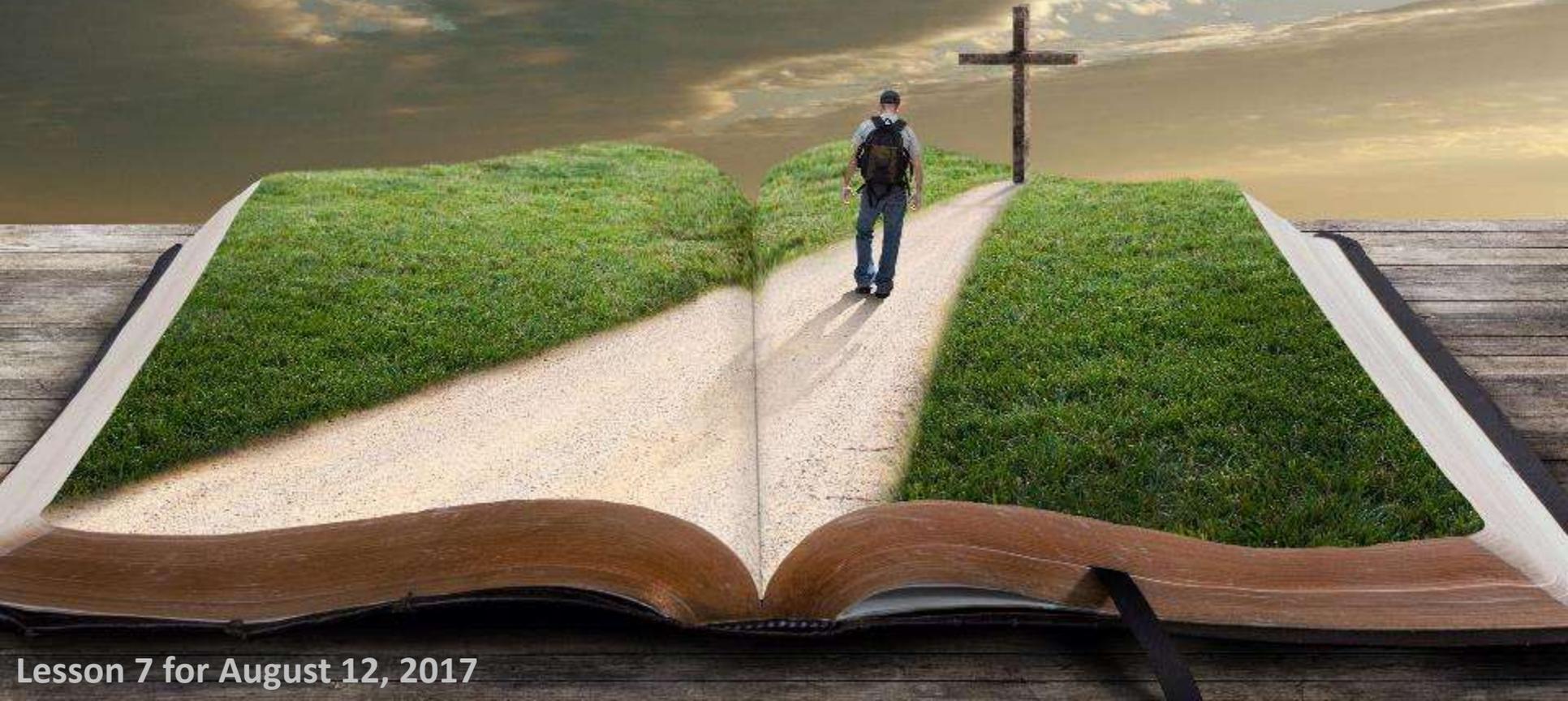


THE ROAD TO FAITH



Lesson 7 for August 12, 2017

How are law and faith related? What is their role in the plan of salvation? What does to be under the law mean? Is the law invalid after we accept Christ by faith?



