

Under Arrest **Galatians 3:23-29**

When I got saved I was witnessing to a family member & making the point that we're all **sinners** in need of a **savior**. They didn't believe people were born sinners but were born basically good. Then they said "I'm a good person & live a good life" God will accept me- *'I basically live by the good book, 10 commandments & God will accept me on that basis.*

A very optimistic view which a lot of people have--but even the greatest law-keeper of the NT, **Paul the apostle**, said *For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish...wretched man... Rom 7:19* Paul said that *before he understood the true intent of the law, that it is spiritual*. He lived a so-called righteous life by the law & was blameless—that is in outward actions but not inward attitude. *It is amazing how people who say they are good people and live by 10 commandment get so angry, rude & not want to talk to you, when you tell them they don't really keep the commandments--God says so.*

Most don't understand the purpose of the law. *Rom 3:20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.*

So we discover that works of the law & believing in faith are mutually exclusive for salvation. You cannot be a **legalistic person of faith**. The joining of **faith** & **law** is like blending ice water & butter- they don't mix or cohere. Legalistic faith is an **Oxymoron** like Jumbo shrimp, Chicken nuggets, kickstand, war games, bad health, taped live, drag race, working vacation, global village, exact estimate, limited obligation, routine emergency, slightly pregnant *What is the role of the law when it comes to our salvation and our relationship w/ God?*

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Gal 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.

The law arrests & imprisons us. It keeps us in custody, in a state of continual incarceration. Being in custody it has *advantages* & *disadvantages*. *Illus of arrest after married* or *Grand theft auto*

What it does for us...makes us reflect on wrongs done. Brings a sense of guilt & humiliation for crimes committed. Keeps us from further bad behavior. And makes us want to be released.

24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.

Tutor was a slave in the Greek household called a *child-director*, having charge of the minor children. Their job was to watch over child's morals & protect from harmful influences & associations (*bad company corrupts good morals*). The tutor brought the child to & from school & turned them over to schoolmaster for instruction. Would discipline the child if necessary.

The law of God is our tutor, it instructs us, rebukes us, reveals sin. It's like a mirror--shows what's there--flaws & flith--points out our sin & errors & at the same time condemns us for those things—By doing so it drives us, by guilt of sin, to receive God's mercy, grace & forgiveness.

Preaching should confront sinners w/ the fact they have broken God's moral law & there is a penalty to pay. ***Wages of sin is death*** but God is willing to pardon those who repentant of sin & believe in Christ. The law warns, threatens & convicts of sin but it cannot make us righteous or bring us to heaven. Only faith in Christ justifies the sinner--law can only condemn. *Illus parachute on plane*

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God's law reveals God's righteous character. Tells us what standard God requires to come to Him- **perfection**. It condemns us & exposes all our sins. *Illus airport metal detector. Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? Rom 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good in not.*

God has placed w/in every person a universal consciousness of sin, of right & wrong. It's called the **moral law of God**. From **Bushman** to **Businessman** each person knows it is wrong to **steal** your neighbors TV or pig or to **covet** his wife or **murder** him. Whether written on **stone tablets**, printed in a **bible** or engraved on the **heart**, God's laws are universal & inherently known, we are w/o excuse.

25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Once the Law serves it's purpose we no longer need it as a tutor, convicting of sin. Law provokes our sin nature, stirs it up, then tells us we are guilty. Law doesn't create sin only exposes it. *Like X ray machine.*

Strict boarding school kids in line for lunch, nuns put sign on bowl of apples, **take only one God is watching**. At the end of the table was a bowl of cookies, a child had scribbled on a napkin next to the bowl, **take all the cookies you want God's watching the apples.**

Whether it's keep off grass, don't touch wet paint, stop sign in middle of no where, no trespassing

We welcome police in neighborhood, accident scene, emergencies—they are there to enforce the law and we like that. Unless we see a police car in rearview? Panic? Check our speed, safety check, insurance card current, etc. Or radar gun. If relationship w/ God was based on keeping speed limit & obeying the traffic laws to the tee we'd be basket case. *No ticket cop*

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

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Faith elevates a person above the law & our sinful nature. Faith brings us to new level of life *'the law of the spirit of life in Christ'* – freed from law of sin and death.

But before faith the law must be allowed to do it's work. **Ex. *Thou shall not murder...anger. Thou shall not commit adultery...lust.***

To be accepted by God according to the law, we must be **perfect** in deed & thought. *H/S convict world sin, righteousness & judgment. Righteousness because I go to the Father*—only righteousness God will accept—Jesus set bar unattainable—a perfect life, no flaws, no sin, the spotless Lamb of God.

Don't excuse guilt by *'they made me do it'* or run from sin w/ pills, parties, drugs, alcohol, bizarre behavior. Guilt drives some people to take their own life (30% higher suicide rate w/ gays). Some deny guilt *'by creating make believe reality'*, **CHS--'Remember, he that believes shall be saved, be his sins ever so many. And he that believes not must perish, be his sins ever so few.'**

There has been a loss of sensitivity to sin—10 Commandments eliminated frustrating work of the law to convict & lead to Christ. Tutor been fired.

CHS-I do not believe that any man can preach the gospel who does not preach the law. The law is the needle, and you cannot draw the silken thread of the gospel thru a man's heart unless you first send the needle of the law to make way for it. If men do not understand the law, they will not feel that they are sinners, they will never value the sin offering. There is no healing a man till the law has wounded him, no making him alive till the law has slain him.'

The law was given to prevent all attempts to look inward for righteousness & in that frustration to come to the grace of God by faith in Jesus.

Spurgeon: Faith is hard because it is easy. It is difficult because there is no difficulty in it. And it seems obscure simply because it is so clear.

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

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Baptism a metaphor— immersed in Christ – put on clothing – new life in the spirit--different from the life of the flesh. **Before:** arrested/imprisoned by the law, **now** free in Christ—**Before:** child of darkness, **now** child of light in Christ—**Before:** guilty of sin **now** forgiven by God—**Before:** living in the energy of the flesh **now** by the power of the Holy Spirit

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Bible tells how to solve race relations—no distinction but we are one in Christ. All equal as a child of God having the same faith as Abraham. His offspring-*Sperma*-what geminates from same source- **the seed** the kernel which contains within itself the origin of future plants—us, believers-planting of the Lord.

No barriers or prejudices or divisions but equality -diversity w/ unity—brothers and sisters in the Lord w/o distinction.

Heirs-one who inherits of all Gods promises