CONSIDERING CONTEXT

The old and new covenants, Paul’s “two covenants” (Gal. 4:24), are the watermark of his letter to the Galatians. Its message is interpreted based on how one defines the old and new covenants. Among his numerous historical references in Galatians, note several observations that suggest he is not pitting the Sinai covenant against the historical new covenant:

• Paul affirms that there is only one gospel, not one for the Old Testament era and another for the New Testament era (Gal. 1:6–9).
• The one true gospel was anchored in Jewish heritage because Abraham, the father of the Jewish people, “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness,” and through his “‘... Seed,’ who is Christ,” “all the nations shall be blessed” (3:6, 16, 8, NKJV).

• When, 430 years later, God gave Israel “the Law,” the beautiful historical-old-covenant revelation of the gospel, it did “not invalidate a covenant [with Abraham] previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise” (Gal. 3:17, NASB); some Jewish teachers were wrongly teaching in the Galatian church that it did, thus creating an alternate gospel. The Sinai covenant affirmed the gospel previously given, adding that God is gracious, forgiving, compassionate, and loving, and that He sought their love and faithfulness to Him in response (Exod. 34:6, 7; Deut. 6:4–9; Ps. 103; and so forth).

These theological anchors in Galatians establish the context for our close examination of this lesson’s inScribe passage (Gal. 3:21–25).
Write out Galatians 3:10–29 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Galatians 3:21–25. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Galatians 3:10–29. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

After seeing that the old and new covenants are the same, but differing in response and experience, how does that impact the rest of your understanding of the Bible and salvation, in relation to Jesus?

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Galatians 3:21–25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This is true...</th>
<th>Until</th>
<th>This is true...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Scripture...confined all under sin” ([“Locked up everything under the control of sin,” NIV] (v. 22)</td>
<td>“The promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe” (v. 22)</td>
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<td>“We were Kept in custody under the law” (NASB) [“kept under guard, held captive/locked up/shut up/imprisoned by”] (v. 23)</td>
<td>“…faith came... the faith which would afterward be revealed” (v. 23)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The law could not give life (v.21); it was our “tutor” (guardian) (v. 24)</td>
<td>“…to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (v. 24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>We are “under a tutor (guardian) (v. 25)</td>
<td>“After faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor” (guardian) v. (25)</td>
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Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov10-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What primary role has the law taken in your spiritual life?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov10-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

1 John 5:14, 15
Galatians 2:15–20
Hebrews 3:14–4:2; 11:1–40
Psalm 37:3–6
Psalm 115:9–11
Matthew 23:23

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Galatians 3:10–29?

Review your memorized verse from Galatians 3:10–29.
Meditate on Galatians 3:10–29 again and look for where Jesus is.

How does “the Law” lived out in a life look like to you?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?
inSight

Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, how have you internalized the law?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/cov10-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What is the repeated theme of Lessons 6 to 10?

How is the Law a deterrent against civil disobedience?

How does the Law influence unbelievers toward Christ and a spiritual conversion?

How is the Law a divine promise?

How has your Sabbath-keeping (or any other commandment) ever been under threat by misinterpretations of the covenants?

What has been your experience with the tutor thus far?

How does “obeying Him . . . shall be but carrying out our own impulses” make you feel?