

THE SCIENCE OF SALVATION

Saved By Grace Through Faith



INTRODUCTION: “For He made Him **who knew no sin to be sin for us**, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”(2 Corinthians 5:21)

It is almost impossible for anyone to die for a good or righteous person, **But Christ died for the ungodly.** He died for the world that did not love him at all, so that they may be saved. **No love can be greater than this one, the theme that we, fallen humanity, cannot fully comprehend.** Throughout the endless ages to come, this theme will be re-echoed in song and study by both the redeemed and the angels.

Grace, Faith, The Law, Righteousness and Salvation, are themes that appear regularly in the Bible and are mostly discussed among the Christians. But since the understanding of them gives birth to different theologies and denominations, it's

imperative that we spend some time looking into them. **Without a proper understanding of these themes, a Christian doesn't understand his own salvation.** We pray that the Spirit who guides “**into all truth**” can enlighten our minds to understand this all important truth. Let's begin by looking at how man was

Made In The Image Of God.

The Great Architect of the Universe formed man from the dust, and made him in His own “**Image**” (Gen 1:26, 1 Cor 11:7, see also James 3:9). The word “**Image**” here can be otherwise named “**a copy**” or “**a resemblance**”, and it refers **especially to the Moral character of God** (see Ephesians 4:24, Colossians 3:10). Says the Psalmist, “**Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool—He is holy.**” (Psalm 99:5). God, you see, is holy, and Man

was made in His Image **to especially reflect this holy character**. In His actions and words, **He was to be a representation of God on earth**. When the Lord saw everything he made that **“it was very good”**(Gen 1:31), that obviously included man’s moral character, made after the similitude of God. Conclusively, then, **man was sinless when he was made**.

The Fall Of Humanity

God is the King of the Universe, and **He has a kingdom** (Psalms 145:13,Daniel 2:44). **His throne is established in heaven** (Psalms 11:4, 103:19). In giving Adam a command not to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree (Genesis 2:16,17), the Lord was demonstrating **that His Kingdom is of perfect order and requires obedience**.

There’s no earthly government which doesn’t have a constitution, you see. God has a set of

laws (a divine constitution), and **the eternity of His Kingdom necessitates the eternity of His law** (compare with Ps 111:7,8), and since the constitution is set up in order to “..**promote the general Welfare...**” of the citizens as the USA constitution states in its preamble, then the constitution of God’s eternal government is no different. Its laws are there for the wellbeing of all his creatures. And the fact that He himself is Holy and doesn’t delight in sin, **then His law portrays Holiness**. It is essentially a transcript of His very character, **the character which Adam was imbued with**.

Adam’s act of disobedience proved ruin to Himself. By listening to the voice of Satan rather than the voice of God, He had fallen into idolatry and, in principle, had broken the commandment which says, “**You shall have no other gods before me**.”(Exodus 20:3) even though this law wasn’t written yet. Likewise by coveting the fruit, the tenth commandment,

“You shall not covet”(Exodus 20:17) was broken.

And since, **“..whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”**(James 2:10), then Adam had broken the whole of God’s law - a divine constitution. And keep in mind that the temptation to sin didn’t come from within (because Adam and Eve were made holy in the first place) **but from without**. This is especially true when we look at what happened, **“So when the woman saw** that the tree was good for food, **that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.** She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”(Genesis 3;6, 2 Cor 11:3). **Her eyes, as you can see, deceived her into eating.** Thus, by breaking God’s holy law, **man lost the divine moral image and was therefore disconnected from God.** He naturally started loving sin rather than righteousness. **He became opposed to the**

divine constitution whose existence was for his own well being. What a deep ditch he fell into!! And do you think his action pleased the Lord? No, no more than the action of a disobedient child can please his parents.

The Nature Of The Children Of Adam.

The Holy Writ records that, “.. **just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin,** and thus **death spread to all men, because all sinned...For as by one man ’ s disobedience many were made sinners..**”(Romans 5:12,19), “ **Man who is born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble.**”(Job 14:1), “**Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.**”(Psalms 51:5).

These scriptures, you see, indisputably show

that **we all inherit the sinful nature of Adam**, and we naturally tend to go against the Rulership of the Eternal God. We can't naturally follow the divine laws, we love cherishing fleshly lusts.

