

"Doctrine of Justification and Sanctification"

Galatians 3-4

Part 10

Introduction: Last week in our study we finished chapter 4 and now we have come to the practical section of the letter to the Galatians which will be chapters 5-6. But before we do, I wanted to look at a message tonight that will reinforce what we have looked at over the past 9 studies. I want to use a few verses in Galatians and I also want to use other verses to help us to understand the Truth concerning the path to sanctification. Notice the words of George Zeller.

"Most of us have been reared and now live under the influence of Galatianism. Protestant theology is for the most part thoroughly Galatianized, in that neither the Law nor grace is given its distinct and separate place as in the counsels of God, but they are mingled together in one coherent system."

What George is saying here is that the church has neglected to separate the Law from grace in the body of Jesus Christ. They are both brought in and accepted as having part in justification and in sanctification. This should never be the case in the church and I certainly do not want to see that happen here. The Scofield Bible make a very important statement.

"The test of the Gospel is grace. If the message excludes grace, or mingles law with grace as the means of justification or sanctification, or denies the fact or guilt of sin which alone gives grace its occasion and opportunity, its 'another' gospel, and the preacher of it is under the anathema of God."

The truth of the matter is that there are many today who are mixing Law and grace. They say we are to live by God's Law or we are to live by the Ten Commandments. This, they say, is the rule of life for the believer. They believe that holiness is produced in the life of the believer when he or she walks in obedience to the Law of God. They may quote Matthew 22:36-40

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ *Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*

³⁷ *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

³⁸ *This is the first and great commandment.*

³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

This all sounds good and many buy into this teaching but the truth is not one person is able to keep the Law. The problem is not with the Law for the Law is good and holy

Romans 7:12

¹² Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

The problem is not with the Law but the problem is with us.

Romans 7:18

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Let us therefore search the Scriptures and see what the Bible says concerning the believer and the Law.

➤ **The Believer and the Law**

The Bible tells us several times that we are not under the Law.

Romans 6:14-15

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Galatians 5:18

¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

1 Corinthians 9:20

²⁰ And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

To be "UNDER" as the word is used in these verses is to be "under the authority" of something. The idea is to be under the Law is to be under the entire Mosaic legal system and to be subject to its commands and liable to its penalties. This is something that is not taught among believers who say that we are under the Law. The Law contained great blessings and it contained terrible curses. Let us notice a few of the curses.

Deuteronomy 28:15-20, 64-67

¹⁵ But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

¹⁶ Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.

¹⁷ Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.

¹⁸ Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

¹⁹ Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

²⁰ The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.

⁶⁴ And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

⁶⁵ And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

⁶⁶ And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

⁶⁷ In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

Those who desire to be under the Law never seem to speak of the curses that come upon those who do not keep the Law.

In Romans 7 Paul tells us we are dead to the Law.

Notice Romans 7:1-3

Here in this passage Paul gives an illustration of what has happened to the sinner that trusted in Jesus Christ. In verse 1 he explains that for a person under the Law the only

means of escape is death. In verses 2 and 3 we can see that there is one woman and two men. She is married to one man but she desires to be married to the other. The problem is she is bound to her husband as long as he is alive. This woman is a picture of the unbeliever before they are saved. Her husband is the Law. Her husband requires perfection from her. But she is not able to live up to his standards. He does not mistreat her because he is a good man but he is just so demanding and she cannot please him. Her only hope is that he would die and she would be free. But he will not die. Again, he represents the Law.

Matthew 5:18

¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

The Law will continue for all eternity so how can she ever be free to marry another? Since her husband will not die there the only another option is that she must die because it is only death that will dissolve the marriage.

Notice Romans 7:4

This was the plan of God to get us free from the Law. We would die. But what does it mean that we would die because we are still alive today? The Law will never pass away but we did die when Jesus Christ died.

Romans 6:1-4

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

When we were saved, we were baptized into Christ and in Him we died. We were crucified with Christ and therefore we are now dead to the Law.

Galatians 2:19-21

¹⁹ For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

²⁰ *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

²¹ *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

Now that we are dead to the Law we are married to Jesus and it is Him who lives His life through us. That is the way of holiness and sanctification. Not by keeping the Law! This means that our relationship with Him is a love relationship and not a legal relationship. Christianity is a relationship and it is not DOING SOMETHING but it IS KNOWING SOMEONE. It is not a set of rules and regulations that I am required to follow. It is following the Word of God because we love Him and as He lives through us He gives us what we need to live out His Word. Many have lost sight of this and some never come to know it. They believe if they miss their Bible reading in the morning or if they do not pray for a certain amount of time that the Lord does not love them as much or that He is angry with them. They believe that doing these things on a regimented schedule somehow makes them holy and acceptable. That is legalism! Notice the words of Mackintosh.

"Christianity is the life of Christ communicated to the believer - dwelling in him - and flowing out from him, in the ten thousand little details which go to make up our daily practical life. It has nothing ascetic [strict with no pleasure], or sanctimonious [morally superior to other people] about it. It is genial [friendly and cheerful], pure, elevated, holy, divine. Such is Christianity. It is Christ dwelling in the believer, and reproduced, by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the believer's daily practical career."

➤ The Bible and the Law

Let us consider what the Bible tells us about the Law and this will help us to see why the Law is not the rule of life for the believer.

2 Corinthians 3:6-9

⁶ *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

⁷ *But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:*

⁸ *How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?*

⁹ For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

Here we see that the Law is the ministration that kills, it is the ministration of death, and it is the ministration of condemnation. How then could the Law ever bring about life in the believer? It cannot do so!

2 Corinthians 3:11-13

¹¹ For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

¹² Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

¹³ And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

Here we see that for the believer the Law was done away [means stripped of its power] and it was abolished [means to cease or to pass away]. Why then would the believer want to go under the Law when Jesus died to set us free from the Law?

Hebrews 10:1-2

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

The Law had no way of bringing anyone into the presence of God. Why then would someone desire to go back under the Law when grace brings us right to the throne of God?

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ is our life not the Law.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Philippians 1:21

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.