

# The Work Is Done

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

GALATIANS 3:10-14

The law is not a person and yet it holds great power. Every law says you must keep the law otherwise you will receive the punishment as laid down by the law. And this is why Paul offers the description of Galatians 3:10,

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.”

In other words if you try to define your life and its outcomes by the law, to keep the rules, you are living under the curse of the law. Paul goes on to explain, by quoting Deuteronomy 27:26 taken from the very law God gave Moses.

Everyone who does not keep all the laws within the law is cursed. James brings this into sharp focus with his words from James 2:10,

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

There it is. We use the expression ‘someone broke the law’ or that ‘someone got themselves on the wrong side of the law’ to mean that whilst someone has only broken one (or even two or three) laws, they’ve broken the whole thing.

Paul goes on to let us know in verse 11,

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

Do not miss the magnitude of what says. When he says ‘no one’ he means not one soul that has lived, is living, or will live is going to be made right in the eyes of God and acquitted of their sin by keeping the law – not ONE!

Paul’s reason is simple, the Bible says ‘the just shall live by faith’. Those who get right in the eyes of God will not get through keeping the law but by faith. Nothing else! Just faith!

Paul goes on to say what you’re probably all thinking,

Yet the law is not of faith, but “the man who does them shall live by them.”

**There is no power connecting the law and faith. And keeping the law does not require faith. Keeping the law does not create faith. Keeping the law does not keep your faith.** But as Paul says you choose to be that person who lives by rules to earn God's mercy, to win His favour, to merit his forgiveness, you won't get them. You will simply get the results determined by the law - a cursed life, leading to death. Listen to Paul's words from Romans 3:22b-23,

For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

If you want to know how it ends – sooner or later everyone breaks the law of God, everyone sins, everyone falls short of God's glory.

And now having seen the grim reality of mankind's mess, let me show you a Saviour. Let's read on in verse 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"),

Paul is writing to believers – to those of faith, who have somehow escaped the curse of the law and its righteous demands. Somehow, Christ has redeemed us, He has bought us (paid the price) for our souls. How? How has He done that?

He became a curse FOR us. He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. He died for us where the law demanded our death. He kept the law we couldn't not keep for ourselves. And where the law demanded our blood, He gave His. HE became the true and living sacrificial Lamb of God. That's why when John the Baptist saw Him, he said, behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world'!

You see they nailed Him to a tree that He might carry the curse of sin and bury it in a grave, rising three days later.

When Pauls says 'us' he means all believers.

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

Do you see the power of what Paul is saying? What was never possible for any through the law, has been accomplished through Christ. The work is done. As

Christ hung on that cross taking His last few excruciating breaths, in John 19:30,

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

It is finished. All the efforts required by the law, they are over...finished! But for whom? To all who will believe. To all who will repent and call out in faith.

Believer, you have the Spirit because he became a curse for you, because He took the cross that was coming to you. Do you see who you are in Christ? Do you see?

No more religion.

No more vain repetitions of the same of old habits.

No more doing because that's what the person next to me is doing.

No more singing because that's what I'm supposed to do.

No more going to church because that's what my parents want me to do.

No more doing to win God's favour.

No more doing to make things right.

No more trying to win peoples' popularity.

No more doing to show what a good christian person I am.

No more plastic smiles.

No more faking it.

No more telling others what to do because we are struggling to keep the rules.

No more pretending God hasn't seen all your bad bits.

No more trying to convince yourself you are probably good enough.

No more fear of what others will think of you.

Because that is the way of the law and that is the curse of the law. Do you realise someone could look and sound like a Christian for a few hours on a Sunday and yet be trapped under the weight of the law. You could be doing that and I couldn't think of a more miserable existence – pretending with the outside whilst dying on the inside.

No wonder we are struggling so much to hold it together. No wonder we are so scared to admit who we really are and the truth of our inside.

Believer you have not been set free to try and mimic a Christian. You have been set free. Listen to Paul's description of a Christian from Ephesians 3:10,

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

**Notice the order – firstly, created in Christ Jesus. THEN, secondly, for good works, that you should walk in them.**

You have not been called by God to do good works to get Christ. If you have believed, you have Christ and if you have Christ then the works are simply an overflow of the Holy Spirit's work of redemption in your life. **Serving the Lord through work, through the church, through giving, is never to gain favour of God but to show the favour we gained in Christ.** The works are never for the glory of self, but always for the glory of God.

Brothers and sisters you have been set free to serve and this church is where the Lord has placed you to serve Him. Your workplace is a place where you serve Him. Your home and its contents are a testimony to the grace of God. Your family is the place where you serve Him.

If you are impassioned about what Jesus has done for you then it is time to step right up and get impassioned doing the very things that will make it possible for others to come to Him too.