

Galatians, Free in Grace

(7) The Doctrine of Grace

See Lesson 7a for references for this section

Argument #3, The Law does not save, it curses!...3:10-12

Rather than the way to salvation, what is the fate of those relying on “law keeping”? vs.10

All those relying on the Law (for justification) are under a curse. Quote from Deut.27:26

How does James state this same principle? James 2:10

Law keeping is not a smorgasbord! You MUST keep it ALL, PERFECTLY, or ...cursed!

In direct contrast, what is the path to being righteous (justified) before God? vs.11

The just (Rom.1:17) shall live (Gal.3:11) by faith (Heb.10:38), Hab.2:4. IMPORTANT!

Q. Doesn't law keeping just enhance our faith? A. 3:12a

The Law is not from (based on) faith. Justification by faith is without works. No mixture.

How does Paul prove this point? vs.3:12b (see Lev.18:5); Mt.5:48

By quoting from Lev.18:5. Choose the Law, you must live it, perfectly. Only curse is left!

What are some ways men deal with their imperfect “law keeping”?

Deny that the Law requires perfection. Or compare with others. Or claim ‘perfection’!

But what is God's standard for law keeping for our justification? 3:10

His standard is Himself. Absolute perfection at all times. Otherwise we are cursed!

Now, about that curse...3:13-14

What does Paul now teach us about getting out from under that curse? vs.13a

Christ redeemed us (buy out from slavery) from the curse. He bought us out of the curse!

How did He do that? vs.13b IPet.1:18-19

He became cursed for us. All according to Isaiah 53. With His stripes we are healed.

And after becoming cursed as our substitute, what did the Law command? vs.13b Deut.21:23

Those criminals (cursed ones) were executed and hung on a tree. He became sin for us.

What is the first stated reason for this (...in order that...)? vs.14a

In order that 1) the blessings promised to Abraham (by faith) might come to us Gentiles.

And the second stated reason for this, vs.14b? Eph.1:13-14

So that 2) by faith, we (who believe) might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Once again we're challenged to wonder why anyone would want to choose law keeping over God's gracious provision of salvation and living by His grace, through faith...?