“By Faith in Jesus Christ”

Intro: God had a very _______ and distinct ____________ in the giving of the ________ and it is this that Paul explains in our text today.

A. Though Law and faith co-existed they are ______ the _____-_______ of salvation. ______ was given to show men they ________ to be saved while ________ is the __________ of salvation.

I. “_________ the Law then?”

A. The _______ “was ___________ because of transgressions ...”

1. The Law did ______ _____________ anything but it was added - given in addition to the earlier ________________.

2. The Law was added because of (for the _______________ of, for the _______________ of, or for the sake of) transgressions.

   a. The Law was added because of transgressions. That is, to make wrongdoing a ________________ whereby one knows that they have violated the holy standard of God.

   b. John Stott wrote, “So the law’s main work was to ___________ sin. It is the law which turns ‘sin’ into ‘___________’, showing it ... for what it is, a breach of the holy law of God. ... It was intended to make plain the sinfulness of sin as a revolt ___________ the will and authority of ________.”

II. The Law was ordained through ____________ by the agency of a ________________

A. The ______ is glorious as our glorious __________ ____________ it through angels by the agency of a mediator!

B. “The Law did ______ come __________ Moses but from God ______________ angels by the mediator Moses, and then to the people.”

C. But what of the promise? _______ is _______! God met with Abraham ________________ – without a mediator.
D. And I quote from Stott's work, "There were ______ intermediaries – in Lightfoot's expression, 'a double interposition, a ______________ mediation, between the Giver and the recipient. But when God spoke the gospel to Abraham He did it directly ... ______ is _______. We can sum it up in the words of Bishop Stephen Neill, 'the promise came to Abraham _________-hand from God; and the Law come to the people __________-hand – God – the angels – Moses the mediator – the people.' Thus, of the Law and the gospel promise, the Law given through a mediator cannot be set before or above the promise given directly by God. The ______________ is ______________, prominent, first and eternal.

III. The Law "was added ... ___________ the seed would come to whom the promise had been made."

A. Beloved church, we now live under the ________ Covenant! These are the days of the ________ Testament!

IV. Is Paul asserting then that the _______ of God and the ________________ of God run contrary? That one annuls or is ________________ to the other?

A. ________________!

B. The ________ simply does not and cannot impart righteousness. People are not saved by their obedience to the Law but by believing the ________________ of God, trusting in Christ. As we consider the purpose of God in the giving of His Law and the making of His promises we understand that the Law and the promises are not in conflict but are ________________ with the Law serving the promise.

V. "But the Scripture has shut up ________________ under ________, ..."

A. God through Scripture has ________ everyone up under sin that so that we would ________ to Christ, that "the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who ________________.

Closing: Dear ones, hold the Law improperly and by it you will be eternally condemned! Hold the Law properly and by it you will find that ______ _______ in need of a Savior. Scripture has shut all of us up under sin: for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and the wages of sin is death. But if you will ______________ upon the Lord _____________ Christ coming to Him in faith, then you will realize the promises of God’s eternal covenant and, the gift of God is ________________ through Jesus Christ our Lord. Believe in the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and in Him you will be saved for we are justified by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.