

8 Sept 2024 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group
“God’s Promise to Abraham Was Never Canceled” -- Galatians 3:15-29

Questions to Answer from the Text:

1. What is the critically central point Paul makes that proves God has not changed the basis for receiving His blessing from that of faith to works of the Law (v. 15)?
2. What example does Paul employ to prove his point that God’s promise to Abraham will not be changed (v. 15)?
3. To whom did God give His promise of blessing (v. 16a)?
4. Who does Paul identify as Abraham’s offspring (v. 16c)?
5. What is Paul’s basis for making this statement (v. 16b)?
6. What provision came some time after the promise (v. 17a)?
7. How much later did this provision come (v. 17b)?
8. What was this later provision unable to do (v. 17c)?
9. If God’s inheritance is obtained by the Law, what does this imply about the promise made to Abraham (v. 18a)?
10. How did God originally convey His inheritance to Abraham (v. 18b)?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

11. What does Paul’s argument, based as it is upon the grammatically singular number of the word “offspring” in the original text, entail regarding the scope of the inspiration of Scripture?
12. What does Paul’s argument about the Abrahamic Covenant presuppose about the relationship of the New Covenant to this covenant? Would Paul’s argument in 3:15-29 make any sense if the New Covenant were not related to the Abrahamic? Why or why not?
13. The rival teachers in Galatia failed to understand the purpose of the Law, and so they misunderstood the Gospel. How do people today misunderstand the purpose of the Law? Does this jeopardize their understanding of the Gospel? If so, how?
14. Did the covenant with Abraham that promised life include Abraham’s children? Does the covenant that promises life in the New Covenant in Christ include the children of believers? Why or why not?
15. Since the New Covenant is related to the Abrahamic Covenant (which Paul’s argument assumes), would children of believers today be excluded from the New Covenant? Why or why not?
16. How does Paul’s argument about the promise point to the exclusivity of Christ as the only way to life and blessing?
17. How would you respond to the accusation that Christianity excludes people from its ranks and is therefore bigoted and discriminatory?
18. Why does it seem that many (if not, most) higher education institutions convince a good number of Christians who attend them that orthodox belief and devotion to Christ is unintellectual, simplistic, and therefore unworthy of serious acceptance?

19. Why do you suppose that many professing Christians claim that non-Christian religions and belief systems lead to God and everlasting life?

20. Rules and terms change all the time in our experience. One could even argue that God changed the rules such as requiring washing after touching something unclean, building a fence around one's roof, or sacrificing an animal – provisions that are now no longer operative. How do you know He will not change the rules again and modify the way He will save and bless you?