

## ~ THE CURSE OF THE LAW....

### GALATIANS 3:8 – 17

~~~~~

~ Many Christians are seriously confused and deeply conflicted in their discernment – or lack thereof – between the teachings of Paul and James concerning works. At face value, the two may seem to contradict each other regarding faith versus works. James said, “... *faith without works is dead.*” Paul says, “... *faith alone is sufficient for our salvation.*” Well, there is no disagreement or contradiction in the Bible; but we’ll necessarily require a Spirit-filled, Spirit led guide in Scripture to bring us to a correct understanding. Our Spiritual Safari is going to straighten this problem out with the teaching of the Holy Spirit in this report. Won’t you pray for enlightenment, wisdom, judgment and all spiritual discernment — and then read the Bible text — and then read this report?

Our previous report began an examination of Abraham as our prime illustration of the doctrine of justification by faith. Abraham stands throughout all Scripture as that perfect picture of this doctrine. Abraham lived at a time more than four hundred years before the law was given to the nation Israel through Moses. Interestingly, I have heard people who theorize Abraham – and even going all the way back to Noah – were people justified by the works of the law. The total and complete ignorance of the Word of God by self-professing Christians is altogether frightening, alarming and, perhaps, slightly amusing — but it isn’t funny. It’s shameful, actually.

Let me say kindly: those of you who simply scroll past these free safari reports and ignore sound doctrine will never be able to say to the Lord, “... *there was no man willing to teach me.*” Those of you who say, “... *I don’t need any man to teach me*” are generally the ones I am talking about. Trust me – YOU need a sincere, educated, Spirit-led, Spirit-filled, correct in his methods, complete in his teaching, and proper in the way he lives his life, man — personally chosen and ordained of God — to teach you; otherwise, you will remain as ignorant as a goat grazing grass on a hillside concerning the Lord Jesus Christ forevermore. Let’s just say this: that’s not good.

Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, all of the judges, Samuel, David, Solomon, all of the good kings of Judah, all of the prophets to those kings, the Gospel writers, every single apostle, you, every single sinner who believes — and me — have always, and will always, be saved precisely the same way: belief by *FAITH*. Trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior is the belief and faith we're talking about. If you hope to even begin to be healthy in your personal, physical, spiritual, and psychological life, you're going to have to come to terms with this truth; otherwise, it is *IMPOSSIBLE* for you to live a life pleasing to God and in which you find true joy. There is simply no other way — you can just write that down....

***8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.***

~ If faith without works were sufficient for Abraham, why would we desire something different? The blessings were directly related to Abraham's faith — never to anything Abraham did. I'll be honest, because I am always honest with you readers: I don't see why anyone would ever want to turn from faith to works of the law. Remember, Israel chose the Mosaic law over being delivered on eagles wings. That is so obviously a mistake it's frightening to read that they did it. The result of the nation at that time validates our faith in believing this doctrine. As a primary means of justification — the law makes *no sense* — irrespective of how you rationalize it.

Also in our last report, we mentioned the required reading of chapter fifteen of Genesis. That is the beginning of Abraham's life of faith. To understand when God preached the Gospel to Abraham, we have to go to the end of Abraham's life. That is after Abraham had come very close to offering Isaac on the altar. Of course, God prevented Abraham from performing that sacrifice as instructed; but God counted it as done because Abraham demonstrated he had faith in God to complete His will being done. Abraham believed God would have raised Isaac from the dead.

**Genesis 22: 17** *That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice ~*

Abraham obeyed the voice of God, friends. Abraham believed God and that belief was counted to Abraham as righteousness - period. This is where many people become troubled at the seeming contradiction between Paul and James. James said clearly, "*... faith without works is dead.*" James also says that "*... Abraham was justified by works when he offered his son on the altar.*" But Abraham DIDN'T offer Isaac on the altar. Well, John Calvin used to say, "*... faith alone saves; but the faith that saves is not alone.*" Calvin was accurate in that remark.

That quote from Calvin is pretty good, too, friends. A genuine saving faith has a dynamic that necessarily leads to works; but *NOT* works of law. Everyone should know not to steal, lie, kill and hurt other people. Those go without saying; and Jesus said, "*if you so much as look upon a woman to lust after her you have committed adultery in your heart.*" See, we're talking about works of faith. When people try to say works will save us, they put their cart before the horse; most legalists have their horse *IN* their cart. They're going nowhere. Justification by faith is a doctrine we are going to have to understand, accept, teach, preach, and practice, or we will never help anyone ever at any time with anything in this life; because that would be impossible.

God sees your heart and He knows whether you have truly trusted Christ or not, my beloved. God knows if you are genuine in your conversation. I wish more church members would be genuine. Some people in the church will be easily fooled by self-righteousness and self-promotion; especially the ones who are woefully ignorant of the Word of God – and that's most of them. Your neighbors might be impressed with your super duper saintly pious phony front, too - but - at the end of the day, you're only fooling yourself. Why not be real? You'll have more fun living a Christian life if you're real, I can promise you that. You'll be more effective for the cause of Christ if you're real, too. That means better rewards in Heaven. We can be

VERY real and trust Christ as our Savior today. When you get to that place of reality, then works will be produced in your life, I can promise you that. It simply cannot be otherwise....

***9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.***

***10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.***

***11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.***

***12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.***

***13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:***

***14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.***

***15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.***

***16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.***

***17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.***

~ God only asks that you and I believe He has done the things He says He has done in Holy Writ; that is, sending Christ to die on the cross for our sins — and that He was raised from the dead for our justification. If you're still reading this report, I'm willing to bet there was day when you walked with God, and all was perfect, and there was never a gray cloud in the blue skies

along the pathway of a carefree life. Then came the day when the sky darkened, and the hurricanes of life appeared one night; and you discovered keeping God's law was impossible. That's when the law condemned you. If you haven't reached that place – you will. Let's be real: we don't walk on top of the world all the time. The earth just happens to rotate; so we get to the bottom — or we're spun side to side — very often. Those people who walk around saying "*praise the Lord*" all the time, have days when they don't. We all do.

If you obeyed every man-made law in your city for fifty years, no one would care. The mayor isn't going to give you a metal of commendation for doing what is expected of you. I'm also willing to bet that every single one of you breaks one law or another in your city or town almost every single day. Have you ever exceeded the speed limit in your car? Well, either way, the law doesn't do anything except penalize and condemn us. Even the Old Testament taught justification by faith. The law never saved any Israelite; and they had the law in effect for about fifteen hundred years. At the heart of the Mosaic Law was the sacrificial system; sacrifices required for *BREAKING THE LAW*. If the law was kept, no sacrifice was required. But they all broke the law; so, the temple sacrifices each pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ. The "*way out*" that is grace and mercy, under an impossible law, just happens to be what caused Moses' face to shine, too. Make a note.

Alright, our Spiritual Safari has intentionally belabored these points of justification by faith in this report because it is certainly important. Faith and law are contrary principles of salvation *AND* when living our everyday lives. One cancels the other out. They are diametrically opposed to each other. If you desire to live by law, and be saved by law, then you *CANNOT* be saved by faith. That means you cannot be saved. If the children of Israel couldn't keep the law, then *Y-O-U* cannot keep the law, friends. The two – law and faith – cannot be combined; because they are as separate as oil and water. God called Abraham and Abraham became a blessing to this world – by *FAITH*. That means faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is the *ONLY* One Who has brought salvation to the world. There is no other Name under Heaven by which man can be saved. When the law came along — much later — it didn't change that fact one wit, either. We're in a

tremendous section of Scripture now; and we're going to take it very slow  
as we move forward ~

~~~~~