

A Study in Galatians
Galatians 3: 19-29
Why About the Law?

The theme of Galatians is the Law can't _____.

So what good is the Law to the Christian?

Reason 1-Because of _____

A. In the _____ Sense.

B. In the _____ Sense.

Reason 2-The Law works with the _____.

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Message Application:

Putting the cart before the horse is an expression that dates back to the 1500s. It comes from the literal meaning of a horse pulling a cart. The horse always goes in front, and the cart is pulled behind. Imagine if someone put the cart in front of the horse. It would not be very effective. Therefore, this expression emphasizes that something done in the wrong order will not be effective.

This is a saying that is easier to understand than some other expressions. It is definitely one that we all can relate to. Who hasn't in some way put the cart before the horse?

- We have the money spent before it is in the bank.
- We sign an agreement before reading the fine print.
- We purchase the product before reading the reviews.

This is how the legalists in Paul's day were using the Jewish Law. They said, "You must become a Jew before Jesus can save you."

Paul has made it clear that when it comes to having your sins forgiven and becoming a Christ follower it only takes faith not works; not the Law!

As we learned today, this fact about our salvation doesn't mean that the Law is bad or obsolete. The Law still has a role to play in the Christ followers life. As we have seen in how Paul views the Law in other parts of Scripture (see references below).

We will see as we continue studying Galatians that we are free from sin. We have liberty from being a slave to the Law and we are liberated from sin also. As Paul says in Romans 6, *“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?”*

Romans 6: 1-2 NIV.

The Law can still be used by the Holy Spirit to teach us about God's holiness. The Law can reveal sin to us and the Holy Spirit can use it to convict us of sin; but, the Law must be the cart that comes after the horse (Faith). It can't save us. We simply can't be saved by works. However good works will follow those who believe in Christ.

This week let's examine our walk with Jesus.

1. Is our walk of faith reflecting a holy life?
2. Are you living like someone who is dead to sin or do you keep an ungodly friendship with your sinful past?
3. Are you ready to trust in Christ not only to save you, but also to keep you secure in your pursuit of being more like Him.

Prayerfully consider these things this week.

Grace & Peace,

Wm. Lyons

What Paul teaches about the Law in other Scripture:

- The Law is “holy, righteous and good.” (Romans 7:12)
- The Law is “spiritual” (Romans 7:14)
- Sin is defined by breaking the commandments of the Law. (Romans 7:7)
Believers are not to continue sinning (Romans 6:1-2)
- God never intended the Law to bring salvation. (Galatians 2:21; 3:21)
- The Holy Spirit writes the Law on believer's hearts, empowering them to keep it. (Romans 8: 2-4)
- Faith in the Messiah doesn't nullify the Law but establishes it. (Romans 3: 31)
- Paul appeals to the Law to support moral imperatives. (1 Corinthians 9: 8-9)
- Paul rebukes people based on the Law. (1 Corinthians 5)
- Paul agrees with the Messiah that one's observances of the Law must be fueled by love. (Galatians 5:14; Romans 13: 8-10)