

**In Custody Under Law  
Until Christ**

Galatians 3:23 - 25

Presented by Bob DeWaay  
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**Guarded in Prison**

**Galatians 3:23** (HCSB)

Before this faith came, we were confined under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith was revealed.

- Under Law, we were delivered to the prison guard and locked up!
- Luther says that the “beast, the presumption of righteousness,” must be killed by the Law

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**Cursed by Works or Blessed by Faith**

Works	Faith
1. No Justification (Gal. 2:16)	1. Justified (Gal. 2:16)
2. Cursed (3:10, 13)	2. Blessed (3:9)
3. Imprisoned (3:22, 23)	3. Redeemed (3:13)
4. Under Guard (3:23)	4. Received the Spirit (3:14)
5. Under Custody (3:24, 25)	5. Brothers in Christ (3:15)
6. Slave Status (4:1)	6. Believe the Promise (3:22)
7. Under Guardians (4:2)	7. Released from Prison (3:23)
8. Under Stewards (4:2)	8. New Status in Christ (3:27)
9. Slaves to the <i>Stoichea</i> (4:3, 9)	9. No Longer under <i>Stoichea</i> (4:3-7)
10. Enslaved to Idols (4:8)	10. Sons & Heirs of Christ (4:7)

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### The Great "Until"!

#### Galatians 3:24 (HCSB)

The law, then, was our guardian **until** Christ, so that we could be justified by faith.

- > "Guardian" is *paidago\_gos* which has a range of meaning and usage
- > "until" shows the timing of termination
- > The contrast between the law and Christ is profound and stark
- > The issue is temporal not causal

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### No Longer in Custody

#### Galatians 3:25 (HCSB)

But since that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian

- > We have the temporal idea again "no longer"
- > Since Christ, there is a new era in salvation history
- > To go back is to renounce Christ and be under all of the negative aspects of the curse of the Law
- > To go back would be as absurd as taking high school over after graduating from college

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### Implications and Applications

- > The Law kills, but for a saving purpose
- > When faith in Christ comes, the prison of the law dies
- > God resists the proud to cause humility

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The Law Kills the Proud Sinner

Romans 7:9 - 11 (NASB)

I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

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Seven horizontal lines for writing.

When Faith Comes the Prison of the Law Dies

1 Corinthians 15:56, 57 (NASB)

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:22 (NASB)

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

8

Seven horizontal lines for writing.

When Faith Comes the Prison of the Law Dies

Romans 6:10, 11 (NASB)

For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:20 (NASB)

Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

9

Seven horizontal lines for writing.

### God Resists the Proud to Cause Humility

**James 4:6** (NASB)

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is **opposed to the proud**, but **gives grace to the humble**."

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### Remembering God's Gracious Work Humbles Us

**Ephesians 2:11a, 12** (NASB)

Therefore **remember** that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," . . . **remember** that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope** and without God in the world.

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### Remembering God's Gracious Work Humbles Us

**Romans 6:3, 4** (NASB)

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore **we have been buried with Him through baptism into death**, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

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