Just like Adam fell into sin, so have we fallen into the same. And just like Adam broke God's law commanded him, so have we broken it even more. And it's even more difficult for us because, unlike Adam, **our inward natural inclinations are drawn towards evil**.(James 1:13-15) Thus the scripture indicates that among the descendants of Adam, **"There is none who does good, No, not one"**, for all have become **"corrupt"**(Psalm 53:3).

All Are Under Condemnation.

But What is Sin? It is **"the transgression**

of the law.”(1 John 3:4, KJV). When you break the law, you sin, and when you sin you break the law. Thus, Not only can we deduce from this that **sin exists only when the law exists**, but also scripture itself confirms this very point when it says, “..**for where there is no law there is no transgression.**”(Rom 4:15), because **you can’t have sin when there’s no law to break**, isn’t that right?.

Again, since it is possible for the state of sinlessness to exist, and did exist before Lucifer’s fall, **then the law can and did exist without sin**, but **sin can only exist in the presence of the law**.

Another important point to note is that **if sin is breaking God’s law, then the law itself reveals sin**. Says the Apostle, “...**I would not have known sin except through the law.** For I would not have known **covetousness unless the law had said, ‘You shall not covet.’** But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, **produced in me all manner of evil desire.**

For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.”(Romans 7:7-9). As clear as Inspiration can make it, we know what sin is because of the law (Rom 3:20), because if there’s no commandment, we may just assume what sin is. If you take away the law, you think that you’re righteous, **that sin is dead in you.** Look into the law and you will see your own sinfulness.

Now you recall that the law was not written down until 430 years later from the time of Abraham (Galatians 3:17) at Mount Sinai. This means that **all who lived between Adam and Moses sinned without a written law.** “(For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law). Nevertheless **death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam,** who is a type of Him

who was to come.” (Romans 5:13,14). That is, the fact that **death reigned between Adam and Moses** shows that it existed because sin existed even though there was no written law. But when it was written down, everyone was without excuse. Yes, “**the law entered that the offense might abound..**”(Rom 5:20) and it “**was added because of transgressions..**”(Galatians 3:19), that is, added “**to create transgressions**” or “**reveal**” what transgression really is. Before this, it wasn’t fully revealed and therefore wasn’t “**imputed [legally accounted] where there is no[written] law.**”

And what happened afterwards? The Law, you must remember, is God’s transcript of Character. It is the standard of His righteousness. **This means that anyone who keeps it perfectly may live (for he has no sin).** (see Ezekiel 20:11,13). In other words, **the law spares one’s life when it’s perfectly kept**, for it can’t condemn then.

But Alas, “.. **the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, **and by it killed me.**” (Romans 7:10,11) And since “**the wages of sin is death**”(Romans 6:23), and since the Word of God has declared “**all under sin**”(Gal 3:22), then the law, **which was supposed to give life, only condemned all to death as a penalty or “wages” for sin.**

“ Therefore,..**through one man ’ s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation.**..”(Romans 5:18) The law, you see, **only condemns. It never saves, and no one has ever broken it before, “all men” are under this condemnation.** No one has always given “**glory**” to God (Rev 14:7), and **What’s God’s glory?** When Moses beseeched the Lord to show him His glory, the Lord determined to cause his “**goodness**” to

pass by as His “**glory**” while Moses hid in the rock (Ex 33:18-23). So it happened that the Lord “.. **passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.**”(Ex 34:6). God’s glory, you see, is His character (Goodness, Mercy, Long-suffering e.t.c) revealed in the Law.

And the Scripture declares that, “ **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.**”(Rom 3:23). That is, because all have sinned (broken God’s law) therefore **they have failed to meet God’s standard of the law (“have come short of the glory of God”)** Every single person is condemned by the law, none is exempted.

The Plan of Salvation By Grace

The Plan of Salvation is the Plan by God to

Save fallen humanity without compromising either Love or Justice. When Adam broke God's Law, the Law itself condemned him to death, because he sinned. This means that it was and is **absolutely impossible for man to save himself from the condemnation of the law, because he can't naturally keep it perfectly**. He couldn't save himself, or **"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one."**(Job 14:4). Manifestly, then, **man was only going to be saved by God's own intervention**, otherwise commonly known as **God's grace. Grace**, you see, **is an undeserved favor given to someone.**

But what are the details and what is the significance of this plan of Salvation? Let's dig a little bit deeper.

You must recall that the Lord is **"A just God.."**(Isa 45:21), **"...all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without**

injustice.”(Deuteronomy 32:4). This implies that since His character (full of justice) is transcribed in the Law, **then logically His Law is Just too (Romans 7:12)**. Not only is God Just, but He is “**Love**” also (1 John 4:8,16).

