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The Tutor

When it comes to Galatians, many refer to the "tutor" found in chapter 3.

We must remember that the context of Galatians is that they were trying to be saved BY the law.

Galatians 5:4 You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

The law was never designed to save anyone. Never. It was designed for instruction, not salvation. In fact, Torah (the law) actually means instructions. They came after the Passover lamb was slain. So first came salvation, then instruction.

The context in Galatians 3 is all about the curse of the law being done away with as mentioned in verse 13. ...

Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

When Paul stated here "the curse of the law", he is actually referencing the law of sin and death as he mentioned in Romans 8.

Romans 8:2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

And this is the law he is referencing in Galatians 3:19.

Galatians 3:19

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made.

A tutor teaches something right? When you are done with the tutor, do you throw the school books out too? The tutor was the curse of the law. The law of sin and death. It pointed to our need for

Christ. Let's look at verse 19 again ...

Galatians 3:19

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made.

He says ... "Why the law then?" What law is he talking about? Many assume he is referring to the law of Moses here. But as you will see, he is talking about the curse of the law which, again, is the topic as mentioned in verse 13. Paul also refers to the curse of the law as a law in Romans 7.

Romans 7:22-23

For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

It is this law that he calls the curse when he says "It was added because of transgressions..." in verse 19. The Greek word for transgression is "parabaseon". It simply means "disobedience". So this law was added because of disobedience. Disobedience to what? ... the law (of Moses) . You can't have disobedience if you have no law. Thus the curse of the law (the tutor) came because of disobedience to the law (of Moses). So it is the curse of the law, as mentioned in verse 13, that we are no longer under as mentioned in verse 25.

Galatians 3:25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

The tutor came after the law as a result of our disobedience to the law. The focus of tutor was to point us to Christ who would deliver us from it.

Remember, Christ IS the Word. The law, Torah, is a part of the Word. He didn't come to do away with part of Himself. He came to do away with our disobedience.

Compare the following verse. Then look at the same verse with the biblical definitions applied. ...

Romans 6:14-15

For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

Romans 6:14-15

For sin (breaking the law - 1 john 3:4) shall not be your master , because you are not under law (the curse), but under grace. What then? Shall we sin (break the law) because we are not under law (the curse) but under grace? By no means!

He's saying "just because you are not under the penalty breaking the law, should you abuse the gift of grace and break the law anyway? By no means!

Paul uses the word "law" for more than just the law of Moses. He uses it also in referencing the law of sin and death and even that which later became known as the Talmud. It definitely makes it difficult when looking at his writings from a Greek perspective. But allow me to remind us of the warning Peter

gave concerning Paul's writings ...

2 Peter 3:15-17

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.

For gaining a better understanding on Paul's writings please consider watching our series called "The Pauline Paradox."

We hope you have enjoyed this study. Remember to continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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