

## THE ADDITIONS of THE LAW—1

By Eddy Gilpin, Elder/Preacher

One of the recurring themes within the New Testament is the place of the Law of Moses and its being superseded by the law of Christ. A great deal of attention is paid to these matters in such books as Romans, Galatians and Hebrews. If the religious world understood the distinction between the Old and New Testaments and the purposes of each, it would go far in resolving much of the false doctrine that is taught.

One chapter, in particular, that can be confusing on the surface but that sheds a great deal of light on the subject when properly understood is Galatians 3. Let's study some matters from this chapter together. The purpose of the Galatian epistle was to combat the Judaistic teachings that were being promoted among and, to a great extent, accepted by the church at Galatia (Galatians 1:8, 9; 3:1).

One of the messages of the Galatian epistle is that mankind this side of the cross is not bound by or accountable to any of the laws contained in the Old Testament. True, the divine and eternal principles stated in the Old Testament are still true. But man is not bound by any of the precepts charged to those who lived under that law. We have a new law (the New Testament), ratified by the blood of Jesus (Matthew 26:28) and made effective by His death on the cross (Hebrews 9:15-17).

Attempts at justification through the law of Moses (the Old Testament) are futile and result in one's being without sacrifice and justification at all (Hebrews 10:1-10; Galatians 5:4). Thus, any attempts to justify modern practices (i.e., mechanical instruments in worship) by the Old Testament are without basis.

Man today is accountable to that "better covenant", the New Testament (Hebrews 8:6, 7). Galatians 3:19 asks the question, "*Wherefore then serveth the law?*" it then proceeds to answer, "*It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made.*" To what was it added, and why? Our further study will delve into these matters.