

Truth For The World

Newsletter

FOURTH QUARTER 2015

The Law Was Our Schoolmaster (Galatians 3:24)

The Law of Christ is a subject that has been greatly neglected by many who profess to follow the Lord. The general tenor of the religious world is closely aligned with the rest of the unbelieving world, in that they both reject the idea of one having to follow law—any law—in order to be pleasing in the sight of God. The buzzword for many is “liberty.” The people who use this term in this context have the idea of “license,” not “liberty.” They want to operate under the authority of their own ideas and inclinations (Judges 17:6).

Some would have us believe that the world is under the Law of Moses today, or at least a part of it (the Ten Commandments). The Apostle Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, demonstrates that the Law of Moses was designed to direct a person to Christ and His Law (Gal. 3:24). This passage in the book of Galatians, along with various other texts in the New Testament, clearly teach that the Law of Moses exists for our learning today, and not for our law (Rom. 7:1-7; 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11; 2 Cor. 3; Heb. 7:6-7; 8:8-13).

AN EXEGESIS OF GALATIANS 3:24

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

What is the context of Galatians 3:24? How does this verse connect with the rest of the book of Galatians and with the rest of the Bible? Brother J. Noel Meredith makes this observation of the context:

Paul has shown that the covenant which God made with Abraham was no part of the Law, existed before the law, and was not annulled when the law was given. Since this is so and since the law could not justify, why was the law given? Paul sets forth two basic reasons why the law was given: (1) It was added because of transgressions, and (2) the law was a tutor or custodian to bring the people to Christ. (Gal.3:19, 24).

It is interesting to note that most commentators, along with brother Meredith, point out that the “Schoolmaster” is the Law of Moses and not Christ or Christianity.

Mr. A.T. Robertson, a man known for his scholarship in the Greek New Testament, makes this very interesting statement:

The paedagogue watched his (Roman boy from 6 to 16) behavior at home and attended him when he went away from home as to school. **Christ is our Schoolmaster** and the law as paedagogue kept watch over us till we came to Christ. That we might be justified by faith... This is the ultimate purpose of the law as paedagogue. Now that faith is come... Genitive absolute, ‘the faith (the time of the faith spoken of in verse 23) having come.’ Under a tutor... The paedagogue [sic] is dismissed. We are in the school of the Master. (emp. added)

Robertson states that Christ is our Schoolmaster! This is not what the text states. The Law (law of Moses) is our schoolmaster. If this is not the case and Christ is our schoolmaster, then verse 25 affirms that we are not under the schoolmaster. That is, we are not under Christ! Could it be that Robertson mixed his metaphors? Or maybe he was saying that a person’s guidance is handled by Christ in the New Testament age? Whatever the case, the wording in this paragraph is most unfortunate at best and blatantly filled with error at worst. The actual text is far clearer than Robertson’s statement. The design of the Law was to lead Israel to Christ, while at the same time keeping the nation pure and helping them to realize that the Promise of Abraham could not be realized through the Law of Moses.

Lee Davis

Highlights of 2015

As this year quickly comes to a close, now is a good time to reflect on what was accomplished in the past year. The year 2015 had its ups and downs. We said goodbye to Kendal and Jennifer Rasnake, but at the same time welcomed brother Lee Davis as our new director. Our staff went on multiple foreign mission trips, and saw the results of our efforts as people across the world turned to the Lord and obeyed the gospel.

We are especially thankful to you. Without your help, we would not be able to utilize modern technology to teach the gospel worldwide. We would not be able to develop new materials, and we would not be able to expand our reach to include more potential learners. In 2016, we are counting on your continued help as we teach all nations. Please consider increasing your contributions to Truth For The World, in confidence that every penny will go towards teaching sound doctrine from the Bible and reaching people with the saving message of Christ.

To give you an idea of the impact Truth For The World made in 2015 with your help, consider these numbers: Our four main websites brought in 244,000 visitors, 65,000 more than last year. On YouTube, viewers watched the equivalent of 65 and a half days of our TV programs. And over 3,000 new students enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Courses. We are reaching the whole world, and we look forward to another profitable year in 2016! Thank you so much for being a part of our work for the Lord.

Memorials/Honors

In Memory of Freda Gray

Given by: Bremen Church of Christ

In Memory of Freda Gray, a true friend

Given by: The Edward Bonner Family

In Memory of Freda Gray

Given by: Mike & Tracie Lanier

In Memory of Freda Gray

Given by: West Georgia Church of Christ

In Memory of Christine Veal

Given by: Darlene Edwards & Lorene Lanham

In Memory of Lorene Lanham

Given by: Karen Clark

In Memory of Canon Callender

Given by: Judith Olson-Corn

In Memory of Lorene Lanham

Given by: Mike & Tracie Lanier

In Memory of Freda Gray

Given by: Winder Church of Christ

Want to know more about how we put our financial resources to use?
Take a look at the *global* evangelism of Truth For The World.

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- Online radio stations on SHOUTcast and Live365, via Roku®, Android™ and iOS

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