

## Gal. 3:15-18

### The Law was temporary and interim

- I. Just as a human will/covenant is not invalidated by later additions (15)
  - A. I am speaking according to human [standards, customs] (15a)
  - B. Content: Even a human will cannot be invalidated after the fact (15b-d)
    - 1. Even so, when a human will has been validated (15b)
    - 2. Result: No one can change it (15c-d)
      - a No one invalidates it (15c)
      - b Or modifies it [without proper legal recourse] (15d)
- II. God's plan and Promise of Christ, through Abraham, is not set aside by the Law (16-18)
  - A. God made a promise to Abraham, which was really about Christ (16)
    - 1. The promise was said to Abraham and to his descendant (16a)
    - 2. The promise was always about Christ (16b-e)
      - a Neg.: It does not say "to his descendants" as to many (16b-c)
        - 1) It does not say "to his descendants" (16b)
        - 2) As spoken to many (16c)
          - i.e. not to all Jewish physical descendants of Abraham
      - b Pos.: But as spoken to one, it says "to your descendantt" - which is Christ (16d-e)
        - 1) But as spoken to one (16d)
        - 2) It says "to your descendantt" - which is Christ (16e)
          - i.e. to Jesus the true heir of Abraham
          - Jesus is the true seed – the totally faithful One
    - B. The Law does not set aside the Covenant of Promise, which has priority (17-18)
      - 1. I'm stressing that the Law does not take priority over the Promise (17)
        - a I am saying this: (17a)
          - Disclosure formula, often for emphasis
        - b Content: The Law does not take priority over the Promise (17b-c)
          - 1) The Law does not invalidate the covenant (17b)
            - a) The Law came into existence after 430 years
              - Salvation historical argument
              - The Law is not prior in time or priority than the promise to Abraham
              - The Judaizers are tying Abraham's blessing to keeping the Law
              - And Paul is calling them on it
            - b) The covenant was validated by God Himself
              - cf. v. 15 where this kind of covenant cannot be rejected/invalidated
              - how much more when it is ratified by God Himself
          - 2) Result: So that it invalidates the promise (17c)
            - i.e. the promise to Abraham is still in force/powerful, not invalidated by the Law

2. Reason: Promise, not Law is God's manner of salvation (18)
  - a Neg.: Coming through law nullifies promise (18a-b)
    - 1) If: the inheritance comes from Law (18a)
    - 2) Then: it is no longer from promise (18b)

Implied conclusion: it is from promise, so that it cannot be from Law
  - b Pos.: But God granted graciously to Abraham through promise (18c)

“granted graciously is cognate to Greek word for grace

Transition: Paul seems to have just made the Law a non-entity

This raises the question of the purpose of the Law

Paul addresses this question in the very next section