So what happened when man sinned? **The Justice of the Law that had been broken demanded that he should die.** God couldn’t have said, “**Forget about the demands of the Law you’ve broken, I will save you because I love you.**” Because in doing so, **he would have compromised his own justice while uplifting His Love.** Likewise, He couldn’t have said, “I love you, but I am not going to save you from death because that’s what the Law demands.” Because He wouldn’t then have demonstrated His Love for man while uplifting His Justice.

Thus, the Plan of Salvation was about finding a way to save fallen man without compromising either Justice or Love.

Interestingly enough, there was no other way found except by **Offering Himself as a ransom**. Thus it happened that just before the beginning of AD, the second time block of this world's history, Christ, the Word, who is essentially God, **"became flesh and dwelt among us."**(John 1:1,14). Without any doubt, the Creator entered into His creation as Jesus of Nazareth **"..who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."**(Acts 10:38). Yes, **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."**(John 3:16).

When Christ died on the cross, the Justice of the Law (which demanded that man should die) was met in that **"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us."**(Galatians 3:13). He took our punishment upon himself and died the death that we were supposed to die. **"He was**

wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities.”(Isa 53:5).

And His Love was demonstrated in that we didn't die, and that if we believe in Him, we will have eternal life. “For **God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.** He who believes in Him is not condemned ... ” (John 3:17,18) “...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”(1 Peter 2:24). “For the wages of sin is death, **but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”(Romans 6:23).

Notice that Salvation through Christ is “**the gift of God.**” No one buys it, it is freely offered by grace and you can only accept it by faith. **If fallen man was able to earn Salvation and Righteousness by works, by**

law keeping, Christ wouldn't have died on the cross. It is only through the grace of God in Christ that we can get these.

Says the Apostle, "I do not set aside the grace of God; **for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.**" (Galatians 2:21). "For **by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

And remember that as long as we are not in Christ, **we are under the condemnation of the law which we keep breaking to this day.**

If we receive Salvation by faith, then scripture comes to light which declares, " **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,** who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:1-2).

This is the Plan of Salvation for fallen humanity, **not by law keeping (because mankind has terribly failed to keep the law perfectly), but purely by His Own Grace.**

But when was this Plan framed?

Inspiration says that it is God, “who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to **His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began**” (2 Timothy 1:9). Indeed Christ is “...**the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**”(Rev 13:8). The Plan of Salvation, you see, was not an aftermath, something that was framed after the fall of man, but something that was hidden in secret by God before the world began, and has been revealed in the Sacrifice of Christ.

Only One Way Of Salvation, Only One Saviour.

In view of the fact that Christ became Incarnate, so that **“the world through Him might be saved.”**(John 3:18), and that He’s **“the way, the truth, and the life..”**(John 14:16), and also that, **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”** (Acts 4:12), the truth is conclusively stated that **There’s only One Saviour, Jesus Christ, and there’s only One Way Of Salvation, that is through Jesus Christ both in the Old and New Testament.**

As soon as Adam sinned, God clothed them with the **“coats of skins”**(Gen 3:21) from the typical lamb which He slew, showing them that their only hope was in the real **“Lamb of God”** that was to come and **legally take away the sins of the world** (John 1:29). Thus, the Plan of Salvation was put into operation at that time, and **through all the ceremonial sacrifices** of the Old Testament, **the people of**

God were to look by faith to the Christ to come in the New Testament.

You recall that the Sacrificial lambs were to be **“without blemish”**, and whenever the sinner who had broken God’s law laid **“his hand on the head of the sin offering”**(Leviticus 4:27-28) in confession, **his sins were figuratively taken away from him and transferred to the innocent substitute, whose blood, after being slain, was transferred into the sanctuary together with the sins of the repentant sinner, in figure.**

But why shed blood? We read, **“For the life of the flesh is in the blood... it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”**

(Leviticus 17:11). Notice that **blood is life**. None of us can live when blood is taken from us. Thus, when the sinner, after breaking God’s law, **is condemned to death (about to lose his life)**, a sacrificial offering not only takes the penalty (by dying through blood shed), but

also its blood covers the sinner and cancels his sin. **“Without shedding of blood there is no remission.”** (Hebrews 9:22). Thus, the sinner doesn’t deserve to have life, but it is graciously given to him, not because of any good thing he has done, and he’s required to believe by faith that the sacrifice has completely taken away his guilty.

