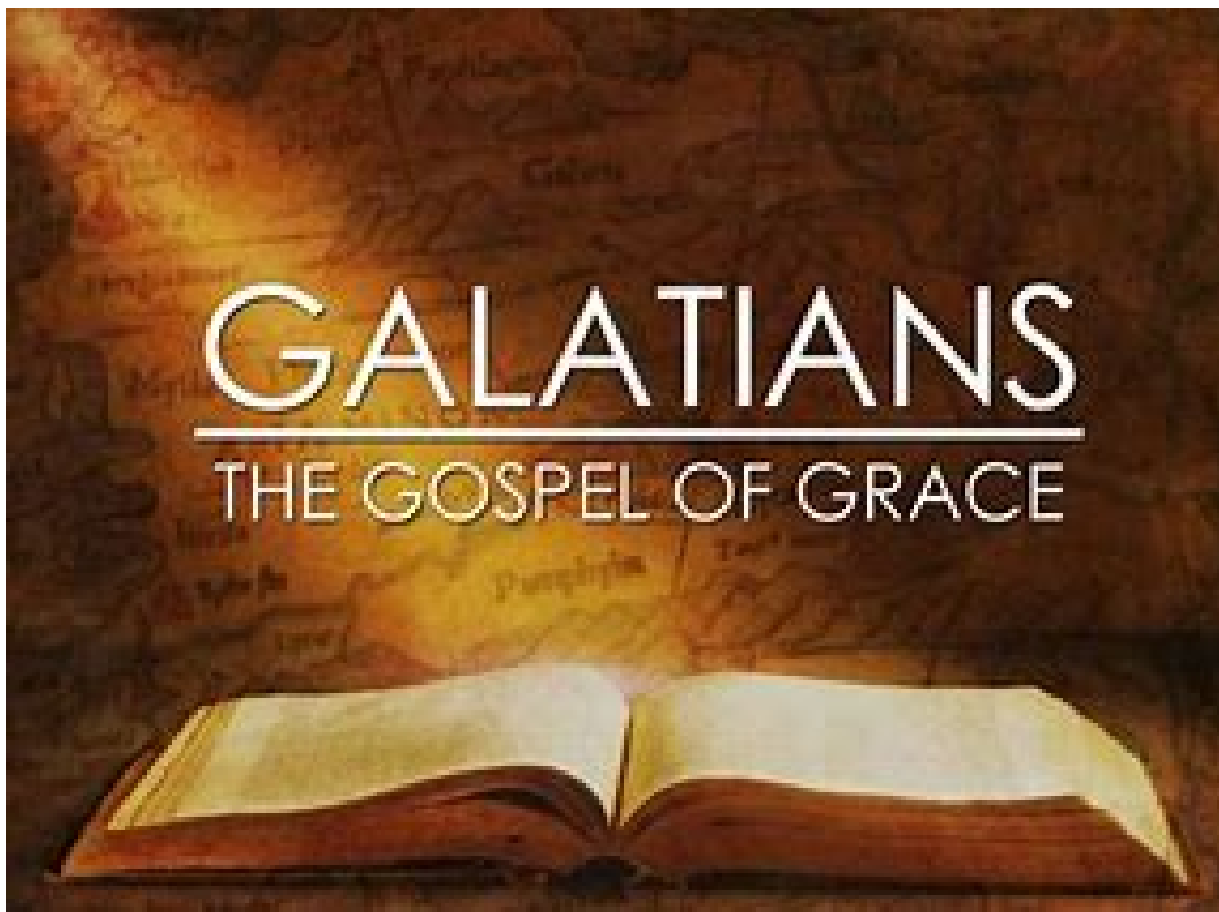




Gal 3:22-24 The Law as a Jailer & Guardian



Outline*



The Law Had Definite Purpose 3:19-24

- a. The Anticipated Question - Why the Law? v19a
- b. Paul's Answer- Added To Show the Sin Nature v19a
- c. The Law's Character v19b-20
- d. Incorrect Conclusion - A Law That Imparts Life v21
- e. The Scripture Has Shut Up Mankind v22
- f. The Law as a Jailer v23
- g. The Law as a Guardian v24

* adapted from McCalley

21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law



22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.

24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.



But - *alla* – a contrasting conjunction (strong)

from the context of the previous verse Paul implies that men want a law that will give them life

the strong contrast is now given v:22a!

the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin

the Scripture – God's word has performed the action

22 B
so
g

The Scripture reveals the mind of God,
the will of God, plan of God and
the judgment of God*

Psalm 14:1a The fool has said in his heart,
"There is no God." --- 3 They have all turned aside,
together they have become corrupt; There is no
one who does good, not even one.

