

Schoolmaster

Ga 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

What is a schoolmaster? Schoolmaster is from the Greek word paidagagos, (pronounced; pahee-dag-o-gos') and by definition means: a boy-leader, a servant whose office it was to take the children to school, a tutor, instructor, schoolmaster.

Since our schoolmaster is in the bible, we understand that this is speaking of one who instructs in things pertaining to God. Further, since the scriptures are a testimony of Jesus Christ we understand that Christ is the subject of learning under consideration.

Our text says "**the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ**"; us meaning those who are born again and living under salvation by grace in Jesus Christ. It is speaking of the existent church in time today.

How is the law a schoolmaster? Let's go back to the giving of the law and see if we can get some light on this question. *Ex 19:16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. 18 And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. 19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. 20 And the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. 21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish. 22 And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them. 23 And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it. 24 And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them. 25 So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them.*

As we consider this scripture we begin to see a picture of how the law is the schoolmaster in our lives as Christians. Did you notice that the fearing and trembling came upon the people, and the mountain, when the visible presence of God descended and His voice spoke?

This gives us the picture of the dead and alienated sinner today being born again and beginning to see, hear, and understand who and what Christ really is to them. Think about yourself. When did you fear and tremble before God. When the Holy Spirit came into your heart and you began to hear the voice of God speaking to you. But how does the law act as a schoolmaster? Let's look at some of the commandments and see.

(Commandment 1) Ex 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. As we are awakened and begin to see and understand, we see clearly how we have made many things god to us prior to our rebirth. It may be just as simple a thing as our trust in our own strength, or trust in money. It may be a person that we are worshipping or many other things that we make to be our god.

(Commandment 2) Ex 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. This commandment is speaking to us of idols. Anything you put before,

value more worthy of your time and energy, God is an idol. It can be the love of money, or lust of the flesh, pride, self, buildings, vehicles, jobs, positions in life and many other things. Anything we put ahead of God in our hearts and minds is an idol.

(Commandment 3) Ex 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. This is not confined to just cursing, swearing, and using ungodly speech, but rather takes on a much deeper meaning as we become aware of who God really is. We often have expressed such phrases as; Lord forgive me, when this was spoken aloud for a show in the flesh only; thank or praise God, when we aren't really being thankful, or praising, to God but are glad in our fleshly nature that it is the way we want things to be; and many other such like expressions we use God's name with, that are really not spoken, or used, to the real glory of God.

As you go on down the list of commandments, you see clearly how the law is the schoolmaster, because when we understand that we are totally depraved sinners, under the condemnation of eternal death and damnation, we begin to fear and tremble at the voice of God and His visible presence. Before you understood the law commandments (while you were dead) you had no fear.

Now let's go to another scripture in: **Heb 12:18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: 20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: 21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) 22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. 25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: 26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God is a consuming fire.**

As we consider this scripture we understand that back in Exodus Moses acted as mediator between God and Israel. We understand that we have no power in ourselves to approach unto God. We cannot save ourselves by our works but stand in need of a mediator. In this scripture we see that our Mediator is Jesus Christ. We see, when we understand the law and the sentence of death for sin, that we need a mediator and that we cannot approach unto God in our own strength. We must have one who is enabled to stand in the presence of God and speak to him on our behalf.

Now we understand the definition of schoolmaster being a male instructor by two immutable facts.

One; the Holy Ghost who brings us to new life and empowers us today is presented in the male perspective: **Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.** Also we are reminded of our beginning text as we think about the new life: **Ga 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.** Oh, the relief to know we are no longer under the condemnation of death, because of salvation by grace through Jesus Christ.

Two; Jesus Christ, incarnate, is a male figure as seen in: ***Mt 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*** Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, the life, and the door, through which we are delivered from under the penalty of death for sin. It is Christ, our mediator, who has taken us out from under the death penalty, through the door of eternal life, and justified us in the sight of God. It is Christ who has paid the penalty due from us and we can now understand the scripture in: ***Ro 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

Now, through Christ Jesus, we no longer have to fall down in fear and trembling at the visible presence and the voice of God, but rather, we fall down at the feet of our Mediator, in reverent awe, and worship, having been subdued by this wonderful love as expressed in scripture in: ***Joh 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.***

Praise God there is the schoolmaster and the Mediator! Praise the Lord for salvation by grace! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

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