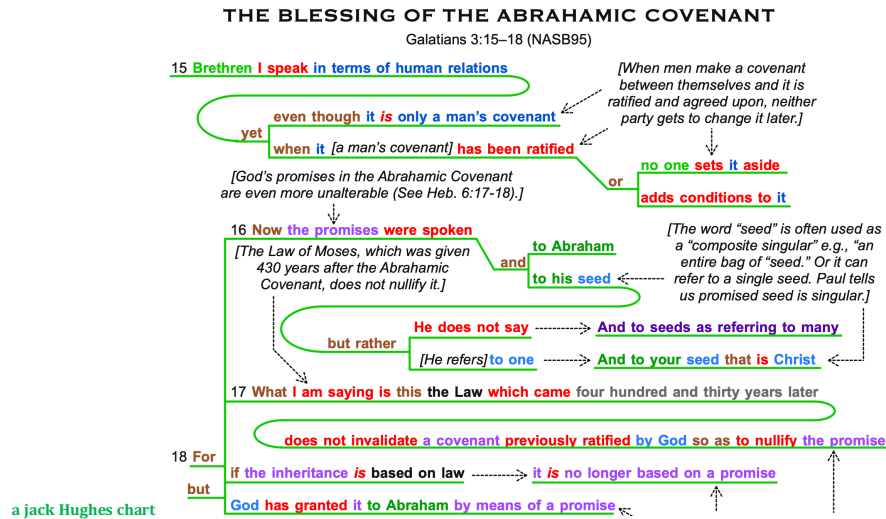


# Your Lord Keeps Every Promise

Galatians 3:15-18 Chris Mueller 12-4-2022

Introduction:

**Galatians 3:15** Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. **16** Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. **17** What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. **18** For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.



**John MacArthur** To Abraham, God said, "I will." Through Moses He said, "Thou shalt." The promise set forth a religion dependent on God. The law set forth a religion dependent on man. The promise centers on God's plan, God's grace, God's initiative, God's sovereignty, God's blessings. The law centers on man's duty, man's work, man's responsibility, man's behavior, man's obedience. The promise, being grounded in grace, requires only sincere faith. The law, being grounded in works, demands perfect obedience.

**#1 If you already trust the promises made with \_\_\_\_\_, 15**

**15** Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.

**Galatians 3:15 ESV** 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. **Galatians 3:15 NIV** Brothers ... let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case.

Genesis 15

**#2 Then trust in God's promises (to Abraham) because of \_\_\_\_\_, 16**

**16** Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel

**John MacArthur** The one and only heir of every promise of God is Christ. Every promise given in the covenant with Abraham was fulfilled in Christ and only in Christ. Therefore, the only way a person can participate in the promised blessings to Abraham is to be a fellow heir with Christ through faith in Him.

### #3 For God does not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ His promises, <sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup> What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.

**John Stott** The promise sets forth a religion of God—God's plan, God's grace, God's initiative. But the law sets forth a religion of man—man's duty, man's works, man's responsibility. The promise (standing for the grace of God) had only to be believed. But the law (standing for the works of men) had to be obeyed.

### #4 And true promises are \_\_\_\_\_, not earned. <sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

**Take Home:**

**A. Stop trying to \_\_\_\_\_ God's favor**

**B. Allow your new status in Christ to break down \_\_\_\_\_**

**Matthew 5:23** "...if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

**C. Start living each day by God's \_\_\_\_\_**

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

<sup>1</sup> **Peter 5:7** casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

**Romans 8:28** we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

**John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

**Philippians 4:19** my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**D. Cry out to Christ to open your \_\_\_\_\_ for salvation**

#### **Questions for Growth in Christ**

1. What was one of the most painful promise-breaking events in your life? (Either someone breaking a promise or you breaking it.)
2. How do people of this world break promises? How do genuine believers break promises?
3. How can you begin to trust God to not break His promises?
4. We typically trust the promises made in legal documents – if we trust that, why is it so difficult to trust God's unbreakable promises?
5. Why are the promises made to Abraham of salvation through faith, not undone by the Law given to Moses?
6. A covenant is a guarantee, and God guarantees His promises, especially as it relates to salvation – why is that so difficult to believe?
7. How does this passage give you more confidence in God's Word, God's salvation and God's promises?
8. What changes do you need to make to live by God's promises every single moment of every single day?
9. What promises do you treasure most? And what promises do you need most in your life right now?



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