

be taken away” (2 Cor. 3:15,16). The Jews could not see the aim of the law which was Christ: “For Christ *is* the end [aim or goal] of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth” (Rom. 10:4). Verse three explains why – again we see the heart problem. Paul is touching again on some of the same things in Galatians as he did in the book of Romans, note: “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. ²⁶For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:24-27, please read v.19-29 cp. Rom. 6:3ff).

The Law of Moses could not save man from his sins: “And by him [Christ] all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses” (Acts 13:39). Paul is showing this in Romans and says, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death” (Rom. 7:24). **The answer is Christ:** “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Rom. 8:1ff). To walk after the Spirit is to keep the commandments of God (which are righteous, Psa. 119:172): Jesus said “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). A person whose heart is right will do this.

Paul shows us how one must enter into Christ where there is no condemnation: “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death” (Rom. 6:3 cp. Gal. 3:27). Friends, this is the only way of entering into Christ where salvation is found (2 Tim. 2:10). Salvation is not before!

The Romans were saved through the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16) which includes baptism as the Savior said (Mark 16:15,16) and Paul shows in Romans 6:3-6. Upon being baptized, sins are washed away through the blood of Christ (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rev. 1:5). “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? ¹⁷But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have **obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Rom. 6:16,17).

Salvation by “faith only” is false! Friends, do not allow false teachers and misguided people cause you to lose your eternal soul. See what happens when the heart turns to the Lord: Acts 2:41. ♥



“Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

(II Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)

SW



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The Kind Of Faith God Requires (part 3) (Abraham’s Righteousness)

by Perry Sexton

“For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Rom. 4:3). **Righteousness** is right doing: “Adhering to moral principles” [WordWeb]; “integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting” [part definition from Thayer].

Did Abraham have “faith only”? Does the book of Romans teach salvation by “faith alone”? These are very important matters and we will look at them closer here.

The word righteousness (right doing cp. 1 John 3:7) is found 39 times in the book of Romans in 33 verses. This is certainly not “faith only.” We have seen before that Abraham believed God and whenever God gave Abraham a commandment, Abraham **obeyed** because he did believe God (see the great faith chapter: Hebrews 11). Friends, this will be true of all who are the true children of Abraham, the father of the faithful: “And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but **who also walk in the steps of that faith** of our father Abraham, which *he had* being *yet* uncircumcised” (Rom. 4:12). This verse alone shows that Abraham’s faith was not dead, i.e., “faith alone,” (James 2:14-26), but an obedient faith as seen in the book of Romans and elsewhere (Rom. 1:5; 16:26 and all in between; cp. Gal. 5:6; Heb. 5:9, et al).

“For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, *was* not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, **but through the righteousness of faith**” (Rom. 4:13). In all of this it is very important to note these facts: (1.) “the law” referred to is the Law of Moses (Rom. 10:5; Acts 13:39); (2.) Abraham lived before the Law of Moses

– he was never under that law; (3.) and to know that we today are not under the Law of Moses and of course cannot be justified by it (Rom. 3 and 4; Gal. 4 and 5, especially Gal. 5:1-6).

In every Age and in every system of God man has always had to obey God! Why should this be so strange to anyone? Who opposes obeying God, but Satan and his followers? Those who lived under the Patriarchal system (first system) had to obey God. Those who lived under the Mosaic system (this system was added; Gal. 3:19-29) had to obey God (Rom. 10:5 cp. Lev. 18:5). And friends, please do not get caught up in the error of thinking one is saved without obedience to God in this the Christian Age. The Savior makes it perfectly clear who will be saved: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9, et al).

The problem was man could not keep the Law of Moses perfectly (Heb. 8:8). Only Christ did that (Heb. 4:15). And under the Law of Moses was the blood of animals “which could never take away sins” (Heb. 10:11): “For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins” (Heb. 10:4). Thanks be to God for the blood of Christ which takes away our sins upon our obedience to God’s condition (Rev. 1:5 cp. Acts 22:16; 2:38; Mark 16:16, etc.). This is seen over and over in the New Testament including the book of Romans (we will look at chapter 6 later).

Many were still holding to the Law of Moses even though it had been taken away and Paul had to deal with that problem (cp. Rom. 7:1-7; 2 Cor. 3; the book of Gal.; Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:14, etc.). In the book of Romans, Paul deals with the Jews who made their boast of the Law of Moses (please read Romans 2:17-23). Let us be reminded that the Jews “*sought it* [righteousness, v.31] not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law [Law of Moses]. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;” (Rom. 9:32), i.e., they rejected Christ. These were certainly not “**walk[ing] in the steps of that faith** of our father Abraham” (Rom. 4:12).

If one does not believe the entire Bible he has no true Bible at all. As there is one God there is one Bible – God’s Word. See the principle in James 2:11 (cp. 2 Tim. 3:16,17). It is amazing how some have been swayed to reject multiple verses concerning the truth on salvation in order to believe in Satan’s system of salvation by “faith only.”

Paul taught the same thing in all the congregations of the church of Christ (1 Cor. 4:17). Why wouldn’t he? Furthermore the

Bible is given by inspiration of God: it is inerrant (2 Tim. 3:16,17). So let us look at some other things Paul and others wrote by inspiration concerning righteousness, **after all, only those who worketh righteousness will be saved** (Acts 10:34,35). Note: “worketh righteousness,” not “faith only!” Let us note some brief comments by inspiration on righteousness:

- ♥ Romans 10:3 “For they [the Jews] being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish **their own righteousness**, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”
- ♥ Philippians 3:9 “And be found in him [Christ], **not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law** [of Moses], but that which is through the **faith** of Christ, the **righteousness** which is of God **by faith:**” cp. Heb. 11:7
- ♥ 1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that **doeth righteousness is righteous**, even as he is righteous.”
- ♥ 1 John 3:10 “In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: **whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God**, neither he that loveth not his brother.”

If you are of the “faith only” persuasion you should give serious heed to what the Bible says! Who are the righteous? Those who “**doeth righteousness is righteous.**” If you do not do righteousness you are not of God. One cannot be saved without righteousness! Note Acts 10:34,35, “Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: ³⁵But in every nation he that feareth him, and **worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.**”

The problem is with the heart. While the Jews made their “boast of the law” (Rom. 2:23), the Gentiles (v.14) showed “the work of the law written in their hearts” (v.15). Furthermore, the Jews “through breaking the law” dishonored God (v.23 cont.). The Jew’s hearts were not right with God in at least two ways: (1.) their trust was in the Law of Moses, not God; (2.) but even so, they did not even keep the law in which they trusted! The heart trouble of the Jews can be seen in Luke 18:10-14 (and many other places) where the Pharisee (a religious party of the Jews) exalted himself.

God wants our heart. Paul, in dealing with this same hardness of heart concerning the Law of Moses, says: “the veil is upon their heart. ¹⁶Nevertheless when it [the heart] shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall