

Galatians 3:19-22

19-20. "What PURPOSE then does the LAW serve? It was added because of transgressions, **TILL the SEED should COME** to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. **Now a MEDIATOR does not mediate for one only**, but God is one.

- **I Timothy 2:5** "For there is one God, and one _____ between God and men, the Man _____."
- **Romans 7:7-8** "What shall we say then? Is the _____ sin? Certainly _____! On the contrary, I would not have _____ sin except through the _____. For I would not have _____ [about] covetousness unless the _____ had said, 'You shall not covet.'"
- **I Timothy 1:8-10** "But we know that the _____ is _____, if one uses it lawfully; knowing this, that the _____ is _____ made for a _____ person (we, as Christians, are made righteous in Christ - II Cor. 5:21), but for the lawless and _____, for the ungodly and for _____, for the _____ and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for _____, for sodomites (homosexuals), for kidnappers, for _____, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine."

Definition: "A MEDIATOR does NOT mediate for ONE ONLY" - A mediator means a peacemaker, an intermediary or conciliator between persons or sides. That means there has to be more than one person involved. **Jesus became our Mediator** to bring peace between us, as sinful human beings, and a holy God.

- **Hebrews 12:22-24** "But _____ have come to Mount Zion and to the _____ of the _____, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and _____ of the firstborn who are registered in _____, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to _____ the _____ of the _____, and to the _____ of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."

Definition: "What PURPOSE then does the LAW serve?" - Paul answers his own question as he says, "It was added because of transgressions, **TILL the SEED should COME** to whom the promise was made." "It was added because of transgressions" means that we need to see and understand God's standards of holiness, **so that we will see our SIN** and our need for a Savior. **The "SEED who should COME" is Jesus**, and again we see how temporary the Law of Moses was. The Law was only to be for a certain amount of time **UNTIL the Messiah, the "Seed of Abraham" should come into the world**, and that was Jesus Christ. Jesus said He came to fulfill the law. **Once something is FULFILLED, it is done**, it is over. Jesus said from the cross, **"It is FINISHED!"** When a debt is fulfilled and paid, you don't have to keep making payments. There are over 300 prophecies of the first coming of the Messiah in the Old Testament Scriptures, but once Jesus came and fulfilled those prophecies, their purpose was accomplished (fulfilled). The same goes for **the Law of Moses: it has been FULFILLED and ACCOMPLISHED in JESUS CHRIST, and we as believers are "in Christ" and our righteousness is IN HIM**. We do not have to rely on a set of rules and commandments to make us righteous, because **"the righteous REQUIREMENT of the LAW is FULFILLED in us"** through what Jesus did on the cross (see Romans 8:4).

- **Matthew 5:17-18** "Do _____ think that I came to destroy the _____ or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy, but to _____. For assuredly I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the Law _____ all is _____."
- **II Corinthians 5:21** "For He made _____ who knew _____ sin to be _____ for us, that we might _____ the _____ of God _____."
- **Romans 8:4** "That the righteous _____ of the _____ might be _____ in _____ who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the _____."

Definition: "Is the LAW SIN?" - The answer is "NO" - God's law is PERFECT. As we study and learn God's law, we get wisdom and understanding, and a knowledge of WHAT SIN REALLY IS.

- **Psalms 119:97-104** "Oh, how I _____ Your _____! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your _____, make me _____ than my enemies; for they are ever with me. I have more _____ than all my teachers, for Your testimonies (God's word) are my _____." (Verse 104) "Through Your precepts (laws, commandments) I get _____; therefore I _____ every _____ way."

21. Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For **IF there had been a LAW given which could have GIVEN LIFE**, truly righteousness would have been by the law.

- **Romans 7:10-11** "And the commandment, which was to bring _____, I found to bring _____. For _____, taking occasion by the commandment, _____ me, and by it _____ me."
- **Romans 5:20-21** "Moreover the _____ entered that the offense might abound. But where _____ abounded, _____ much more." So that as sin reigned in _____, even so grace might reign through righteousness to _____ through _____ our Lord."
- **Galatians 2:21** "I do _____ set _____ the _____ of God; for if _____ comes through the _____, then Christ _____ in _____."
- **Romans 9:31-33** "But Israel, pursuing the _____ of _____, has _____ attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by _____, but as it were, by the _____ of the _____. For they _____ at that stumbling _____. As it is written, 'Behold, I lay in Zion a _____ stone and a _____ of offense, and whoever _____ on _____ will _____ be put to shame.'"

Definition: "STUMBLING STONE" - Jesus is the "Stumbling Stone." Putting your **trust in Jesus** to save you and **BELIEVING that what He did** on the cross PAID FOR YOUR SINS is so simple that many people "**stumble over it**" or cannot accept it. They want to be able to DO SOMETHING to EARN their own salvation, and they refuse to accept GOD'S WAY of salvation. Some people reject Jesus altogether, but many want to INCLUDE Jesus in **their own system** of works, good deeds and religious ideas. By doing this they are **DISOBEDIENT to God's word**, because God's word says salvation is by **FAITH IN JESUS** plus **NOTHING ELSE!!**

- **I Peter 2:6-8** "...Behold, I lay in Zion a chief _____, elect, precious, and he who _____ on _____ will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who _____ He is precious; but to those

who are _____, 'The _____ which the builders rejected has become the chief _____, a stone of stumbling and a rock of _____.' They _____, being _____ to the word....."

