

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

Excursus:
Theology of the Law (pt 6)
(*Galatians 3:15-25*)

Purpose of the Law

1. To typologically define God's people as a holy nation
2. To confine Israel under sin until the coming of Messiah

Purpose of the Law

Galatians 3:15-25

v19: "Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions...until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made..."

v22: But the Scripture has shut up all men under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe...

v24: Therefore the Law has become our supervisor until Christ, that we may be justified by faith."

Purpose of the Law

Preliminary Observation

➤ *Paul is dealing the purpose of the Law in a "salvation-historical" perspective*

- Paul gives the purpose of the Law "until" the coming of Messiah
- Paul is not dealing with an individual's experience in coming to faith in Christ

Purpose of the Law

1. What was the Purpose of the Law?

➤ *"because of transgressions"*

- to produce transgressions – by defining and increasing transgressions
- to confine Israel under the condemnation and guilt of sin until Messiah

Purpose of the Law

1. What was the Purpose of the Law?

➤ *imagery of a "paidagōgos"*

- not a tutor or schoolmaster, but a supervisory guardian
- the Law restrained and directed behavior but it did not give the inheritance
- the Law served this function until "the faith" came

Purpose of the Law

2. Why was this the result?

A. Because of Israel's unbelief

- the majority in Israel did not possess genuine, saving faith in Yahweh
- they did not pursue the Law by faith but by works-righteousness

Purpose of the Law

2. Why was this the result?

B. Because the Law was not accompanied by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

- This is the major contrast between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant
- Ezekiel 36:26-27; Jeremiah 31:31-34

Purpose of the Law

Ezekiel 36:26-27

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Purpose of the Law

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

...I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people...they shall all know Me, from the greatest of them to the least of them..."

Purpose of the Law

3. Why was this God's purpose?

- To show the futility of seeking salvation by law-keeping
- To clearly demonstrate that justification is by faith
- To magnify Jesus Christ as the object of all saving faith

Purpose of the Law

Conclusion

- if you belong to Christ, it is by the sovereign work of God's Spirit to give you a new heart