* adapted from Molloy

Isaiah 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way; but the
LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

Rom 3:10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE
RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;
¹¹ THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,
THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;
¹² ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE,
TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;
THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,
THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

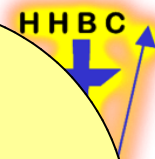
²² But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.



has shut up - *synkleiō* - to shut together, shut in on all sides (the idea is no escape)
- past point fact, active voice

lit: shut up = to imprison with no escape

see Luke 5:6 and Rom 11:32 for how this word is used



Luke 5:6 When they had done this,
they enclosed a great quantity of fish,
and their nets *began* to break;

Romans 11:32 For God has shut up all
in disobedience
so that He may show mercy to all.

²² But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.



has shut up everyone under sin

everyone - *pas* – all things none excluded

so that God's word produces the action of "shut up" or
to imprison all mankind

under sin – a prepositional phrase which tells us
where man is shut up (or imprisoned)

lit: under the dominion of sin



How does God's word describe this
dominion of sin?

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God,

Rom 3:9b for we have already charged that
both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

So what is the way out of this imprisonment !!!

²² But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.



so that – with a purpose that (God's purpose!)

subject: the promise – from Gal 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. --- "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

verb: might be given – to bestow, make a gift

It is the free giving of righteousness and life, not because mankind deserves it, but because God in His grace makes it available to all mankind.

Molloy

²² But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.



by faith in Jesus Christ – every gift must be received-
it is received by faith and
not doing good works

faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ

to those who believe – this gift is only given to those
who believe

those believing have exercised faith in Jesus Christ

23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under *the law*, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.



But before (the) faith came

The first part of the verse tells us about timing of “this custody” under law (as a principle).

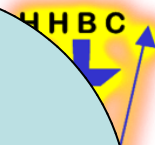
What is “the faith” in this context?

The article here identifies the faith mentioned in this verse with the faith spoken of in verse 22, personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, exercised in this Age of Grace.

Wuest

Paul pictured Israel before the advent of Christ as a child. The coming of faith (v. 23) is synonymous with the coming of Christ in Paul's view of salvation history.

Constable



the Law vs. law

the Law = with the definite article* is
the Mosaic Law - Gal 3:17,19,21a & 24

law - no definite article* and usually lower case l
in the Bible text is law as a principle of life
(any man-made rules that are believed to
obtain righteousness and eternal life)
- Gal 3:21b,23

* in the Greek text

²³ But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.



we were kept in custody - *phroureō* - a military term,
"to keep by guarding,
to keep under guard,"
as with a garrison
continuous action in past time

2 Cor 11:32 In Damascus --- the king was guarding
the city ---

under law we were constantly being guarded

Wuest

23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody

un
la



How does a law system keep us in jail?*

- a law system guards us so that one cannot get out of prison and bondage (we must keep performing – obeying self-made rules for righteousness)
- a law system can never deliver a person out of bondage

* adapted from Molloy

²³ But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.



being shut up - *synkleiō* - to shut together, shut in on all sides (the idea is no escape)
same verse 22

If you operate under a law system you shut up (or out) operating by faith.

to the faith which was later to be revealed

“the faith” in this context is personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, exercised in this Age of Grace (same as in 23a)

24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.



So that the Law has been our guardian to* Christ

Interlinear

so that - therefore - based on the previous verses

subject: the Law - with the definite article is the
Mosaic Law

verb: has become – *ginomai* – coming into a new
state of being, a state that
previously did not exist before
(in the perfect tense)

* “to lead us” was added

²⁴ Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.



So that the Law has been our guardian to Christ

Interlinear

guardian* - *paidagōgos* - lit., "a child-leader"
(pais, "a boy, or child," agō, "to lead"); also
a guide or guardian to keep a child in line

In the context the idea is that the Law is a guardian
(keeping one in line) and not that of a tutor or
instructor imparting knowledge.

Molloy

In Paul's day, usually a slave assigned to monitor and
guard the behavior of a child.

Merryman

*a noun which identifies subject

²⁴ Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.



So that the Law has been our guardian to Christ

Interlinear

our guardian until Christ

Wuest

until Christ – shows that the Law will have a termination point

this is consistent with Gal 3:19 (see below)

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, ---, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.



So why have this guardian (guard/policeman)

- This was necessary so that man should know and feel the constraints of the taskmaster in order to welcome the deliverer when He came.
- The Law virtually kept mankind in the position of slaves.

²⁴ Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.*



But now God's purpose in having a guardian!

so that – with a purpose that

we may be justified - *dikaioō* - to show to be right or righteous; in the passive voice, to be justified – Gal 2:16

by faith – the only way to receive God's blessing in Christ