

I. Introduction.

II. If you rely upon law works to give you right standing with God, you are cursed. v. 10-12

- A. Because those who seek to be justified by the law can't keep it perfectly. v. 10 Dt. 27:26**
- 1. Of whom is Paul speaking? Rom. 10:3**
 - 2. While it is true that someone who perfectly keeps God's law would be righteous, the problem is that no-one keeps it. 6:13 Ro. 2:13 3:10-18,23 Isa. 53:6 1 Ki. 8:46**
 - 3. To break the law in any part puts one under the curse of condemnation. Dt. 27:26 Lev. 19:2 Js. 2:10 Pr. 20:9 Ecc. 7:20**
 - 4. The law was never given as a means by which we could earn God's blessing, but rather, it was given to show us our need of grace. 3:24 2:16 Ro. 3:20,27-28 4:15**
 - 5. Those who think that they can be saved by their efforts at religion and morality are under God's curse.**
 - a. They are under a curse because their law-breaking demands a condemnation.**
 - b. They are under a curse because they reject (curse) God's way of salvation. Gen. 12:3 Ps. 2:2-3,10-12 John 7:49 3:36**
 - 6. The curse includes the just punishment of your sin which is more horrible than any of us can fully comprehend. 3:13 Ro. 5:18 Heb. 2:2 Rev. 20:8 2 Thess. 1:8**
 - 7. This aspect of the gospel message is most offensive to human pride.**
- B. Because justification is by faith, not the law. v. 11 Hab. 2:4**
- 1. God revealed to Habakkuk the principle that right status before God comes by faith. Hab. 2:4-5 3:17-19 Heb. 10:38 Rom. 1:17**
 - 2. In the same way we are justified unto life by faith (alone). Ro. 1:16-17 John 17:3**
- C. Because the law and faith are totally incompatible. v. 12 Lev. 18:5**
- 1. The error of the Judaizers (that we must be saved by faith in Christ plus our works) continues to the present day.**
 - 2. Scripture makes it plain that you must choose to rely either on the law or faith.**
 - a. The one who relies upon the law expects to be saved by what he does. Ro. 10:3**
 - b. Faith relies upon what God has done in Christ for salvation. Ro. 10:4,9**
 - 3. Your works contribute nothing whatsoever to your justification. 2:16 Ps. 143:2**
 - 4. Justification is by faith alone. 2:16 Rom. 10:9 5:1 Phil. 3:9 Titus 3:4-5**
 - 5. But isn't it good for Christians to obey God's law? 5:13-15 6:2 Rom. 13:8-10**
 - a. Law and faith are incompatible for justification. To rely upon your obedience in order to earn justification is a proud rejection of God's way of salvation.**
 - b. Law and faith are compatible in other ways. It is good to obey God out of love and gratitude. John 14:15**

III. If you rely solely upon Christ you are blessed. v. 13-14

- A. Christ redeemed believers from the law's curse. v. 13 Deut. 21:23**
- 1. How God can righteously save us by faith, given that we have broken His law and deserve to be punished? 3:10 Ro. 2:14-15 3:10-18,23 5:12-19 6:23 8:3 Gen. 3:17**
 - 2. Substitution – Christ willingly took the place of those of us who were accursed under the law. 1 Pet. 3:18 1 Co. 5:7 John 10:15 1:29**
 - 3. Redemption – Christ paid the full price to ransom/purchase us. 4:5 Rev. 5:9 1 Pet. 1:18-19 1 Co. 6:20 7:23 Acts 20:28 Mark 10:45**
 - 4. Atonement – Christ, who was sinless and innocent, was accursed of God for us on the cross. Isa. 53:4-6,10 2 Co. 5:21 1 Pe. 2:24 Dt. 21:23 Acts 2:23 5:30 Mt. 27:46**

5. For whom did Jesus die as a substitute, paying the price of redemption by His atoning blood? For those who believe! Eph. 5:25 John 10:11 Mark 10:45
6. His work is finished. John 19:30 1 Pet. 3:18 Heb. 7:27 9:28
7. The cross is a great offense to some. 5:11 1 Co. 1:18 Jer. 17:9
8. We ought to be grateful obedient people. Rom. 5:6-8 1 Co. 6:20 John 15:13

B. Believers receive the blessing of Abraham. v. 14

1. God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled in Christ for those who have faith, including the Gentiles. v. 6 John 1:16-17
2. The reception of the Holy Spirit part of the Abrahamic blessing. v. 2,8-9
Acts 2:33 10:44-47 15:8-12 Joel. 2:28-29 Isa. 32:15 44:3 Ezek. 39:29 37:14

IV. Conclusion: Two roads and two destinies. Deut. 30:19 Josh. 24:24-25

Discussion questions

1. What does the law demand of those who hope to be saved by it?
2. What are the consequences of failure to keep God's law?
3. Was the law ever intended to save? If not, then what is its purpose?
4. Why is the law completely incompatible with faith?
5. How do people today try to combine the law and faith for justification?
6. How does Habakkuk teach justification by faith?
7. Is Paul saying that keeping the law is of no importance for the believer?
8. Explain the following ideas from verse 13 – curse, redemption, substitution, atonement.
9. How does verse 14 tie together the first half of Galatians 3?
10. Why is the gospel so offensive to most people?
11. Why do we need to be continually reminded of these truths?