**The Just Shall Live by Faith**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Galatians 3:10-15**

**Wednesday Evening**

**July 13, 2022**

**Galatians 3:10-14**

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." 12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. 15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.

**10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."**

Saints, having shown that justification by faith is true according to the Scriptures, Paul here made the opposite point, that justification by the law is false according to the Scriptures—in fact, according to the law itself.

Paul quoted Deuteronomy 27:26 to prove that, contrary to what the Judaizers claimed, obeying the law cannot justify and save—it can only condemn.

Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all these commands that are written in God’s Book of the Law. They are cursed because no one can obey the law perfectly and because breaking even one commandment brings a person under condemnation.

Trying to achieve salvation through obedience to the law is a no-win situation. The law demands perfection—an impossibility for sinful humans.

The law cannot save; neither can it reverse the condemnation.

**Romans 3:20-26**

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

But you see Saints, Christ took the curse of the law entirely upon himself when he hung on the cross (Deuteronomy 21:23).

**Deuteronomy 21:22-23**

22 "If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, 23 his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

He did this so we wouldn’t have to bear our own punishment. The only condition is that we accept Christ’s death on our behalf by faith as the means to be saved.

**Colossians 1:20-23**

20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

**11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."**

Saints, trying to be right with God by keeping the law doesn’t work. The law could not save, but faith could. Paul pointed to Habakkuk’s declaration in

**Habakkuk 2:4**

"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith”

**Romans 1:17**

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

**Hebrews 10:38**

“Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

Saints, a righteous person is not one who keeps the law, but one who is in a right relationship with God. This expression means Christians will have life because of God’s faithfulness and because of their response of faith in God; as a result, they will have eternal life and experience fullness of life.

**12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."**

Saints, when we have faith, we do not need the law. Quoting again from the law (Leviticus 18:5),

**Leviticus 18:5**

You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

Paul supported his statement, “If you wish to find life by obeying the law, you must obey all of its commands.”

The law itself says that only perfect obedience can gain approval from God—one can “live” by the law only by obeying it completely, without fail. The problem is, no one can do that—it is humanly impossible.

**13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),**

Saints,Because the law sets forth requirements that are impossible to fulfill, it serves as a curse. But there is hope because Christ has rescued us. How did Christ take upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing?

Paul answered the question by yet another Old Testament quotation,

**Deuteronomy 21:23**

“Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree”

Saints, to be hanged on a tree signified to the Jews that a person had been cursed. Christ willingly allowed himself to become cursed for all humanity, and thus endured the Crucifixion.

At the cross, the curse of the law was transferred from sinful humanity to the sinless Son of God. Christ took on himself the penalty for sin.

**14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

Saints, the blessing refers to justification by faith, to be offered to Gentiles as well as to Abraham’s descendants, the Jews. Through trust in Christ’s redemption on the cross, God’s promise to Abraham could be made a reality to all who believe.

Saints, we Christians (Jews and Gentiles together), having been justified through faith, will receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith. If all persons are eligible to benefit from Christ, then the Holy Spirit, God’s deposit, must also be available to all.

**Ephesians 1:13-14**

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Saints, the Holy Spirit was present at the creation of the world as one of the agents in the origin of life. He is the power behind the rebirth of every Christian and the one who helps us live the Christian life.

The Holy Spirit sets us free, once and for all, from sin and its natural consequences. The Holy Spirit provides the power to help us do what the law requires of us externally. The Holy Spirit directs the entire course of our lives. He will guide our actions, daily behavior, and moral direction.

Choosing to follow the Spirit’s leading brings us full life on earth, eternal life, and peace with God. The Holy Spirit lives in us, taking control of our sinful human desires. Romans 8:14-15 says that we have received the Spirit of sonship.

**Romans 8:14-15**

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

The true sons of God are not those of Jewish birth but those who are led by the Spirit of God as evidenced in their lifestyles. Romans 8:16-17 says…

**Romans 8:16-17**

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Saints, the Holy Spirit strengthens us and sustains us through times of trial. These wonderful benefits of the Holy Spirit come to believers by faith, not by keeping the law.

**15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.**

Saints, Paul anticipated a question the Judaizers might raise at this point, and summarily answered it.

While the Judaizers might go so far as to agree with Paul that Abraham was justified by his faith, they would then add that the coming of the law changed the basis for gaining salvation. Paul wanted to clarify that nothing would change the promise that God made to Abraham.

Paul turned to an example from daily life. People know that in an irrevocable agreement, no one can set aside or amend any part of it. If that is the case with human contracts, how much more is it true of divine contracts?

God’s promises always stand, no matter what changes occur. He always keeps his promises. Paul’s point was not that God couldn’t change his covenant with us, but that God didn’t ever change the covenant established between himself and us, as illustrated by his specific dealings with Abraham.

God’s divine promise was made to Abraham long before the giving of the law to Moses. As such, it was a binding agreement not to be changed or annulled.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**