Now all these were just shadows, pointing to the real sacrifice to Come. **“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”**(1 Peter 1:18,19). **“Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many...”**(Hebrews 9:28). **“For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all ...”**(Romans 6:10). **“For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”**(1 Cor 5:7).

Thus again and again we are brought face to face with the fact that **there's only One Saviour and One Way Of Salvation, One gospel in both dispensations.** “For indeed **the gospel was preached to us as well as to them.**”(Hebrews 4:2). The only difference is that the people in the Old Testament **were being saved through the promise of the Christ who was to come,** but the people in the New Testament **are saved through the promise of the Christ who has come.**

Christ Legally Took Away The Sins of All

“For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, **can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For **then would they not have ceased to be offered?****

For the worshipers, **once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.** But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. **For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.**”(Hebrews 10:1-4)

Notice that the law of those ceremonial sacrifices **could not literally take away the sins of the people,** for the simple fact that they continued to offer sacrifices whenever they sinned. If those sacrifices truly forgave and perfected people, they wouldn't have continued to be offered daily. **The blood of goats and bulls doesn't contain power and life to purge and save a sinner.** Indeed **not even the life of an angel could have saved mankind.** He who said, “I am the resurrection, and the life.”(John 11:25) was the only one qualified to give life to a sinner, for he **had life in himself** (John 1:4).

The statement “**For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away**

sins.” clearly shows that the Old Testament people were not legally forgiven, their sins were not really taken away.

Inspiration continues, “**Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.’ He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** And every priest stands ministering daily and **offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever,** sat down at the right hand of God.”(Hebrews 10:9-12)

By saying that “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God”, Christ demonstrates that **He had perfectly kept His Father’s “commandments”**(John 15:10), **the only Person to have ever done it.** He took away the Old Testament Levitical system which couldn’t take way sins and **replaced it with Himself,**

when he “**offered one sacrifice for sins forever.**” “Who does not need daily ... to offer up sacrifices... for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.” (Hebrews 7:27)

“ Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And **having been perfected,** He **became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.**” (Hebrews 5:8-9). Through His Suffering and Obedience , Christ became perfect or qualified to be “**the author of eternal salvation.**” (See also Hebrews 2:10, 7:28). He’s the only perfect Saviour who legally took away the sins of the world, not those sacrifices.

What then? Were the People of the Old Testament not really forgiven?

Paul explains that Christ was “..set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to

demonstrate His righteousness, **because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed**” (Romans 3:25) That is, God “**passed over**” Old Testament sins until Christ’s sacrifice made a **full atonement**(see also Hebrews 9:15).

Concerning the Old Testament faithful heroes, we read, “And **all these**, having obtained a good testimony **through faith, did not receive the promise**, God having provided **something better for us**, that **they should not be made perfect apart from us**.” (Hebrews 11:39,40). Notice that the Old Testament Heroes of Faith were not “**made perfect**” until Christ’s death. **They didn’t witness the promise of the Messiah. Their perfection is completed with the New Covenant work of Christ. When Christ died, their sins and the sins of all in the New Testament were placed upon Christ and legally forgiven.** Then it is that “the spirits[**life’s records**]” of these “**just**” men

were perfected in Heaven(Hebrews 12:23) through “..Jesus the mediator of the new covenant,” and through “the blood of sprinkling [Christ’s sacrifice], that speaketh better things than that [sacrifice] of Abel.”(Hebrews 12:24). This also shows that Had Jesus decided not to drink the cup of his sufferings, the Old Testament heroes would have remained hopeless in their graves, and the heavenly beings such as Enoch and Elijah would have lost their place in heaven. O how gracious and Loving the Lord is.

Abraham, The Father of the Faithful

“Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him,

‘ So shall your descendants be. ’ And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”(Genesis 15:5–6)

The words **“Justification”** and **“Righteousness”** are mostly used interchangeably. Justification is an instance where the sinner is made right with God. Important it is to understand that **since the law is the standard of God’s righteousness**, then if man had kept it perfectly from the beginning, **Justification would have been by works, law keeping**. But Scripture declares that **“all have sinned”**, disconnected from God, and **therefore the justification of fallen man can’t possibly be by his works but by trusting someone who kept God’s law perfectly, that is Christ.**

Abraham, you see, simply **“believed in the Lord”** and that made justification to be credited or imputed to Him, not by his own works since he was a sinner like us. **As soon as**

He believed, God forgave him and considered him to be righteous.

