

The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians

The Permanence of the Promise

Galatians 3:15-18

1. **An Apostolic Analogy** (v.15)

Having provided a historical, biblical (Gal. 3:6-14), and experiential (Gal. 3:1-5) case for the truthfulness of justification by faith and not by keeping the Law, Paul compares God's promise of blessing made to Abraham with covenants into which men regularly enter into. A covenant is an agreement between at least two parties that has consequences if one of the parties violates that agreement.

2. **In Anticipation of a Savior** (v.16)

The Lord always intended to bless the entire world through one who would come from Eve (cf. Gen. 3:15). God later specified that this promised blessing for all people would come through Abraham (Gen. 12:3). Paul refers to a restatement of this blessing (Gen. 22:18) in order to emphasize that this promise was to be fulfilled in one specific descendant of Abraham, and that person is Jesus Christ.

3. **The Preeminence of the Promise** (vs.17-18)

The Galatian Christians had received the Holy Spirit, who is the promise of the full inheritance which believers will eventually receive (Eph. 1:14) from the Lord, by faith and not by works of the Law (cf. Gal. 3:2). Abraham was justified by faith and then he entered into the fullness of his inheritance before the Law was given (cf. Heb. 11:13-16). Whatever the Law is supposed to do (Gal. 3:19ff), it was not to add an addendum to a covenant that God had ratified hundreds of years before He gave it to Moses.