

"Goodbye to the Nanny" Galatians 3:15-25

We are justified (declared righteous in God's sight) and sanctified (grown in spiritual maturity) by faith alone, not by obedience to the Law. So why did God give us the Law? Is the Law a bad thing? Is the Law worthless? Absolutely not! The Law is a gracious gift from God that played an incredibly significant role in the life of the nation of Israel and in lives of all men and women who don't yet know Jesus. But now that we are united to Jesus by faith, it's time to move beyond the rules and regulations of the Law into the freedom and joy of walking by the Spirit.

Review

- Justification by faith alone
 - *declared righteous in God's sight*
- Sanctification by faith alone
 - *growth in spiritual maturity*

Objection 1 - v15-18

"Sure, faith was enough for Abe, but that's because he lived before the Law was given. We live after the giving of the Law and therefore, unlike Abraham, we must obey it."

Paul's answer:

v15 - compare to human contracts

v17 - later modification violates the nature of a covenant

v18 - also violates logic

v16 - and Gentiles are included, too

Summary:

Abe's experience of justification by faith alone applies to all Jews and Gentiles at all times.

Objection 2 - v19-24

"How can you even listen to a guy who totally dismisses the Law, which God Himself gave us? It's part of the Old Testament and has led our nation for 1500 years!"

Paul's answer:

The Law has shortcomings

- *it was only temporary (v19)*
- *mediators were required (v20)*
- *it could never give life (v21)*

Paul's answer:

But the Law is still good

- *points out sin & consequences (v19)*
- *declares mankind prisoners of sin (v22)*
- *restrained Israel till Christ (v23-24)*

Application – v25

- The nanny's replacement – 5:16
- But we still love our lists:
 - *black & white commands*
 - don't steal, kill, lie, gossip, etc...
 - *grey-area commands*
 - don't drink, smoke, dance, watch R-rated movies, work on Sunday, etc...
- Spiritual Maturity:
 - *Not living under a list*
 - obligation, comparison, pride, despair
 - *But following the Spirit*
 - love, joy, peace