Paul expands this point when he said, **“For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say?**

‘ Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Now to

him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

‘ Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered;

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.’”(Romans 4:2-8)

Notice that **if Abraham, a sinner, was justified (made right with God) by his own works he would have had something to boast**

about but only for himself (fake or self righteousness) not before God, for he himself had come short of God's glory.

Thus God offered him grace which he **accepted by faith**, trusting that God was able to justify him. His hope was in the promised Messiah, “**Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.**”

(John 8:56). His “**lawless deeds**” were forgiven purely based on this promise. **It is for this very reason that His justification by faith came not after but before he was circumcised** (Romans 4:9,10), showing that Salvation wasn't dependent on the deeds of circumcision **but on true faith.**

This promise of justification by faith, you see, was not only made to Abraham **but also to all who were to come after him.** “And the Scripture, **foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand,** saying, ‘In you all

the nations shall be blessed.’”(Galatians 3:8).

As clear as Inspiration can make it, God purposed beforehand to justify or save the Gentiles in the exact same way, through the same gospel. The reason for this is that when it comes to law keeping,”..**everyone who does**

not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.’ ” is

cursed. And since no one has ever broken God’s law, then “..**as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse.**”(Galatians 3:10). And since this promise

of justifying the gentiles through faith was made to Abraham, and was determined to be accomplished through “**His Seed...who is**

Christ.” then the Law at Sinai (being 430 years after Abraham) **couldn’t override this promise**(Galatians 3:16,17). Thus, “ **Christ**

has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree ’), **that the blessing of Abraham**

might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”(Galatians 3:13-14). And if this is the case, **then the central theme of Salvation is Christ.**

And so when the Law was written at Sinai, it was given as a **“tutor”** or a **“schoolmaster”** to bring us **“unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”**(Gal 3:24). That is, the more people tried to keep the law and terribly failed, **the more they realized their sinfulness and the importance of Christ.** In other words, the law always told them, so to speak, that, **“You can’t keep me perfectly unless you rely wholly on Christ and His Sacrifice.”** It was in this way that the law tutored God’s people leading them to Christ.

When Christ came and took away the penalty or condemnation imposed by the law, people were no longer to be **“under a schoolmaster”** or **“under the law”** or **“under the curse”**(see

Gal 3:25, Rom 6:14), but under the real substance that was able to give them power to keep the law.

But What Kind of Faith Did Abraham Have? What is Faith even?

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ”

(Hebrews 11:1). Abraham , “..**not being weak in faith**, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. **He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.** And therefore **‘it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ ”**

(Romans 4:19-22). Abraham’s imputed righteousness, you see, **depended on his**

unwavering faith in God's word, believing that God was able to do everything He said. That's why, "...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."(Romans 10:17). Otherwise if God saves people from the curse of the law by allowing them to trust Him, what sense would it make if they just claim to have faith in him but that faith is not **leading** them to obedience? **"Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?"** Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, '**Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**' And he was called the friend of God. **You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only."**(James 2:21-24).

Abraham's imputed righteousness on account of His faith **did not let him remain disobedient to God's word like before, but**

made His faith fruitful. Notice that Abraham's faith **"was made perfect" by his works.** Remember that Christ is **"the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."**(Heb 12:2, NIV), that is, not only does He **produce faith in us**, he also **perfects it towards obedience.** **Salvation, you see, is a process.** First, Abraham, a sinner, was offered Grace and He accepted it by faith apart from works and thus he was justified (Romans 4:1-12). Second, His faith was perfected through the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, leading him to obedience, and thus He was Justified by His working Faith (James 2:21-24).

Clearly, then, we are Saved by Grace through faith, but this faith isn't inactive, no, no. It leads us to obey God. **"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."**(James 2:26).

Amazingly enough, It was not Just Abraham who had a working faith in the Old Testament. Abel also, **"By faith...offered to God a more**

excellent sacrifice than Cain” and thus he was **“righteous”**(Heb 11:4). Enoch, too, **“By faith...had this testimony, that he pleased God”** through his conduct(Heb 11:5). Wasn't Rahab also **“Justified by works”** when she did something for the spies?(James 2:25, Hebrews 11:35) What about Moses who, **“Through faith...kept the Passover..”**(Heb 11:28) and many others who acted their faith? Faith in Christ, leads us to obedience, you see.

