

Reflection Questions

Doctrine (What does this passage teach us):

Were you justified by faith or by the works of the Law?

Reproof (What wrong thinking does this passage expose):

What does it look like to live out your sanctification by faith?

Correction (How does this passage fix wrong thinking):

We often view sanctification as “our” work while justification is God’s work. How does this passage correct that thinking?

Instruction in Righteousness (How does this passage help us to continue):

How can we continue to live by faith?

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Ephesians 6:10-17

Song #291 ~ O Church, Arise

Prayer

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 27:1-9

Song #90 ~ My Shepherd Will Supply My Needs

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 28:1-27

Prayer

Sermon ~ Galatians 3:1-5

Prayer

Lord’s Supper

Song #196 ~ His Robes for Mine

Galatians 3:8

The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, all the nations will be blessed in you.

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Text: Galatians 3:1-5

Theme: Justification is by faith apart from the works of the Law.

Introduction: How do we reconcile Paul's statements about the Law? On the one hand, Paul says that the Law is good and righteous and holy (Rom. 7:12). On the other hand Paul says that he died to the Law (Rom. 7:4; Gal. 2:19). In addition, Paul says that we are released from the Law (Rom. 7:6). The author of Hebrews says that the Mosaic Covenant has become obsolete (Heb. 8:13). So, what is our relationship to the Law?

Paul argues in Galatians 3 that salvation and sanctification are both the work of the Holy Spirit. The Law is helpful, in that it teaches us about God's view of holiness and our own sinfulness (Gal. 3:24). But we are led by the Spirit, we are not under the Law (Gal. 5:18).

- I) Both salvation *and* sanctification are a work of the Spirit not the flesh (1-5).
 - A. Did you receive the Holy Spirit by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith (1-2)?
 1. Paul's language seems harsh. Not only are they foolish, but they must have been bewitched (1). Since they were relying on their ability to obey the Law, the cross of Christ, then, was no longer necessary.
 2. The obvious answer to Paul's rhetorical question is that we receive the Holy Spirit by hearing with faith and not by the works of the Law. In fact, later Paul explains the need for preachers because how will they believe if they have not heard (Rom. 10:14).
 3. "Hearing with faith" refers to hearing that is accompanied by faith (Rom. 10:14; cf. Moo).

- B. If you began your Christian journey by faith, wouldn't it stand to reason that you would continue by faith (3-4)?
 1. Salvation to sanctification is a work of the Holy Spirit and not a work of the flesh (3). But certainly, we are to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12). Or, as the author of Hebrews says, "you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin" (Heb. 12:4). But even in these examples, it is "God who is at work in us" (Phil. 2:13).
 2. How do you know if you are living out your sanctification by faith? If you are living by faith you will work diligently at work because you are serving the Lord. If you are overlooked for a promotion, do you become discontent? If you are doing it by faith, you can be content right where God has you, although disappointment is natural. If you find yourself discontent, then you were attempting to work apart from faith.
 3. If you continue in your sanctification apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, you will have run in vain (4).
- C. God gave the Holy Spirit by hearing with faith and not by the works of the Law (5).
 1. Paul is summing up his point. Clearly, God gave the Holy Spirit by faith with hearing and not by obedience to the Law. So why would you go back to the works of the Law?

Conclusion: Since sanctification is a work of the Holy Spirit, let us pray diligently. Let us pray that we would put sin to death. Let us pray that we would serve others.