**The law and the promise.
Galatians 3:21.**



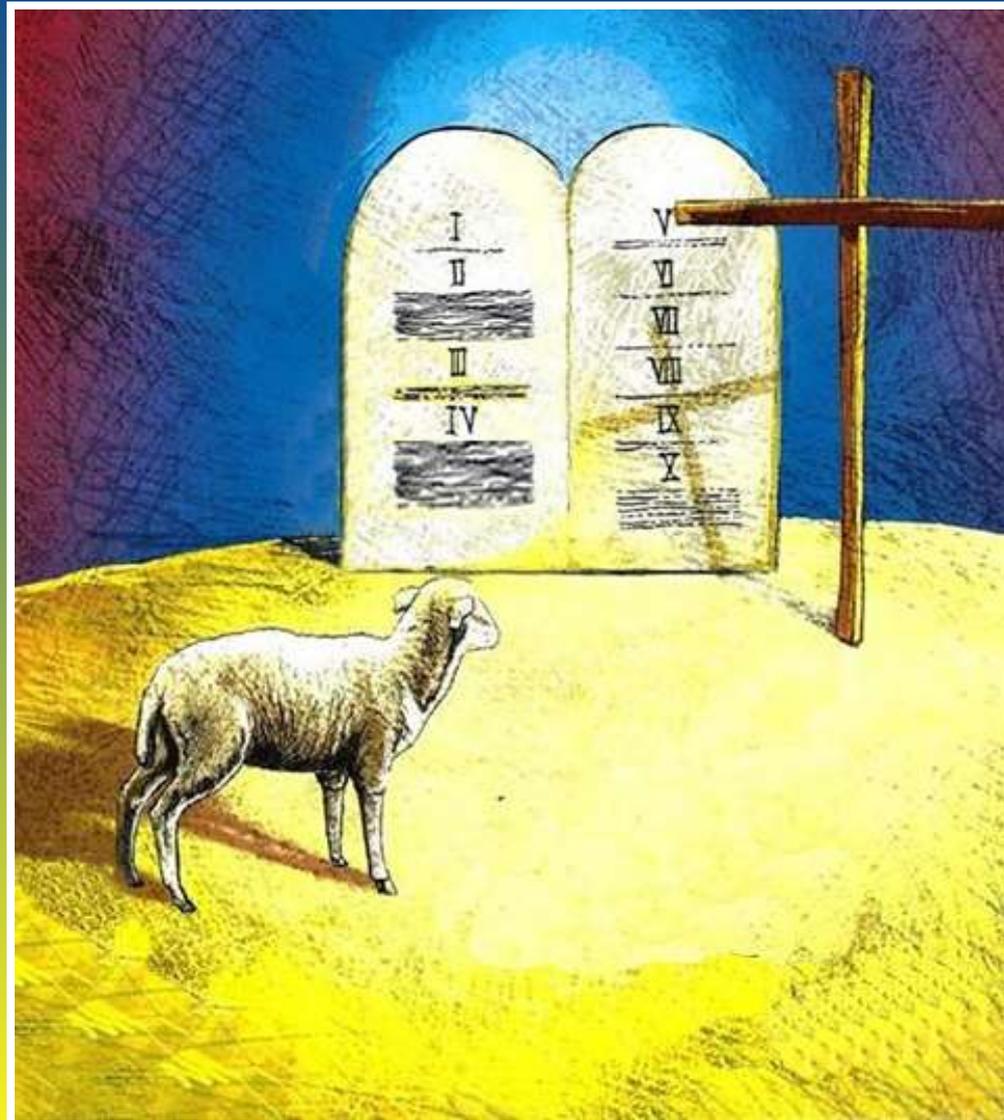
**Imprisoned and kept under
the law. Galatians 3:22-23.**



