

Living as Heirs

Text: Galatians 3:15-29

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Summary In this sermon, we examined what it means to be an heir of Abraham according to God's promise. God made an unbreakable promise to Abraham and his offspring, whom Paul tells us is Jesus Christ. The Mosaic Law, given 430 years later, did not annul that covenant with Abraham nor make anyone a child of Abraham. Rather, it served as a temporary guardian to restrain and reveal sin, ultimately making Israel ready for the Messiah. Jesus is not only THE offspring of Abraham and thus the heir of the promises, but He also took the curse of humanity's covenant unfaithfulness upon Himself on the cross. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are united with the rightful Heir and in Him become sons/heirs of Abraham as well. Now, we live daily as heirs by trusting God's faithful character, clinging to His promises, and looking forward to our secure inheritance.

Sermon Outline

I. The Plan of God (Galatians 3:15-18)

God's rescue and restoration plan for His creation is revealed progressively through covenants. They define our relationship with Him and unveil His plans. The Abrahamic covenant was established on a promise 430 years before the Mosaic Law. God made gracious promises to Abraham before he had done anything to earn them. Just as human contracts cannot be annulled or altered once ratified, God's unbreakable covenants operate with even greater certainty. Paul helps us see that the Abrahamic promises were not addressed to many offspring, but to one singular offspring, who is Christ. Jesus is the faithful covenant partner who perfectly upheld humanity's side of the agreement, making Him the rightful heir of the ultimate inheritance.

II. The Purpose of the Law (Galatians 3:19-24)

The Mosaic Law served as a temporary guardian and babysitter for the people of Israel after He rescued them out of Egypt. The Law/Old Covenant restrained sin, acted as a mirror to reveal their sin, and made the people ready for a Savior by holding them captive under sin. The Law proved their desperate need for deliverance and pointed them to the promised Messiah.

III. The Privilege of Heirs: Becoming Sons of Abraham (Galatians 3:25-29; Genesis 15)

We become heirs of the promise by faith in Christ, apart from our works, background, ethnicity, or worldly status. God unilaterally guaranteed His covenant in Genesis 15, binding Himself to a death oath. Jesus Christ stepped onto that bloody runway and absorbed the ultimate curse of covenant unfaithfulness on the cross. His flesh was torn so that our relationship with God could be mended. We are united by faith with the covenant-keeping offspring of Abraham. Now, when

we trust in Christ, we put Him on like a garment, and God sees His perfect righteous record instead of our failures. We are heirs by faith in Christ.

IV. Living as Heirs (2 Corinthians 1:20; Romans 8:1; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 11:13-16; 1 Peter 1:4)

We live as heirs every day by trusting God's faithful character. Every single promise of God finds its fulfillment and its "yes" in Jesus Christ, so we can have confidence that the promises are ours in Him. We cling daily to His promises, whatever the situation we find ourselves in. We look forward to our imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance kept securely in heaven.

By faith in Jesus Christ, you are sons of Abraham and heirs according to the promise. So trust His character, cling to His promises, and look forward to the reward.