

## At The Court, The Trial Goes on...The Appeal

(Part 2)

**“Brothers, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no-one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has duly established, so it is in this case. The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The scripture does not say “and to seeds”, meaning many people, but “and to your seed”, meaning one person, who is Christ. What I mean is this: The law introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away the promise. For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in His grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.” Galatians 3:15-18.**

“In the first part of the message we were in the court listening to the Attorney who was presenting the case about the inheritance of the land or eternal life gained by a promise from God and not by law. Many who were in the court were pleased with his presentation and they agreed with his final conclusion that **“the righteous will live by faith.” (Galatians 3:11)**

But still, after he finished his presentation a defiant stood up and opposed him, and few questions were raised up, waxed and waned, defending or weakening the law:

**1) What, then, was the purpose of the law?** All of us we agree about the presence of sin in the world from the creation, from Adam and Eve who disobeyed God, **“For before the law was given sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.” (Romans 5:13)** Suppose we live in the city where no law is regulating the daily aspect of our life, what would be our situation? If there is no law everything could be permissible: adultery, forgery, fraud, gambling, etc. And all sins would become the human daily routine. So the law was added because of transgression. By this, the entire world was put under the supervision of the law until the seed to whom the promise referred had come. By the law as well, man started to recognize what certain act is called as sin. Paul spoke about it in his letter to the Romans when he told them, **“Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, ‘Do not covet.’”**

**2) How the law was put into action?** The law was put into action by a covenant between God and human through mediator. The Ten Commandments were given to the mediator, who was Moses. These commandments should be followed by man. Human’s sinfulness rendered him to be a lawbreaker, and so put him under the power and supervision of the law. Through the law, human became aware of himself being a sinner. And man’s incapacity to fulfil the law put him under the consequences of a lawbreaker as defined in the Bible. **“All who rely on observing the law are under a curse for it is written: cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” (Galatians 3:10)**

**3) Is the law therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not!** We learned that the promise about the coming of the Seed was given first, and then 430 years later the law was given. We had defined the purpose of the law, and when it was given it did not cancel the promise. Why?

The law demanded moral perfection but did not provide the power to achieve it, **“For if a law had been given that could impart life, the righteousness could certainly have come by the law.”** But in contrast to the two parties that we found in the law, the promise was from God, and all the obligations were assumed by God rendering the promise unbreakable. According to the law **“the wages of sin is death.”** So sin became the sting of death, and the law became the power of the sin. Whenever there is law you have to pay for your sin, as it is written, **“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.” (1 Corinthians 15:56)** So, clearly the law could not impart life, and consequently it could not opposed God’s unbreakable promises that yield the life.

To fulfil the Law of Moses or any other law of the same frame, you do rely on a failing human power which yields no glory. You may insist and say I can fulfil all the conditions of the law and I can pay all my sins with righteous acts, and I will live without sin. This attitude is from the reliance of human power and might, and it comes out only from the human pride which is one of the greatest sins.

**So, the final outcome is this:** Through the law, sin enslaved the whole world and death became the utmost human fearful expectations while waiting like a prisoner to be judged.”...**the scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin..., we were held prisoners by the law.”**

**What is the solution?** To tell you the truth, by your human power you cannot free yourself, and you cannot break the chains of your hands and the shackles of your feet. You cannot open your prison doors, you don’t have the key, and you don’t have the power of that! And while you are waiting for your freedom many will come to you assuring that they can release you and discharge if you follow them and follow their laws. But beware, for they will bring you from one prison to another prison. In between you will have little false freedom, but ultimately they will lock you up into a prison cell.

So once again what is the solution? Paul said, **“the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ Jesus.”** He is God’s promise and represents God’s obligation to save the whole world. He is the only one who can cleanse you from your sins and who can save you from death. He is the only one who can take you out of your prison and can bring you out from the grave.

My dearest friend, if still you want a law because you want to do your part, I will pass to you this law: To believe and to have faith in Christ Jesus, **“So that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.”**

**My Dear and Beloved:** **“Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.”** We now have hope to be released from the prison and to be free, because we can be justified by faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. If this is so, then sing with us joyfully and victoriously this song, **“Where, O death, is your victory, Where, O death, is your sting.”** As you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I fully accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord over my life; and His work on the cross is the only way for me to be saved. Uphold me with your grace and leads me to eternity. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*