

Law and Gospel

¹⁵ To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. ¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one,

"And to your offspring," who is Christ. ¹⁷ This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise;

but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. ¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.

²⁰ Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one. ²¹ Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.

²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

What is "the Law"?

It is those Old Testament decrees and commands that show us the holiness of God, reveals what God expects from those who follow Him and confirm that we cannot obey our way to God.

What is the Gospel?

It is that Jesus came to Earth to fulfill the Law entirely and then to choose to suffer the consequences imposed on our sins. In other words, He is our substitute. He was punished so that we will not endure the repercussions of what we've done.

As we repent and trust Him for what He did, we receive the benefits of His sacrifice.

We are not saved by good works but for good works.