Definition: "SIN taking occasion by the commandment DECEIVED ME" - Sin will **ALWAYS** DECEIVE US. When we hear a COMMANDMENT of God telling us NOT to do something, our SINFUL NATURE many times tells us that God is somehow HOLDING OUT ON US, and that **He just doesn't want us to have any fun**. Quite the OPPOSITE IS TRUE - God only tells us **NOT TO DO those things** that would be **HARMFUL and DESTRUCTIVE** to our lives. Because we are warped by sin, even God's PERFECT LAW can **stir up all kinds of desires in us, in our old sin nature, to DO JUST EXACTLY WHAT IT SAYS NOT to DO!!** Just as a child may deliberately do the opposite of what his parents tell him to do, so **our sinful natures REACT in the same way to God's perfect law**.

- **Galatians 6:7-8** "Do not be _____, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that will he also reap. For he who sows to his flesh (the old SIN nature) will of the flesh reap _____ (DEATH); but he who sows to the _____ shall from the Spirit reap _____."
- **Ephesians 4:22** "That you put off, concerning your former _____, the old man (our SINFUL NATURE), which grows _____ according to the _____ lusts."

Definition: "I do NOT SET ASIDE the GRACE of God" - If you mix in the works of the law (trying to keep the Old Testament commandments), or try to ADD ANYTHING to Christ's work on the cross, you are **"SETTING ASIDE the GRACE of God,"** because you have ADDED your WORKS. The very meaning of GRACE is that it is **UNMERITED (you don't deserve it) and UNEARNED (you can't work for it) FAVOR - being ACCEPTED and LOVED by God** when we have done NOTHING and CAN DO NOTHING to EARN or DESERVE it. We are saved by **GRACE through our FAITH** (Ephesians 2:8-9), and NOT by our works or by keeping the Old Testament Law.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by _____ you have been saved through _____, and that _____ of yourselves, it is the _____ of God; _____ of _____, lest anyone should boast."
- **Romans 11:6** "And if by _____ then it is no longer by works (the law); otherwise _____ is no longer _____. But if it is of works (keeping the law), it is no longer _____; otherwise _____ is no longer _____."

Definition: "IF there had been a LAW given which COULD have GIVEN LIFE" - "The Law" refers to the Old Testament Law and commandments God gave to Moses and the Israelites. Keeping the Old Testament Law could **NEVER** give a person eternal life. **Salvation and eternal life HAS ALWAYS BEEN by FAITH in GOD**. The Law serves the purpose of SHOWING US HOW FAR WE ARE FROM GOD'S PERFECT STANDARD, and thus shows us that we CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES, and that **we NEED A SAVIOR!! The Law DEFINES SIN**, shows us how sinful we are, how destructive sin is in our lives, and how HORRIBLE sin is in God's sight. Since the penalty for breaking God's law is DEATH, and since NO ONE CAN KEEP THE LAW perfectly, the law ends up CONDEMNING US to DEATH.

22. But the Scripture has **confined ALL under SIN**, that the promise **by faith in Jesus Christ** might be given to those who believe.

- **Ecclesiastes 7:20** "For there is _____ a _____ man on earth who does good and does _____ sin."
- **Romans 3:21-24** "But now the _____ of God _____ from the _____ is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the _____ of God which is through _____ in _____ to _____ and on _____ who _____. For there is _____ difference: for _____ have _____ and fall _____ of the glory of God (fall short of the requirement of His law), being justified freely by His _____ through the redemption that is in _____."
- **Colossians 2:13-14** "And you, being _____ in your _____ and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made _____ together with Him (Jesus), having _____ you all trespasses (sins); having _____ out the handwriting of _____ which was contrary to (against) us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the _____."

Definition: "Not a JUST man on earth who does GOOD and does NOT SIN" - "A just man" means a righteous man - someone who is completely righteous. There is no one, apart from Jesus Christ Himself, who continually does good and never sins. This doesn't mean there aren't some people who do a lot more good than others, because of course there are, but no one is completely without sin, and **no one can live up to God's standards of holiness and purity**. We are all corrupt and have sinful, selfish motives even in our best moments. To say that because some men do more good works than others, therefore we don't need Jesus to save us, is like comparing Olympic jumpers. You may have one man who can jump higher and leap farther than any others, and another who can only jump a few feet, but can either one jump from Long Beach to Catalina Island in one leap? No, of course not. So, neither can we keep God's laws perfectly and never sin, even though some people may seem more righteous and less sinful than others. We are all SINNERS and God has **"confined ALL under SIN."**

- **Romans 3:9-12** "What then? Are we _____ than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both _____ and _____ that they are _____ under _____. As it is written, 'There is _____ righteous, no, _____ one; there is none who understands; there is _____ who _____ after God. They have _____ gone out of the way; they have together become unprofitable (of no use to God); there is _____ who does good, _____, not _____.'"

Definition: "Confined ALL under SIN" - God's word tells us that there is no one who is without sin, except for Jesus himself, and we all need a Savior. **We are ALL "CONFINED" or TRAPPED in our sin**, and we need Jesus to set us free. There is no one upon this earth who can save himself and who doesn't need Jesus.

- **John 8:34-36** " _____ answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits _____ is a _____ to _____. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son _____ you _____, you shall be _____ indeed."
- **Romans 6:16** "Do you not know that to whom you _____ yourselves _____ to _____, you are that one's _____ whom you _____, whether of _____ to _____, or of _____ to righteousness?"