

Why Can't I Obey the Rules?

Why Did God Give Us the Law?: Part 1 Galatians 3:19-22 Chris Mueller 12-11-2022

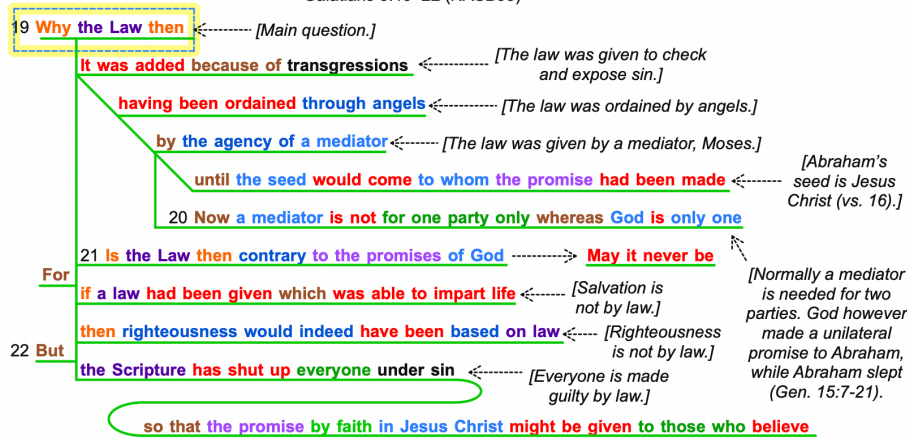
Introduction:

Matthew 5:21ff "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' **22** "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. **27** "You have heard that it was said, 'You SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; **28** but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Galatians 3:19 Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. **20** Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one. **21** Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. **22** But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

Galatians 3:19-22 (NASB95)



A Jack Hughes Chart

#1 The law was given to _____ sin 19a

19 Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions,

RC Sproul Weren't there always transgressions? Of course there were, but the apostle is saying that it is not that the law of Moses replaces the promise to Abraham, but that it quickens the promise to Abraham.

Romans 7:7b ... I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "You shall not covet."

Romans 5:20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

19 having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

#2 The law is _____, but salvation is unconditional 20

20 Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one.

#3 The law is not _____ salvation 21a

21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be!

#4 The law cannot _____ salvation or make anyone righteous 21b+c

21 *Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.*

The Mishnah: "Lots of Torah, lots of life." "If he has gotten teachings of Torah, he has gotten himself life eternal."

Romans 7:9–11 *I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me*

#5 The law _____ the sinfulness of a person **22a**

22 *But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin*

Ecclesiastes 7:20 *there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.* **Romans 3:23** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Martin Luther The Law with its function does contribute to justification—not because it justifies, but because it impels one to the promise of grace and makes it sweet and desirable. Therefore, we do not abolish the Law; but we show its true function and use; namely, that it is a most useful servant impelling us to Christ ...; for its function and use is not only to disclose the sin and wrath of God but also to drive us to Christ.... Therefore, the principal purpose of the Law in theology is to make men not better but worse; that is, it shows them their sin, so that by the recognition of sin they may be humbled, frightened, and worn down, and so may long for grace and for the Blessed Offspring.

John 16:8 *And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;*

#6 The law _____ a sinner to receive salvation by faith **22b**

22 *But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.*

John Stott Not until the law has bruised and smitten us will we admit our need of the gospel to bind up our wounds. Not until the law has arrested and imprisoned us will we pine for Christ to set us free. Not until the law has condemned and killed us will we call upon Christ for justification and life. Not until the law has driven us to despair of ourselves will we ever believe in Jesus. Not until the law has humbled us even to hell will we turn to the gospel to raise us to heaven.

Take Home:

A. Are you one of the _____ saved?

B. Have you embraced both _____ and grace?

Not because we HAVE TO, but because we WANT TO!

Questions for Growth in Christ

1. Why do most people on the planet think they need to keep some sort of law to be saved?
2. Why did the Jewish people struggle with the idea of salvation by grace through faith and kept wanting to rely on the law?
3. How does the law expose sin in our lives? Why is that a good thing, as a non-Christian, and why is it good for the Christian?
4. How do the law and grace work together?
5. Why can't living by the law bring you salvation?
6. What was the promise made to Abraham of salvation by grace through faith? When did it happen? How did it happen?
7. Why doesn't the giving of the law to Moses overrule the promise of salvation given to Abraham?
8. How does the law drive a person to salvation in Christ, and how can we live by that and use that truth in this life?
9. What steps will you take this week in order to live by grace and also honor God's Law?



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