

17th October 2021

## **Losing My Religion: The Righteous Shall Live by Faith**

### **I. Foolishness of Legalism – Galatians 3:1-5**

- Religion is solidly grounded in the lie that man has to perform to gain God's approval.
- *Legalism is seeking to achieve forgiveness from God, justification before God, and acceptance by God through obedience to God* – C. J. Mahaney
- The choice is ours – God's grace and presence or our futile efforts!

### **II. The Example of Abraham - Galatians 3:6-9**

Abraham heard and believed and was considered righteous. The only prescription of the gospel is faith – it has not changed from Abraham's day to this.

### **III. The Righteous Shall Live by Faith – Galatians 3:10-14**

#### **a. Living Under Law is a Curse – v. 10 – 12**

The law doesn't let you off the hook – that's the curse.

#### **b. Christ Redeemed Us from the Curse – v. 13**

Jesus went to the cross not because He was cursed under the law, but because we were – He became all that we are so that we might become all that He is!

#### **c. Receipt of the Spirit – v.14**

Intimacy with God through his Spirit, made possible through the work of God the Son, is the inheritance we're destined for.

Don't be bewitched! Reliance on works of the law leaves you under a curse, relationally distant from God but **the righteous shall live by faith!**

## Reflection Questions<sup>1</sup>:

*Reliance on works of the law leads to a dead end, a spiritual graveyard. All the obedience that you might muster from this day to the day you die will not make you right with God. Only faith – which abandons self-reformation and striving and receives what God has done – enjoys the promise of His kingdom.<sup>2</sup>*

1. Have you ever been in a season when your walk with Christ moved from faith to self-effort? Describe what led you there and how you moved out of that season.
2. Have you ever felt “bewitched” by false teachers? How do you discern the truth of the gospel from false teachings?
3. How can we tell the difference between the religion-driven things that we do and those that are faith-driven?
4. In your view, what is the biggest difference between Law and faith? How would you describe their relationship with each other?
5. What does the promise of the Spirit mean? (see John 14:15-21, Acts 1:4-5, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22) How would you describe your experience with the Holy Spirit’s power in your life?
6. Why do you think Paul would point them to their personal experience to prove justification by faith and not by works? How does your personal experience with God help you fight against legalism today?

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from <https://thestory.church/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/No-Other-Gospel-Youtube-Discussion-Guides.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> *Live in Liberty: The Spiritual Message of Galatians* by Daniel Bush & Noel Due; p. 86