said and done

Not by our works/personal performance/merit