The Israelites missed the Concept of Salvation

The Children of Israel in Egypt were, **by God's Grace**, allowed to participate in the Exodus, going to the land of promise. **When they came into the wilderness, God cautioned them to exercise faith in Him like their Father Abraham did.** But what happened? **“..who, having heard, rebelled”**? Indeed, **was it not all**

who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? **Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?** And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, **but to those who did not obey?** So we see **that they could not enter in because of unbelief.** ”

(Hebrews 3:16-19). “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; **but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith.**”(Hebrews 4:1-2).

The Israelites, you see, in trying to live their own lives, attempting to obey God (justified by the the works of the law) without faith in Him, fell “**from grace**”(Gal 5:4)

They didn’t realize that **only faith in God and the work of His Spirit could have led them to obedience.** Thus, because of their idolatry,

they perished in the wilderness, and those who went into the promised later had their kingdom divided and taken into captivity. After seventy years, they returned to Jerusalem **only to reject and crucify the only Lord and Saviour. They trusted in their works, and so they became self righteous and couldn't bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit.** Thus as a nation they completely **fell from God's grace** and it was the time for the Gentiles to be grafted in and be saved **“through faith.”** Said Christ, “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and **given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.**”(Matthew 21:43)

Salvation is by Grace through faith.

“For **by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**”(Ephesians 2:8,9).

Salvation is a gift offered to us by God's grace (because we don't deserve it), and we accept it by faith. This work of Salvation that introduces us to Christ and gives us the title to heaven, is certainly without works. “ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for ‘the just shall live by faith.’”(Habakkuk 2:4)

What then? Is the Law of God unnecessary? Not at all. The apostle explained the battle between sin working in us and the law. “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law...the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”(Romans 7:7,10-12).

Notice that Paul clearly says that **the law isn't the problem in the work of Salvation. The problem is the sinful nature of man.** The law is holy, just and good. It is the standard of God's righteousness and we've fallen short of it.

Not only that, the law can't even solve the sin problem in us. It only puts us under condemnation. **"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.** For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me." (Rom 7:14-17). Because the law is spiritual and we are unspiritual (nothing good dwells in our flesh, just sin), **so there seems to be a conflict between our salvation and the law.** The text says that we by conscience want to do good but we end up doing bad, and whenever this

happens we “**agree with the law that it is good**” Because it’s aligned with the good we want to do but we don’t. Thus we are bound to the law, and Christ’s death releases us from its condemnation. As the woman is bound to her husband by the law and when he dies she’s released from it (Rom 7:2), so we become released (dead) to the law’s penalty and be united with Christ through faith (Rom 7:4), “**But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.**”(Rom 7:6)

“Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But **where sin abounded, grace abounded much more**, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”(Romans 5:20,21) The law came to reveal sin, but where

there was more sin, God's grace was much more there, and while sin leads to death, Grace leads to righteousness and eternal life through Christ, isn't that interesting? Hence the question, **"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"**(Romans 6:1,2). Grace, you see, condemns sin (breaking of God's law), it leads us to be **"dead indeed to sin"**, to make sin not to have **"dominion"** over us, because **"we are not under the law, but under grace."**(That is, we are **no longer under the condemnation of the law**, but under God's grace which condemns sin.) Thus, **"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,** who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."**"**(Rom 8:1) By receiving the Spirit by faith in Christ's sacrifice we are no longer under condemnation, **and no longer practicing the fleshly habits which the law**

condemns. Because “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” has made us “free from the law of sin and death.”(verse 2) That is, because of His Spirit, we no longer live in the flesh to sin and to be damned to death. “For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh.”(verse 3) The Law having thus failed to produce righteousness in us because of our failure to keep it, Christ, you see, kept the law perfectly and condemned sinner in the human flesh “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”(verse 4)

God’s principle of Salvation doesn’t change, you see. He has saved us from sin so that through faith in Christ he might lead us to obedience, fulfilling **“the righteous requirement of the law”** in us as long as we

continue to walk in the spirit.

Trying to Keep God's principles apart from the grace which Christ has offered is like fighting a losing battle, establishing your "own righteousness" and not entirely accepting God's. **"For Christ is the end of the law for**

righteousness to everyone who believes."(Rom 10:4). That is, He's the

fulfillment of it (compare with Matthew 5:17-19). The righteous requirement of the law is fulfilled in Christ, the only one we can look to. **"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."**(verse 5-8). It is only those who fail to accept Christ by faith and allow him to

purge them of their lustful passions **that can't find pleasure in being subjected to the law, the standard of Christ's righteousness.** Again we see that Grace doesn't nullify the law, neither does faith.

