

Purpose of the Law

Galatians 3:19-25



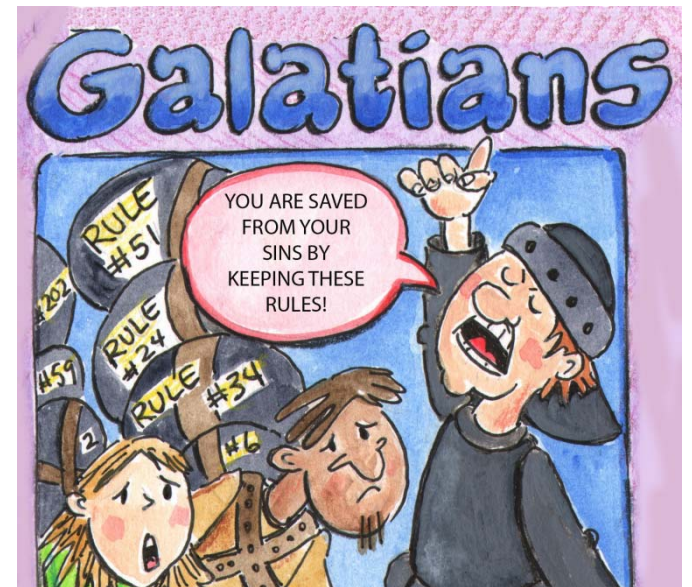


Overview

- Introduction and Context
- Relevance
- Passage
- The law as a physician
- The law as a teacher
- The law as a tutor
- The law as a needle

Overview & Context

- Region in north eastern Asia Minor
- St. Paul visited during his 2nd and 3rd journeys
- After others taught that salvation was through Mosaic Law (Judaizing)
- Paul reiterated correct balance between faith and works



Relevance

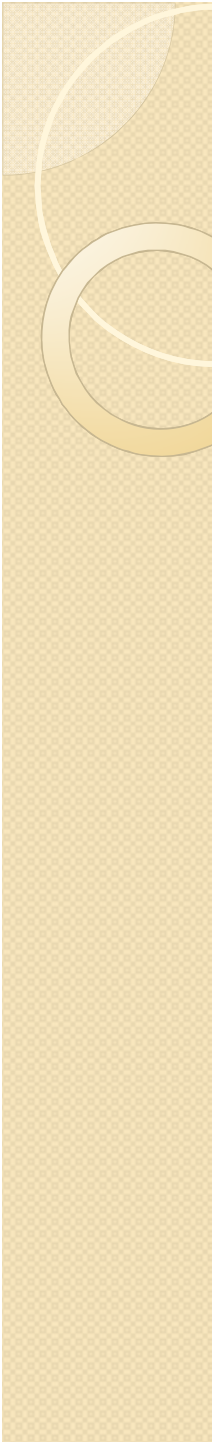
- Many church teachings serve the same purposes as the law
- We often practice these works legalistically assuming this adherence will save us





Galatians 3:19-25

- ¹⁹ What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.
- ²⁰ Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.



Galatians 3:19-25

²¹ Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. ²² But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

