



2016: Week 21

Sunday, May 22nd 2016

*"Moses or Jesus:
Which One Do You Follow?"*

Hebrews 3:3

³For (Jesus) has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses..." (NASB).

Throughout Scripture you can find numerous parallels between Moses and Jesus. Both were "faithful" in their service to the Lord (Hebrews 3:2), both spoke as God's prophets (Deuteronomy 18:18), both acted as intercessors for God's people (Numbers 21:7, Hebrews 7:25), both were shepherds (Exodus 3:1, John 10:11), and both were sent by God to deliver His people from bondage (Exodus 3:9–10, John 3:16–17, Galatians 5:1).

Although there are even more comparisons between Moses and Jesus, there are several key differences between the two. The first obvious difference is that Jesus is the perfect Son of God, the second Person in the Trinity, while Moses was only a man and also a sinner. The second big distinction between the two rests in what each represents in Scripture. Moses represents the *Law* while Jesus represents the *Gospel*. Both the Law and the Gospel are good. Both have legitimate functions. However, the purpose of the Law was to set the stage for the Gospel. The Law sometimes required life, but the Gospel actually gives life. Let's keep reading!

1. READ Galatians 3:23–29

- How does the Law keep one in "custody" (v.23)?
- How can the Law function as a "tutor to lead us to Christ" (v.24)?
- Can a person be a "son of God" by just keeping the Law? How is a person a "son (or daughter) of God" through faith in Christ Jesus (v.26)?
- In what way can a non-Jewish person ("Gentile") become one of "Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise" (v.29)? What exactly is the promise that Paul mentions here in this verse?

2. READ Acts 13:38–39

³⁸ (Paul): Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through (Jesus) forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses."

- From what does Jesus free us?
- Why couldn't the Law of Moses do that?
- In what ways do we deceive ourselves into thinking that we can be freed by following Moses? Why do we sometimes do that?

On Sunday John cited a modern translation of John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* contrasting Moses and Jesus. Moses is pictured as a relentless burden-adder, showing no mercy, and capable of beating one to death. Jesus is revealed as a passionate burden-remover, gladly showing mercy, and capable of offering one life. Even as Christians we can erroneously fall into the trap of living our lives as if we must earn God's favor and forgiveness on our own. Let's not do that. Do you depend on Christ just as much now as when you first depended on Him for salvation? Don't do it on your own. Rather, depend on the Lord in faith.

FAMILY PRAYER: Ask the Lord to help you depend on Him rather than on yourself. Follow Jesus, not Moses.