

# LAW, FAITH & BAPTISM GALATIANS 3:21-28

Law, OT law and really any law → doing good, doing right all becomes confusing for many. Add Baptism to the mix and we have total confusion!

This text addresses these issues plus: **How can an individual get right with God? How is an individual made right with God?**

## I. We are **justified because of Christ alone!**

**Galatians 3:21** Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. **Galatians 3:22** But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

**Galatians 3:23** But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. **Galatians 3:24** Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. **Galatians 3:25** But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. **Galatians 3:26** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Before we get to faith, Christ and Justification Paul must set the record straight concerning (the) law.

### 1. (The) Law does **not** save and could **never** save!

**Galatians 2:21** I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, **then** Christ is dead in vain.

**Galatians 3:21** Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for **if** there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

### 2. (The) Law does serve necessary purposes!

**Romans 3:19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: **that** every mouth may be stopped, **and** all the world may become guilty before God. **Romans 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for** by the law is the knowledge (ἐπίγνωσις) of sin.

**Galatians 3:22** But the scripture hath concluded **all** under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. **Galatians 3:23** But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. **Galatians 3:24** Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster** (παιδαγωγός) to bring us unto **Christ**, that we might be justified by faith.

- Law **eliminates** our excuses
- Law **establishes** our guilt
- Law (fully) **exposes** sinfulness

Galatians adds:

- **All** of us are under sin's domination
- Law constantly reminds us of this
- Law gets us to Christ! (His death, burial, resurrection, shed blood, finished work on Calvary)

**παιδαγωγός**: one who leads & oversees a child – from here to there, to school, and at times in school.

### 3. (The) Law serves a **temporary & terminal** purpose!

**Galatians 3:24** Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster **to** bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. **Galatians 3:25** But **after** that faith is come, we are **no longer** under a schoolmaster.

**Romans 10:4** For Christ is the end (Τέλος) of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

#### **4. (The) Law terminates in and with Christ and in our faith in Christ alone!**

**Galatians 3:24** Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. **Galatians 3:26** For ye are **all** the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

**Acts 13:38** Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, **that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: Acts 13:39** And by him all that believe are justified from all things, **from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.**

**Romans 3:28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith **without** the deeds of the law.

## **II. We are identified with &/ by Christ alone!**

**Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ **have put on Christ.**

In the Scripture several ideas about Baptism are obvious:

- Baptism follow salvation
- Baptism is of believers only
- Baptism is by immersion

Baptism: internal → external

### **1. Baptism symbolizes His death, burial and resurrection and our association with that**

**Romans 6:3** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

**Romans 6:4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

### **2. Baptism is a public profession of faith**

### **3. Baptism publically identifies us with Christ**

**Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

## **III. We are unified in Christ alone!**

**Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all **one** in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 1:5** For your fellowship in the gospel from the **first** day until now;