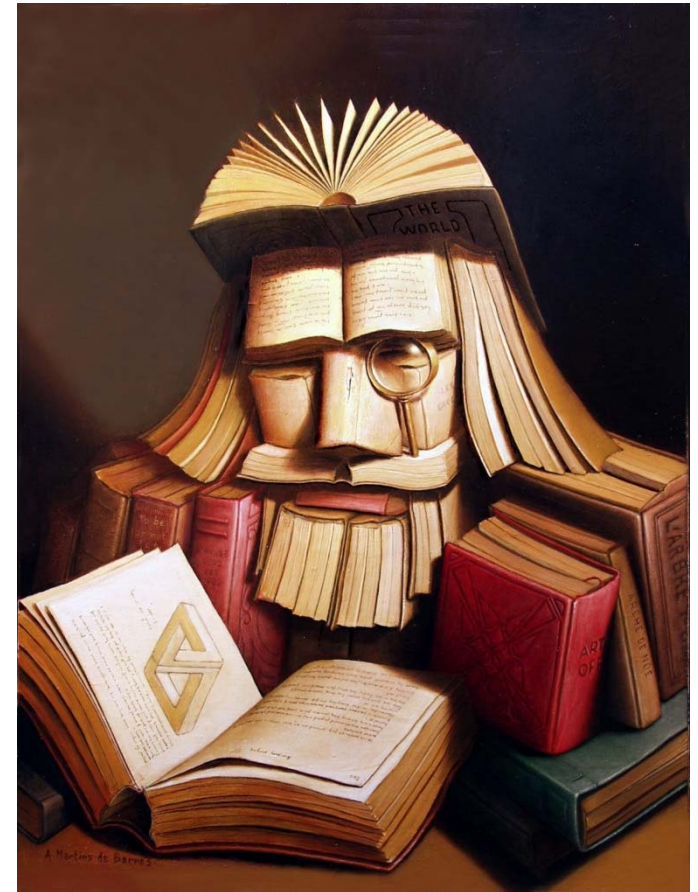
The law as a physician

- Confirms our status as needing a savior
“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)
- Standard against which to measure spiritual health
- Not for remedy, but diagnosis



The law as a teacher

- Spiritual teacher that guides children to spiritual adulthood
- Teaches self-discipline and self-restraint
- “It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come” (Galatians 3:19)
- “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.” (Matthew 5:17)



The law as a tutor

- Prepares us for the examination
- Serves as a helper not an adversary
- After the pupil is well trained, there is no need for the tutor any more.



The law as a needle

- Pierces our stony hearts and pulls the thread of the Gospel through our lives.

1. **Abraham → Moses**

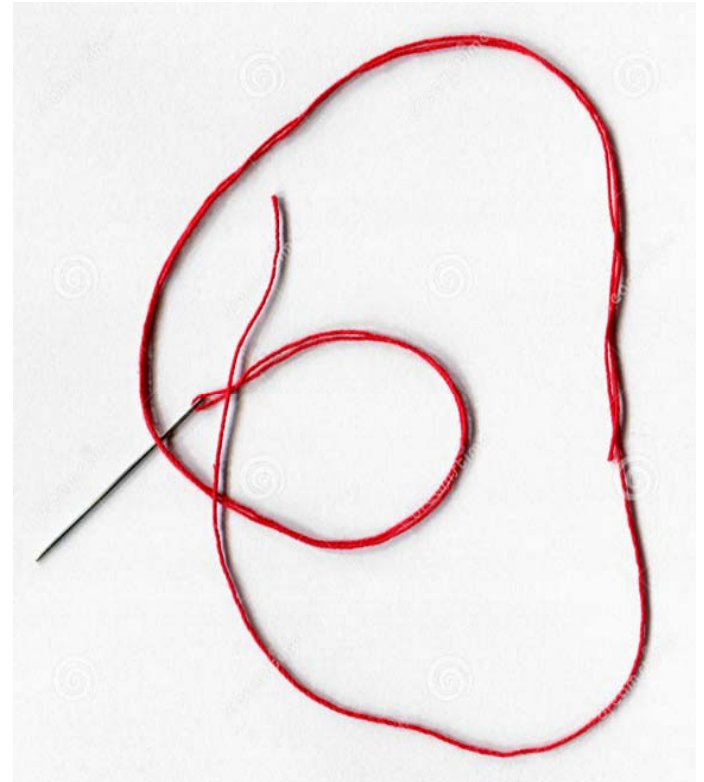
Justification through faith
(no law)

2. **Moses → Christ**

Justification through faith,
obligation to keep the law

3. **Since Christ**

Justification through faith
& observance of Gospel





Summary

- The law as a physician
- The law as a teacher
- The law as a tutor
- The law as a needle
- Church law in the NT serves the purposes to diagnose, instruct, guide, and stitch together
- Christ heals and saves



Glory be to God forever, Amen.