Let's put the pieces together to see the whole picture.

Justification By Faith Without Works.

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference.”(Rom 3:21,22) Notice that **the righteousness of God is revealed to all people without the law. This is the Grace of God which is freely offered to all,** and the reason for having no exception is because **“all**

have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”(Rom 3:23) Therefore, all are simply **“being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”**(verse 24). It is a free gift which the sinner has to accept. Christ alone is **“just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”** None others are qualified. **“Where is boasting then?”** By anyone who thinks that they have something to contribute to their salvation? Obviously **“It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”**(Rom 3:27,28). You see if we were able to find our own way to Salvation, **Christ would have died in vain.** But while we were yet sinners, He died for us.

These scriptures, you see, **lead us to one conclusion:** We’ve all broken God’s law, But Christ came to bring Salvation down to us by

grace, not because of any good that we've done. **We have to accept this gift by faith, realizing that He has taken away all our sins.** When we do this, **then immediately righteousness is credited or imputed to us. It is an instant act,** just like a publican who, after recognizing his sinfulness, faithfully asked for forgiveness and **immediately went to his house justified** (Luke 18:10-14). By accepting Christ as our Saviour, He counts us as though we've never sinned or broken God's law before. **It's is the righteousness or justification that Christ does for us when we simply recognize our sinfulness and relies wholly on Him.** This is the righteousness credited to Abraham in Romans 4.

Justification By Faith That Works.

While it's true that "a man is justified **by faith without the works of the law.**"(Romans 3:28),

it's also true that, "For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, **but the doers of the law will be justified.**" (Romans 2:13).

Likewise, while it's true that **Abraham was justified by faith without works** (Romans 4:2-4), it's also true that **He was justified by faith with works** (James 2:21-22). Both sides are correct,

The Justification or Righteousness credited to us when we accept Christ by faith is completely without works.

But then Christ perfects this faith in us (Heb 12:2) to produce good works. Through the Gracious working of the Holy Spirit, **our inward nature is gradually changed after the Divine Moral Image that Adam lost through sin.** This is what Paul meant when he said, "I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**" (Galatians 2:20).

This stage of justification, otherwise known as Sanctification, doesn't happen at once. It is a process of making a repentant sinner holy so that he can naturally respond to the claims of God's law. When we start dying "daily" to self, we start partaking of Christ's divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). The righteousness we start possessing at this stage is Imparted, the one which Christ does in us, whereas the one we get when we receive Christ by faith is Imputed, the one which Christ does for us. Imputed righteousness is our title to Heaven, we get it by faith without works, whereas Imparted righteousness is our fitness for heaven, Christ does it in us, giving us the faith that works. Christ "gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14). So it is that only those who shall "endure to the the end" (Matthew 24:13) that shall finally be saved at Christ's coming. None others will.

And Christ says, **“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;** for without Me you can do nothing. **If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”**(John 15:4-6). **“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”**(James 2:19,20).

Now you see that A mere profession of faith in Christ will not save anyone. If the faith doesn't bear fruit, it's not genuine and therefore won't take anyone into the Kingdom. If those who accept Christ as their Saviour fail

to allow the Spirit to produce in them much fruit, they will eventually fall from Grace.

“For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.”(Titus 3:3)

That is, we were just living in sin, breaking God’s law and were therefore under condemnation.

“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”(verse**

4-7)

That is, He Saved us by His Grace, not because of our works. But after he had saved us, **he gave us the Holy Spirit to regenerate and renew us.** Then what?

“This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, **that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.**”(verse 8).

Notice that after the regeneration of the Holy Spirit come upon the believers, **they produce good works which they have to maintain..**So then true faith saves a sinner, and as a result produces good fruit in him. “Therefore , **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.** ” (2 Cor 5:17). This is Sanctification, **This is Righteousness by faith**

that works.

Does Grace and Faith Abolish the Law?

Not at all. If Christ saved us from sin (from breaking of God's Law), **He leads us to obedience, back to the divine constitution (keeping God's Law), a thing that we can't do for ourselves unless we put our trust in God.** “Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.”(Romans 3:31).

