

## **THE PROOF OF BEING MADE RIGHT WITH GOD (2)**

### **GALATIANS 3:6-14**

*<sup>3:6</sup> Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*

*<sup>7</sup> Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*

*<sup>8</sup> And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

*<sup>9</sup> So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*

*<sup>10</sup> For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.*

*<sup>11</sup> But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*

*<sup>12</sup> And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.*

*<sup>13</sup> Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

*<sup>14</sup> That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Does it really matter what you believe? How you believe? What you put your trust in? Who you put your trust in? Sadly, many people are living this day as though “their belief” is the ONLY thing that matters. Yet, there is a sobering and serious problem with that, God will not allow one person in His heaven and paradise based on “a belief”.

In the days of Paul, there were many that lived their life believing that the way to God was through following rules, regulations, keeping laws, and doing certain works...however that in and of itself is never enough to save a person...and it is not enough to keep a person. It does matter what you believe!

It does matter what you allow yourself to live believing...for the reality is EVERYONE, rich and poor has a date that we stand before God, and we will either stand before God, justified through the blood of Christ, or condemned. It has been wisely said that living this life oriented the wrong way, is like building a ladder and climbing that ladder...only to realize at the top you put the ladder against the wrong wall.

It is the heart of the Father that we live: 1) learning truth, 2) knowing truth, 3) absorbing truth, 4) operating by truth, 5) enjoying truth...for truth is a person...namely Jesus Christ. If a person believes wrong, he is in serious jeopardy of losing his very soul according to God’s Word.

## 1. **THE GENUINE PROOF OF “HOW” TO BE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD**

**PRECEDES THE LAW.** In the Jewish culture of which Paul lived, it was the belief of many that a person was “made right” with God by the “keeping of the law”. In the days of Paul, there were 611 laws that were divided into three categories, and the masses of people lived believing that a person was made right by “keeping the laws”.

Sadly, the masses can be very wrong...and were when it came to having a real relationship with God. Paul uses Abraham, the Father of the Jewish nation, as a “proof-text”, revealing that a person is not made right with God by laws, rules, regulations, but by simple, child-like faith in God. The reality is this...being made right with God is so simple, that it is profoundly complicated by preachers, and teachers the world over. While good works have their place in our lives, **GOOD WORKS CAN NEVER SAVE A SINGLE PERSON.** Abraham was counted righteous **AFTER** he believed God, followed God, and did what God told him to do. God made two promises to Abraham if he followed Him, unquestionably. First, Abraham would be the father of a new nation. Second, all the nations of the earth would be blessed by his seed. The evidence of Abraham’s life is that he believed God. he believed God by leaving his family and going where the Father told him to go.

Abraham didn’t have all the information, but he had God, and that was all that he needed. God would guide him, and lead him along the journey. The same holds true for our lives as well. The Father may not always give us all the details of where He wants us to go, but He will give us all the information that is needed in the moment.

God didn’t credit righteousness by Abraham’s works, but by his faith, his belief, and trust in God. God gave Abraham one condition and one condition alone for receiving the promise...namely believing God. The Bible reveals that Abraham believed God and God honored Abraham’s faith...and it was credited to him for “righteousness”. The point is simple and yet profound...God never accepts based on works..but by faith alone in Him and His finished work through Christ. Abraham’s faith had to precede his actions before a Holy God...and faith is required today for all who truly believe in God through Christ.

The sobering truth is all who know Jesus Christ by grace through faith...are the true sons of Abraham. Even we Gentiles who believe in Christ...are the seed of Abraham, from God’s vantage point. In the sight of God, we are the children of Abraham...through faith.

## 2. **THE PROOF OF BEING MADE RIGHT WITH GOD BY FAITH IS BACKED BY**

**SCRIPTURE.** A person may say, “I am doing the best I can to be right with God!” or “I am trying to be a good moral person in order to go to heaven!” But the clear evidence of Scripture is that “faith” and “faith alone” is key.

Paul declared that God in His infinite wisdom had the capacity to foresee how the “heathen” would be saved by faith...and faith was initiated long before the crucifixion of Christ. Scripture reveals that “faith” was the key in the life of Abraham...for that was God’s required, namely “to believe”. For Abraham to be blessed, he simply had “to believe” and in believing through him **ALL** the nations of the world would be blessed. Just as Abraham was judged righteous by his faith, so are also **ALL** who have faith today. A person cannot believe in God apart from faith.

A person cannot believe that Jesus Christ lived on this earth, walked among man, and died on a cross for sinners, apart from faith. Scripture is the final word...and Scripture reveals that being

made right with God is by “faith” and not “works”. Some desire to work, but these questions must be asked. 1) What works are the right kind of works? 2) How many works must be done and to what degree? 3) What happens if a person is disabled and unable to work? If works is the way to salvation, then God forgot to include in Scripture many things. However, God never forgets...and He has made abundantly clear that “faith” is key to being made right with God.

God in His infinite love takes a person’s faith and credits to his account the righteousness that can only come through Christ. While we are not righteous and never will be righteous in and of ourselves...God credits our faith through His amazing love. “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ...” (Gal. 2:16)

3. **THROUGH THE LAW WE ARE UNDER A CURSE.** While the law is not bad, or evil, but from the heart of Holy God, the law reveals one sobering reality, the utter sinfulness of mankind and his inability to keep the laws given by God. The word for curse literally means “to be condemned and doomed to punishment”.

When Christ died on the cross, in His death”, He bore the very “curse” that all mankind deserved. In Jesus death was the full “curse” of God vented for all sin, for all mankind, for all time. Jesus, pure, perfect death was sufficient for us...but reveals the power of “the curse” that has fallen to mankind. For a person to attempt to “keep the law” in the end, he will find himself “cursed” by God, banished by God, and eternally punished by God.

It is the height of folly to think that “mere man” can live the life that God requires...that has only been done by one...namely Christ. Then the question must be asked, “Is the law bad?” The truth of Scripture reveals that “through the law”, we find our utter fallen nature. The law simply points the sobering truth that no one can live up to the law.

No one is good enough, perfect enough, pure enough, strong enough, and able enough to keep the “whole law of God”...with the exception of Jesus Christ. It was because Jesus kept all the law, that God accepted His perfect life as the sacrifice for the entire world. The Living Bible declares it this way in v. 11, “Consequently, it is clear that NO ONE can ever win God’s favor by trying to keep the Jewish laws...the only way we can be made right in his sight is by faith. As the prophet Habakkuk says it, ‘The man who finds life will find it through trusting God’.” The wonder of God’s love for us is that He never says: 1) work for salvation, 2) work to stay saved, 3) work to be loved, 4) work to stay loved, 5) work to receive His grace. But rather the full grace of the Father is revealed and given to that person who TRUSTS HIM and by faith, walks with Him, day by day. And the glory of it all is that at His time we will go home with Him. By and only through God’s amazing grace, He has “bought us back” or redeemed us from the curse that is found in the law. Praise Him.