

## JUST CHANGE THE RULES!

### Gal. 3:15-18

When we were growing up, we were taught that when we make a promise, we should keep our word!

***A promise is a promise;  
we better do what we say!***

When *GOD* makes promises He *always* keeps *his* word!

Judaizers claim God *does* go back on his Word: God's promise to Abraham changed when Law's given.

They thought keeping *it* became condition God added to His promise to receive His blessing [= > 3:15-18]

### **Defense of Paul's Doctrine 3-4**

***As we receive Jesus by faith***

***-by trusting Him,***

***God's children walk by faith!***

**Proof from reception of Holy Spirit**

**3:1-5**

*We start by faith,*

how can we expect to finish by works?

**Proof from Abraham's blessing**

**6-9**

*Abraham receives God's blessing by faith alone.*

His accomplishments add *nothing*

God makes an unconditional promise to Abraham.

Abraham trusts God

=> faith credited as righteousness

*Gentiles* are blessed with him by faith; NOT by law.

All people, Jew & Gentile, who identify with Abraham & share blessing God promised him imitate his faith

We identify with Abraham by *trusting God* as he did.

### **Proof from redemption**

10-14

Judaizers cling to law; for God to accept us, *obey rules!*

Paul: No one's made *righteous* by obeying the law.

*No one* does everything in God's law all the time.

Therefore, *law* leads to **a curse!**

### **Both eternal life**

**& God's blessing come by faith.**

All who trust Christ are free from curse of the law.

*Christ paid price we should've paid to buy our freedom.*

**Either** we trust Christ and receive God's blessing

**or** try to make it on our own; end up under curse.

**Blessings God promised are received by faith.**

**Judaizers' agree Abraham received God's blessing through faith, but things changed when law came**

Law was added, as condition for blessing. =>

### **Proof from promise to Abraham**

15-18

Blessing God promised Abraham didn't come by law.

God's blessing based on unilateral covenant God gave Abraham

–God made a promise–NO conditions!

### **Rules for HUMAN contracts 15**

People don't annul or change terms of ratified covenant **15** “Brothers, let me take an example from

*everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that's been duly established, so it is in this case.”*

**Once a contract is ratified ...**

**People don't set it aside;**

they can't ignore it

**People don't add conditions to it;**

**People don't change the terms**

IRS recognizes tax-free *irrevocable* trust. People put in money, sign contract to use it only for designated purpose

Once an *irrevocable* trust is signed & money's deposited, terms can't be changed. *If that's true in human matters,*

**how much more when God makes a trust-covenant?**

**[ Rules for GOD'S contracts 16-18]**

**God made promise to Abraham & his seed 16** *"The promises were spoken to Abraham & to his seed. The Scripture doesn't say "& to seeds," meaning many people, but "& to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ."*

**God gave His Word—His promise—to Abraham:**

**Gn 22:17-18:** *"I will surely bless you...<sup>18</sup> because you have obeyed me"=>God's response to Abram's obedience*

**God gave His Word to Abraham's descendant—to Christ, Abraham's seed.**

**Gen 22:17:** *"I will surely bless you & make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky & as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies..."*

**Promise extends to all who are in Christ**

**Gen 22:18** *"Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you've obeyed me."*

**We receive the promise, & blessing, through Him!**

It's not through Abraham's *physical* descendants,  
but *through Christ* the promise is fulfilled.

Through *Him* all peoples will be blessed.

**Through Jesus, WE share in blessing God promises to Abraham's seed.**

Blessing is not based on living by rules;

God's blessing is based on *trusting Jesus*.

**God won't invalidate or change the terms of His covenant 17** *"What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 yrs later, doesn't set aside the covenant previously established by God & thus do away with the promise."*

**GOD made a promise**—*He gave His word!*

**Law didn't come along until 430 yrs later**

**Covenant ratified by God can't be revoked 430 yr later**

If law adds conditions, it renders useless God's promise

If our covenants can't be set aside, or conditions added later,  
how can God's covenant be changed?

**Law can't annul or change terms of God's promise!**

Law, given 400 yrs later, can't invalidate covenant

**God gave His Word to Abraham as promise—*without conditions!*** 18 *"If the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham **through a promise.**"*

What does Paul mean by "the inheritance?"

=>blessing God promised in Abrahamic Covenant.

–includes being counted righteous.

–includes blessing of abundant life, pleasing God.

**God won't go back on His Word, or change terms!**

Inheritance based on law *can't* be based on God's promise!

**God's blessing *can't* be earned obeying law**

To insist blessing depends on obeying rules alters basis of the promise.

God's blessing wouldn't be based on His promise, but on our performance.

**God's blessing based on God's promise 18b**

Inheritance given through promise. Abram didn't earn it!

It was his by God's grace,  
through faith.

***How do we receive God's blessing?***

Abraham's heirs receive God's blessing the same way!

**What are implications for our life?**

**1. God doesn't bless us based on performance! God blesses us when we trust Him.**

Being *declared righteous* isn't based on performance.

*Salvation* is ours by trusting Christ & His work alone.

Do we think *our acceptance* is based on performance?

God's *blessing* comes by trusting Him also.

It doesn't depend on how we perform, living by rules.

**2. Like Abraham, we trust God to keep promises**

God's integrity's at stake.

He'll ensure promise is kept!

Abraham & God didn't agree to a covenant. It's unilateral!

God accepts sole obligation to fulfill His promise.

*He puts no demands on Abraham—nor on His seed!*

Fulfillment of God's promise is provided by God's Son:

**3. We have GOOD NEWS for people who live in fear, feeling we aren't good enough to merit God's blessing.**

When we depend on our performance rather than trusting God to do what He promised,

we never know if we've done enough.

Many live in fear, wondering how much we must do to receive blessing; be declared righteous before God.

Others trust Christ, yet live in fear, wondering if we're good enough to be accepted by God today.

**Good news** for people who think God's blessing depends on living by rules:

God's blessing based on promise; received by faith.

Acceptance is *never* based on obeying rules

When we depend on what we do,

we can never know we've been good enough!

Our hope's different than people who depend on performance; we do know! *Jesus paid it all!*

We have hope because God made a promise

**Good news:** while no one ever performs well enough to *earn* God's blessing, we receive it when we trust Jesus.

*Are we trusting Jesus to receive blessing God promised?*

Stop depending on our performance!  
Stop depending on being "good" and obeying the rules.  
Law can't make us righteous;  
we can't do *all* it requires *all the time*  
When we trust Jesus we become heirs of His promise  
God's blessing is received through *faith*.  
God's promises are irrevocable/unchangeable.  
We can trust Him.  
Are YOU trusting God's unchangeable promises?  
Do we believe God can use our circumstances,  
even hard ones, to produce blessing?  
When we're suffering through a trial, ...  
do we cling to God's promises  
& trust Him?  
Do we have legalistic understanding of what God's like?  
Do we think He's *punishing us* because we don't measure up; maybe  
if we try harder, He'll bless us?  
*Stop* thinking blessing comes through our performance;  
Trust God to give blessing, like salvation—as a gift!  
Rule-keeping's *never* road to blessing;  
God made a promise.  
He won't take it back.

***We can trust God to keep His  
unchangeable/irrevocable promise.***