



The Road to Faith

Memory Text: *“Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”* ([Galatians 3:21-22 KJV](#)).

Read and Meditate for This Week’s Study:

Galatians 3:21-25; Leviticus 18:5; Romans 3:9-20; 1 Corinthians 9:20; Romans 3:1-2; Romans 8:1-4; Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 15:1-16; Romans 6:12-16; Galatians 4:4-7; Hebrews 10:1-12

Main Thought for the Week: The focus of Galatians - which is easily and often overlooked - is that Jesus Christ is central to our salvation. Having separated ourselves from God by our sins ([Isaiah 59:2](#)) we are worthy only of death, and would have no hope of salvation but for the grace of God. By faith in Jesus Christ - in His life, His death, His resurrection and His ongoing Ministry - we have the assurance of eternal life and reconciliation with God. We have the assurance of walking as He walked. We have the promise of being co-heirs with Christ, the seed of the woman ([Genesis 3:15](#)) and the seed of Abraham ([Genesis 22:18](#)). The law is not against the promises, for the promises and the law are very much interconnected in the great Plan of Salvation.



The Law and the Promise

Sunday's Summary – August 6:

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: We need to bear in mind that when Paul uses the term “the law” in the book of Galatians, he is almost exclusively referencing the ceremonial law. This is the primary context of his dispute with the Galatians. This is not true of his other discourses, such as with the Romans (see: Romans 7 and Romans 8:7), where the Apostle Paul discusses both the moral law and the ceremonial law in a broader sense than he did with the Galatians. It is important to recognize this difference, as we discussed earlier in the quarter, so that we do not interpret the Bible to say something that God is not trying to teach us. That said, Paul is emphasizing that *any* system of religion that relies on *anything* except the merits of Jesus’ life, death, resurrection and ministry, is utterly incapable of providing us with righteousness or salvation.

1. What is the relationship between God’s law and God’s promise?

Galatians 3:15-18 _____

Genesis 17:1-3 _____

Genesis 18:17-19 _____

Discuss/Consider: Our obedience to God does not generate any merit for our salvation. Instead, our obedience to God is the mechanism by which God blesses us. What is the difference between these two statements? _____

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



“Kept Under Law”

Monday’s Summary – August 7:

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: One definition of “under the law” or “under law” is to be under the penalty and jurisdiction of the law. When one has committed a crime, one comes under the penalty of the law, and is typically remanded to the custody of the police until such time as they can obtain legal counsel or freedom. This does not mean that only criminals are **subject to law**. Rather, all persons are subject to law, but only criminals are subject to the law’s penalty.

1. What does the Paul mean by the phrase to be “**KEPT** Under Law”?

Galatians 3:23-24 _____

Philippians 4:6-7 _____

1 Peter 1:5 _____

ILLUMINATION: Paul had ever exalted the divine law. He had shown that in the law there is no power to save men from the penalty of disobedience. Wrongdoers must repent of their sins and humble themselves before God, whose just wrath they have incurred by breaking His law, and they must also exercise faith in the blood of Christ as their only means of pardon. The Son of God had died as their sacrifice and had ascended to heaven to stand before the Father as their advocate. By repentance and faith they might be freed from the condemnation of sin and through the grace of Christ be enabled henceforth to render obedience to the law of God.

– Ellen G. White, **Acts of the Apostles**, pg 393

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



The Law as Our “Guard”

Tuesday’s Summary – August 8:

1. In what way does the law of God operate as a “guard”?

Galatians 3:23-24 _____

Psalms 37:30-31 _____

Proverbs 6:23 _____

Psalms 1:1-2 _____

Discuss/Consider: Did the ceremonial law operate as a **guard** in the same way that the moral law - the Ten Commandments does? _____

ILLUMINATION: The law of ten commandments is not to be looked upon as much from the prohibitory side, as from the mercy side. Its prohibitions are the sure guarantee of happiness in obedience. As received in Christ, it works in us the purity of character that will bring joy to us through eternal ages. To the obedient it is a wall of protection.
– Ellen G. White, **Selected Messages, Book 1**, p. 235

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



The Law as Our Schoolmaster

Wednesday’s Summary – August 9:

1. In what way did the ceremonial law act as a “schoolmaster”?

Hebrews 9:11-14 _____

Genesis 22:7-8 _____

John 1:29-30 _____

Discuss/Consider: Are there any ways in which the moral law can also be considered as a schoolmaster? _____

ILLUMINATION: There is no safety nor repose nor justification in transgression of the law. Man cannot hope to stand innocent before God, and at peace with Him through the merits of Christ, while he continues in sin. He must cease to transgress, and become loyal and true. As the sinner looks into the great moral looking-glass, he sees his defects of character. He sees himself just as he is, spotted, defiled, and condemned. But he knows that the law cannot in any way remove the guilt or pardon the transgressor. He must go farther than this. The law is but the schoolmaster to bring him to Christ. He must look to his sin-bearing Saviour. And as Christ is revealed to him upon the cross of Calvary, dying beneath the weight of the sins of the whole world, the Holy Spirit shows him the attitude of God to all who repent of their transgressions. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” – Ellen G. White, **Review and Herald**, April 5, 1898, paragraph 6

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



The Law and the Believer

Thursday's Summary – August 10:

1. When we accept Jesus, what is our relationship to His law?

Romans 8:1-4 _____

Galatians 5:24-25 _____

1 John 2:3-6 _____

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: The keeping of the law of God is something that man is totally unable to do in his own strength. It is God who does this work in us through the agency of the Holy Spirit when we submit to His will instead of ours. It is true that Adam could have kept the law in Eden and remained in harmony with God's will, but even Adam could not have made himself righteous - God made him righteous from the beginning. All Adam could do was trust God and obey him by faith. When Adam lost faith in God, he fell. And once he fell, he had no means to get back up on his own. Our life, our repentance, our justification, our sanctification and our glorification - all of it we owe to God. When we allow God to reign supreme, we can't help but walk as Christ walked.

Discuss/Consider: Is it just as possible to focus on the law to the exclusion of Christ as it is to focus on Christ to the exclusion of the law? _____

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Wrapping It All Up...

Friday's Summary – August 11:

ILLUMINATION: All who did service in connection with the sanctuary were being educated constantly in regard to the intervention of Christ in behalf of the human race. This service was designed to create in every heart a love for the law of God, which is the law of His kingdom." – Ellen G. White, **Selected Messages, Book 1**, p. 233

Appeal: Christ promised that if He was lifted up, He would draw all men unto Himself. Why not take some time today to review the closing scenes of the life of Christ, and contemplate all that He is to your salvation, personally. _____

Final Thoughts: At Metro New York World Ministry, we are committed to emphasizing the richness and completeness of the plan of salvation, which centers in the life, death, resurrection and priestly ministry of Jesus Christ. Our only hope is to look at the Lamb of God, and claim His forgiveness and righteousness as our own by faith. Nothing we say, do or believe will save us, if we are not accepting His salvation by faith, and allowing Him to live in us through the agency of the Holy Spirit. We are not saved because of who we are, where we are, what we have, what we know, or even who we know. We are saved because we accept God's promise of redemption, through His Son Jesus, by faith. We love Him because He first loved us. We obey Him because He empowers us to obey Him. We live righteously because He is living and dwelling in us. All of it by faith in Him who died for us, that we might live eternally.

PERSONAL NOTES: _____

