

Teaching 3 of 11

The Guardian Goes Home

The child grows up. The guide goes home, not because he failed, but because he finished.

“So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.”

Galatians 3:24

In Greek and Roman towns, rich families had a servant who walked a boy to school, held his hand at the street and corrected him when he acted up. When the boy grew up, the servant packed his bag and went home. Nobody was mad at him. His job was done.

The Law was our guardian

παιδαγωγός

paìdagōgos (pie-dah-go-GOS)

A child guide: the servant who walked a boy to school until he grew up.

Paul, a former Pharisee who loved the Law, used that picture. The word is παιδαγωγός *paìdagōgos*: a child guide. Then he wrote the very next verse:

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

Galatians 3:25

Why did God give the Law?

“It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come” (Galatians 3:19). The Law is like a bathroom mirror. It shows you the dirt on your face, but you cannot wash with a mirror. “Through the law comes knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20). Only Jesus washes it away.

Sons and daughters, not servants

“For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith” (Galatians 3:26). A servant worries about getting things right so he won’t get in trouble. A child knows he is loved, even on a bad day. You are not a hired hand. You are home.

The finish line

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Romans 10:4

τέλος

telos (TEL-os)

The goal, and the finish line.

“End” is τέλος *telos*: the goal and the finish line. A runner who breaks the tape has not failed. He got where he was going. The Law was always running toward Jesus.

Set free from its grip

καταργέω

katargeō (kah-tar-GEH-oh)

To make something stop working; to set free from its power.

“Now we are released from the law” (Romans 7:6). Ephesians 2:15 speaks of Jesus “abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances.” Both use καταργέω *katargeō*: to make something stop working. Like a light switch turned off, the bulb is still there, but it has no power over the room.

Paul also remembers Moses’ shining face, a glory that faded. “If what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory” (2 Corinthians 3:11). Why hold a fading flashlight when the sun is up?

Not lawless, but led

This does not mean you can do whatever you want. A grown child does right for a new reason. God writes His law on your heart and puts His Spirit in you. We serve “in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code” (Romans 7:6). Rules can tell you what is right. Only the Spirit can give you the heart to do it.

Remember this

The Law was a guardian that walked God’s people to Jesus. Now that faith has come, the guardian has gone home, and the Spirit leads us from the inside.