

GOD'S PLAN IN THREE PARTS

(The Promise, the Law, and the Gospel)

Introduction

- 1) God's great and grand plan to save mankind from the curse of sin is revealed in the Bible
- 2) This plan encompasses human history and has been in place *since* the world began (Rom. 16:25)
 - a) This wisdom was hidden in the mind of God *before* world began (1 Cor. 2:7; 1 Pet. 1:20)
- 3) In **Galatians 3:15-29**, Paul sums up the revealed mystery of God's plan when he speaks of the three great parts of God's unfolding plan: **Promise – Law – Gospel**
 - a) Each element had its unique role as the scheme redemption unfolded throughout time

I) **The PROMISE**

A) **Galatians 3:15-18**

- 1) The Promise to Abraham (Gal. 3:8; Gen. 12:3; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14)
 - a) "Bless all nations" = "justify the nations by faith" (Gal. 3:8)
 - b) Why does man need blessed/justified? *Sin* (Rom. 3:9-18, 23)
 - c) Abraham's *Seed*, to whom the promises were made, is Christ
 - d) God's promise was to justify all men by faith in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:8, 14)
 - e) No one could add to or annul this divine covenant/promise
- 2) This promise was a covenant [agreement] that could not be changed, not even by the addition of *the Law* 430 years after the promise was given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
 - a) The eternal *inheritance* was given to Abraham by promise (unconditional), not by the law (conditional)

II) **The LAW**

A) **Galatians 3:19-25**

- 1) Purpose of the Law [of Moses]? "Added" because of *sin* (did not annul the promise)
 - a) Confined all men under sin; kept under guard by the law (cf. Rom. 3:19-20; Gal. 3:10)
- 2) Was the Law against the Promise? No, the Law, which demanded perfect law-keeping, could not give life due to the curse of sin
 - a) The Promise was the only hope for sinners who would turn to God in faith
- 3) How long was the Law added? Till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made (Christ – v. 16)
 - a) Men kept under guard by the Law for the faith that would be revealed in the future
 - b) Law was a "schoolmaster" (attendant, escort) to bring men confined under the Law to Christ (the Seed that would fulfill the promise)
 - c) *No longer under* the attendant (Law of Moses) after faith has come in Christ

III) **The GOSPEL**

A) **Galatians 3:26-29**

- 1) Justification of sinners by faith is the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:16; 3:23-24)
- 2) This justification/salvation is obtained when one has put on Christ by being baptized into Christ (baptism is part of salvation by obedient faith, just like repentance)
- 3) All who are saved are one in Christ without ethnic, social, or gender distinctions – "all nations shall be blessed"
- 4) We are Abraham's seed if we are in Christ (the Seed), and heirs according to the promise (the inheritance – Gal. 3:14, 18; 1 Pet. 1:4)

Conclusion

We are blessed to be redeemed from sin in Christ, and heirs of a spiritual and heavenly inheritance that awaits us (1 Pet. 1:3-5). Be rich in faith and an heir of the eternal kingdom which God promised to those who love Him (Jas. 2:5)! Have you put on Christ in baptism?