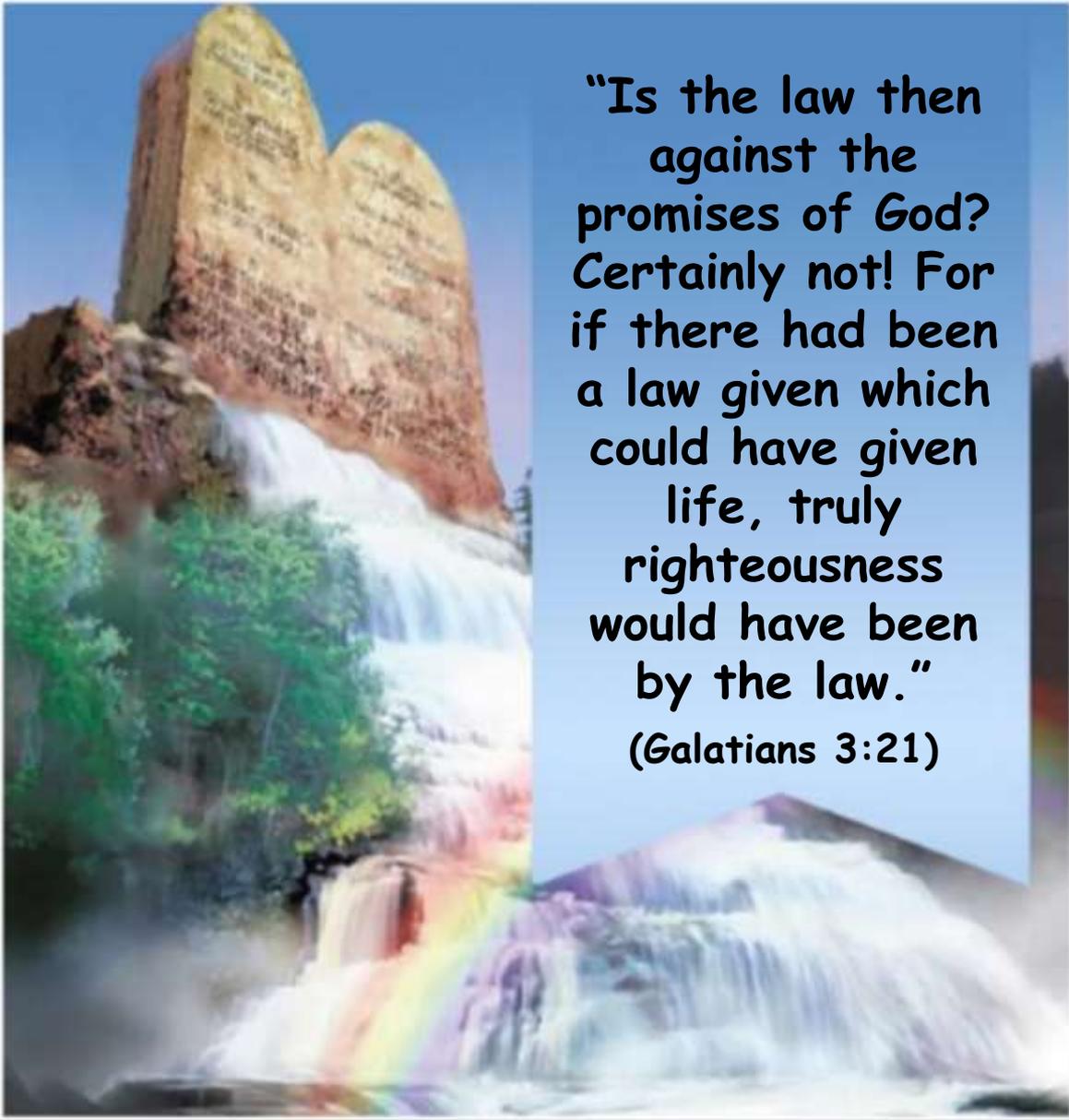
**The law as our tutor.
Galatians 3:24.**



**The law after faith.
Galatians 3:25.**



THE LAW AND THE PROMISE



**“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.”
(Galatians 3:21)**

Paul was defending the superiority of the promise (that is accepting Christ by faith) over the law, he wasn't saying that the law was no longer needed.

Faith and law have different roles in the plan of salvation.

The Pharisees thought the law could bring life because it was written that men “shall live by them” (Leviticus 18:5).

But the law cannot bring spiritual life, since only God can do so through Christ.

That's why Paul explained the role of the law in our lives.

IMPRISONED AND KEPT UNDER THE LAW

“But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.” (Galatians 3:22-23)

Paul said that the Jews were “under the law” before Jesus came. That expression may be understood in two different ways:



Being under the law as an alternative for salvation (Galatians 4:21).

Being under the law as being condemned by it because of our sins (Galatians 3:10; Romans 6:14-15).



The law is like a jailer that imprisons everyone who has ever transgressed the law and is sentenced to death because of his or her sins.

IMPRISONED AND KEPT UNDER THE LAW

“But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.” (Galatians 3:22-23)

We may find a positive meaning of the words “confined” and “imprisoned”.

- ❖ **CONFINED:** Protected or kept (Philippians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:5)
- ❖ **IMPRISONED:** Gathered, secured (Luke 5:6; Romans 11:32)

The law was not a curse but a blessing. It pointed to sin and it introduced Christ as the way to salvation (through sacrifices). It also protected Israel from the vices that led other people to physical and moral destruction.



THE LAW AS OUR TUTOR

“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” (Galatians 3:24)



The tutor was responsible for the children’s education until they grew up. That education covered all the aspects of life and included reprimands and punishments if the children disobeyed.

Why has the law been our tutor?



The law was given to point to the sinners’ need for salvation.



THE LAW AFTER FAITH

“But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.” (Galatians 3:25)

**Christ releases us from the condemnation of the law and writes His law in our hearts (Hebrews 8:10).
What does that mean?**



We have been forgiven, we are no longer under the condemnation of the law but under the grace (Romans 6:14).



The law is now written in our hearts, and we show it as we show Jesus' character in our lives, since the law is a transcription of His character (see Matthew 5-7).

How do we cooperate as God writes His laws on our hearts?



“The law of ten commandments is not to be looked upon as much from the prohibitory side, as from the mercy side. Its prohibitions are the sure guarantee of happiness in obedience. As received in Christ, it works in us the purity of character that will bring joy to us through eternal ages. To the obedient it is a wall of protection. We behold in it the goodness of God, who by revealing to men the immutable principles of righteousness, seeks to shield them from the evils that result from transgression.”

E.G.W. (Selected Messages, vol. 1, cp. 31, p. 235)