Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – July 7, 2019

The Transforming

Power of the Cross

*Galatians: How the Gospel Sets Us Free*

Why Sinai?

Or, “If the Law can’t save anyone, why did God give it?”

Galatians 3:19–4:7

 Paul had preached that it was faith in Christ alone which saves us. But Jewish teachers of the Law of Moses reasoned like this: “God gave the Law to Israel, and it must be obeyed. If it was God’s will then, wasn’t it still? Has God changed His mind? And even if we are justified by faith in Jesus, we still must keep the Law-lifestyle, by keeping kosher, observing feasts, and following the cleanliness laws.”

 Paul responded that the Law itself had put us to death with Jesus, and so the life we live is a life of faith energized by Jesus Himself by His Spirit (Gal. 2:15-21). Law can’t put us right with God (Gal. 3:1-18).

 So the question remains: “Well, Paul, if the Law doesn’t make us right with God, and is no longer in force as a lifestyle, why did God give it?”

 Today’s verses answer that question and give us perspective, not only on how God gave the Law as a temporary provision, but also how believers already are children of God and heirs of Abraham’s promises. (For further help on just how the Law works and why it was given, see Romans 7:7-14; Colossians 2:16, 17; 1 Timothy 1:3-11; Heb. 9:6-10)

*“First, let’s talk about the Law of Moses.”* vv. 19, 20 *It was. . .*

 an addition to the covenant with Abraham, not part of it.

 given to curb and manifest sin, not to make anyone righteous.

 temporary, never meant to be permanent after Jesus had come.

 mediated, not one-on-one communion with God Himself.

*“So then, it complements God’s promises.” vv. 21, 22 The Law. . .*

 was never meant as a means to receive eternal life. On the contrary, it proved that all, both Jew and Gentile, were slaves of sin, pointing them to salvation by faith.

*“And how does the Law complement the promises?” vv. 23-29*

The Law imprisoned sinners in sin because of their guilt, and

 The Law was an *au pair* to point sinners to their need of grace.

 Once salvation by faith was revealed, the *au pair* is not needed.

 Because believers are adult sons of God, not slaves of sin.

Baptism pictures this death to sin and new life in Christ.

 The divide between Jew and Gentile is gone and. . .

 True oneness of all believers is possible and accomplished.

 Therefore: faith alone creates children/heirs of Abraham!

*“So, to summarize. . .”*  vv. 4:1-7

While a child, the future heir has no real authority.

 Just as we once were enslaved by sin and the Law.

 But when the time was right, God sent the Redeemer.

 Jesus became one of us, freed us, & we became God’s children.

 God gave His Spirit precisely because we are His adult children,

 And now our hearts embrace Him intimately (and NOT indirectly and impersonally as under the Law.)

Freedom Principle #6:The Good News of Jesus Christ frees

 us by making us God’s rightful children and heirs.

***Applying the Principle: How does this freedom change us?***

 **The spiritual reality of being God’s adult son or daughter. . .**

 *Means that we no longer have to feel guilty.*

 *Jesus bore our sins, and so God has forgiven them. Colossians 1:13, 14*

 *Means that the Law can neither condemn nor drive us.*

 *We already are where the Law needed to direct us. Colossians 2:8-10*

 *Means that all that we ever could have hoped to earn by works of the Law is already ours, totally free in Christ.*

 *God has adopted us into the promise of Abraham. Romans 4:13-16*

*Means that we can have personal, intimate full assurance of God’s love. Nothing stands between you and God. Eph. 2:13-19*