

Theme: The law is inferior to God's promise and therefore we should look to God in faith, rather than relying on the law.

I. Intro –Backup Singer vs. Solo Artist

- A. The need for backup singers in music
- B. A backup singer can not drown out main singer
- C. If backup singer becomes the focus – problems!
- D. The law is a backup singer – not main focus
- E. The promise is superior to the law!

II. The Law Came After the Promise

- A. A human analogy – v15 – legal agreement
 - 1. The meaning of διαθήκη - will or covenant?
 - 2. No arbitrary change of essence of agreement
 - 3. Faith/promise opposite of works/law – 3:12
- B. The promise was given long before the law (v17)
- C. The law can not change the promise (v17)
- D. The inheritance comes through promise – not law (v18)

III. The Law Was Given Through Intermediaries

- A. The law put into effect through angels (v19)
 - 1. Common teaching in Judaism (Acts 7:53)

- 2. God gave through angels to Moses

B. The law given through a mediator (v19)

- 1. Literally 'by hand of' – used of Moses in OT
- 2. Moses the mediator for law

C. Promise given directly – no mediator

- 1. Mediator for multiple parties, but God is One (v20)
- 2. Promise had no mediator – directly w/ Abram (& Christ)

D. Therefore promise is superior – PP graphic

IV. The Law Only Had Limited Purposes

A. Law was given because of transgressions (v19)

- 1. To reveal sin – Romans 3:20; 7:7
- 2. To provoke/increase sin – Romans 5:20; 7:5
- 3. To cover sin – Romans 3:25; Hebrews 9-10

B. Law was not given to give life/righteousness (v21)

- 1. Not its purpose! – this belongs to faith!
- 2. Key theme in Galatians – 2:21; 3:11

C. Law had a preparatory function - παιδαγωγός

- 1. παιδαγωγός – supervise child – get to teacher

2. Important but limited job

3. Remove curse, receive blessing – by faith!

V. Law Had A Limited Time at Center Stage

- A. It began after the promise (v17)
- B. Supervisory role until coming of Christ (vv23-25)
- C. The time of the law's central place has passed!

VI. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do you see that the law is good?
 - 1. It is not against the promise!
 - 2. It shows us our sin!
 - 3. It leads us to Christ!
 - 4. The law still does these things!
- B. Do you see the inferiority of law?
 - 1. It is inferior in every way to promise!
 - 2. Limited in time, manner of giving, purpose
 - 3. It is a backup singer – not solo artist!
- C. Do you treat law as if it is superior?
 - 1. Are you trying to be justified by law?
 - 2. Are you trying to live by law?

The Superiority of Promise Over Law

Galatians 3:15-25

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?????????

2 Corinthians 13:14

The Meaning of [] [] [] [] [] []

- ✓ Will or testament – general meaning in Greek
 - “Can’t change will after the person dies”
 - “No one else can change the persons will”
- ✓ Covenant – way it was used in Greek OT
 - “Can’t change the essence of a covenant”
 - “One person (or someone else) can’t change the covenant”
- ✓ Key idea – can’t change the essence of a binding legal agreement

20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, **through the law we become conscious of sin.** Romans 3:20

7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! **Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law.** For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." Romans 7:7

20 **The law was added so that the trespass might increase.** But where sin increased, grace increased all the more... Romans 5:20

5 For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, **the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies,** so that we bore fruit for death. Romans 7:5

25 God presented him as a **sacrifice of atonement,** through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had **left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--** Romans 3:25