

The Law and Salvation?

Galatians 3:10-12

East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- The label *"For intended use only"*
- False teachers attempt to use the law for a purpose God never intended for it.
- *"Do we receive God's ultimate blessing by obedience to the law or by faith in God?"*
 - Conversion experience of Abraham—Galatians 3:6-9; Gen. 15:5-6
 - Judaizer's view—at his circumcision
 - Paul's view—occurred prior to circumcision, Genesis 15:5-6
 - "True" sons of Abraham are those with Abraham's faith!

Why salvation is NOT by keeping the law?

A. The Law condemns rather than justifies.—Galatians 3:10

1. God writes His laws on men's hearts—Romans 2:14-15
2. God wrote down His laws for Israel
 - a. He promises temporal blessings for obedience. Deut. 28:1-2
 - b. He demands more than outward conformity. Deut. 30:15-16
3. The Problem: Had to obey ALL the commandments. Breaking one commandment = guilty of breaking all! James 2:10
 - a. Different from our legal code—ill. Speeding ticket
 - b. Mosaic law is a unified whole. James 2:11 1-lawgiver
 - c. Man's failure: No one can perfectly keep the law!
 - 1) Case of Paul, the Pharisee—Phil. 3; Romans 7:7-11
 - 2) Teaching of Jesus—Matthew 5:48, 22, 28
 - 3) The "curse"—Galatians 3:10 ALLTHINGS
4. Paul's Logic: Only those who do everything written in law escapes the curse. No one can do everything perfectly. Therefore, everyone stands condemned.

B. Scripture never declared that salvation is by law keeping—Gal. 3:11

1. Salvation has always been by God's grace through faith plus nothing. The case of Habakkuk—Hab. 2:4; 3:17-19
2. Three instances of Habakkuk 2:4 in the New Testament
 - a. Romans 1:17—emphasis on "the just"
 - b. Galatians 3:11—emphasis on "will live"
 - c. Hebrews 10:38—emphasis on "by faith"

C. The Law operates under a different system than grace.—Gal. 3:12

1. *"Law is not of faith"*—cp. Leviticus 18:5
2. Law and grace can't be mixed—Romans 11:5
3. Contrast: *"law of righteousness" and "righteousness of faith"*- Rom. 10