

## Galatians 3:15-25 Study

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ GALATIANS 3:15-25

**NOTE:** *In this week's passage, Paul refers to the promise God made to Abraham through a covenant. In the time of the Old Testament covenants were sometimes concluded with a ceremony. Rather than a written agreement, parties would "cut a covenant." The contracting party brought an animal to be sacrificed. The animal would be cut in half and laid on the ground in such a way that there was a path so that both parties would walk between the pieces. It would be helpful to read Genesis 15 to see how God "cut a covenant" with Abraham. What is significant about this event is that after God had Abraham sacrifice the animals and lay them out, God alone passed through the path (represented by the smoking fire pot and flaming torch) to seal this covenant. A promise to Abraham was made that rests upon God alone and is unbreakable. At the time Abraham did not realize that this sacrifice would later be reflected through the Levitical rituals, the tabernacle, the temple and would come to its completion in the sacrifice of Christ.*

1. Look up the definitions for covenant and ratified. What do you learn about a ratified covenant?

2. What point is Paul making from the analogy of a man-made covenant regarding the promise to Abraham and the law?

3. Does God's promise to Abraham include you? Explain your response.

4. What is the crucial principle evident in verse 18 that Paul is making to refute the false teachings given to the Galatians?

5. Paul explained to his audience that Abraham had been given a promise by God and that he could not have followed the law that came 430 years later. Look up the following verses to answer: Why was the law given? How was it a “guardian”? What is the law’s function?

Romans 3:20

Romans 4:15

Romans 5:13

Romans 5:20

Romans 7:13

6. If we are not under the guardianship of the law (vs. 23-26), are we free to live how we please? Why or why not?

7. What is Paul talking about when he says “the coming faith” (v. 23) and “now that faith has come” (v. 25)?

8. What encourages you most about this particular passage?