

Galatians 3:15 – 29

Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

1 ¹⁵ Brothers and sisters, I'm using a human illustration. No
 2 one sets aside or makes additions to a validated human
 3 will. ¹⁶ Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to
 4 his seed. He does not say "and to seeds," as though
 5 referring to many, but referring to one, and to your seed,
 6 who is Christ. ¹⁷ My point is this: The law, which came 430
 7 years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously
 8 established by God and thus cancel the promise. ¹⁸ For if
 9 the inheritance is based on the law, it is no longer based on
 10 the promise; but God has graciously given it to Abraham
 11 through the promise.

12 ¹⁹ Why then was the law given? It was added for the sake
 13 of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise was
 14 made would come. The law was put into effect through
 15 angels by means of a mediator. ²⁰ Now a mediator is not
 16 just for one person alone, but God is one. ²¹ Is the law
 17 therefore contrary to God's promises? Absolutely not! For
 18 if the law had been granted with the ability to give life,
 19 then righteousness would certainly be on the basis of the
 20 law. ²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under
 21 sin's power, so that the promise might be given on the
 22 basis of faith in Jesus Christ to those who believe. ²³ Before
 23 this faith came, we were confined under the law,
 24 imprisoned until the coming faith was revealed. ²⁴ The law,
 25 then, was our guardian until Christ, so that we could be
 26 justified by faith. ²⁵ But since that faith has come, we are
 27 no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for through faith you are all
 28 sons of God in Christ Jesus.

29 ²⁷ For those of you who were baptized into Christ have
 30 been clothed with Christ. ²⁸ There is no Jew or Greek,
 31 slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in
 32 Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are
 33 Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

- Repeated words or ideas?
- Purpose or explanation?
- Other observations?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- What parts seem clear and straightforward?
- What parts seem unclear or confusing?
- What questions come to mind as you read?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- How does the description of an "inheritance" (v. 18) and "heirs" (v. 29) affect your thinking about your relationship with God?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- How might you use this passage to explain the gospel to another person?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- What do you think of Paul's distinction between "seed" and "seeds" in v. 16? What about his use of "seed" in v. 29?
- What does he mean about "angels" and a "mediator" in v. 19?
- How was the law a "guardian" (v. 24-25, CSB,ESV, NIV) or "tutor" (NASB) or "schoolmaster" (KJV)?
- Does v. 25 ("no longer under a guardian") mean we should ignore the Ten Commandments? (See our discussion from October 21, 2018, at <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/calvary-institute-fall-2018-index/>)

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,
but draw everything from them,
and suffer nothing to remain
hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**