Faith in Christ, you see, doesn't take away the law. **Why would Christ die if the law has been abolished?** If there were no real law, **there would be no need for Christ to die.** The cross itself establishes the seriousness and authority of God's law. Or has God removed Justice from the universe if the law has been abolished? Certainly not. **The law is like a**

mirror to reveal our sinful spots and points us to Christ who can cleanse us (compare with James 1:22-25). When we keep it as a result of our faith in Christ, we show that we love him. “ **If you love Me, keep My commandments.**”(John 14:15) “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. **He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**”(1 John 2:3–4) “Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”(1 John 3:24) “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. **And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.**” (1 John 5:3–4). Our faith, you see, gives us victory over sin. **It really enables us to keep God’s law.** When Christ nature is

formed in us, we will hate sin and love him more. The 10 commandments will no longer be a burden.

The Spirit will enable you to have “no other gods” before God, not to “make any graven images...to worship them”, not to “take the name of the Lord your God in vain”, to “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy” as God’s memorial of Creation, to “honor your father and your mother”, not to “kill” nor “commit adultery”, nor “steal”, nor bear “false witness”, nor “covet”(Exodus 20:3-17), but you shall faithfully fulfil the law of love

(Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 19:17). Just as a genuine and well watered seed grows into a tree that produces much fruit, **So when the faith is genuine it leads us to keep God’s Law as he pleases. Therefore, “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”(Philippians 2:12) and be “purified...in obeying the truth..”(1 Peter 1:22).**

Total Victory Over Sin Before The Second Coming.

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”(1 John 1:8-10)

This scripture clearly concludes that we all do sin. But when does this kind of sinning occur? **It occurs after one has accepted Christ, for it says that believers (including John) are to confess their sins at the time of this writing.** The apostle further talks about the same when he says, “My little children, these things I write to you, **so that you may not sin. And if**

anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” (1 John 2:1).

This is so because believers, during their sanctification process, may fall into sin and arise. Indeed “**..a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again,** But the wicked shall fall by calamity.” (Proverbs 24:16). He’s not deliberately sinning, he sins because the image of Christ is not fully formed in him. What happens when Christ’s divine image is fully formed? Let’s read,

“We know that **whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.**” (1 John 5:18).

Here the apostle talks about **believers who cannot sin after they are fully born of God, after His image is fully formed in them. It is Christ’s Righteousness fully perfected in a**

believer. This state of perfection, however, no one has yet reached, but the time comes when many will reach it.

Looking forward to the time when probation will end, we read, **“He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”**(Revelation 22:11).

Notice that when Probation closes, those who are filthy will not be cleansed to become righteous, and the holy ones won't be involved in sin to become filthy. And since the final servants of God, the 144,000 are considered **“faultless”**(Revelation 14:5, Zephaniah 3:13) before God **even during their time of servitude**, the loud cry, then these scriptures clearly show that **God's people will have total victory over every sin not only after Probation has closed, but also when it's**

about to close, when the last work of salvation is drawing to its close. The Divine Law of God will be uplifted, “**Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.**”(Rev 14:12,12:17).

Thus Christ’s character will be perfected in His saints (see also Ephesians 5:25-27). **The righteousness by faith that works, you see, is crowned with the very Righteousness of Christ and eternal life. Those who fail to make their faith fruitful in obedience to God’s truth will certainly fail to be crowned with Christ’s righteousness and life everlasting.**

Deliverance At The Second Coming.

We are looking forward to the day “..when the **Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,** in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord** and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.”(2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).

Notice that those who obey not the gospel, who think believing without producing fruits is enough, will be punished “with everlasting destruction” when the Lord comes. “**His saints...who believe**” with much fruit are the only ones who shall be delivered.

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My

reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”(Revelation 22:12).

We are not saved by the works of the law, but we will be judged and rewarded according to the law, based on how we exercised our faith. “So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”(James 2:12,13)

The Summary Of Salvation: Titus

2

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men...”(verse 11)

Notice that the grace that saves has appeared to all. That is, Christ has freely offered himself for fallen humanity, and a sinner can accept this gift by faith apart from works. This is

Justification or Righteousness by faith without works.

God offers the gift as Righteousness by Grace and we accept it by faith to make it righteousness by faith without works. **We are “saved” immediately we believe(Ephesians 2:8,9).** But does this Grace, when received, keep people in sin or it leads them to obedience? Let's see

“...teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age...”(verse 12)

This Grace, after it has been genuinely received, **produces in the heart a will to obey.**

It teaches the penitent sinner to deny all ungodliness which the law condemns and enables him to live “righteously” to fulfill the law “in this present world.” **This is**

Justification or Righteousness by faith that works. It is a lifetime process of

Sanctification. We are “being saved” in this process (1 Cor 1:18). When the repentant sinner has thus lived his faith and endured, then he can start

“...**looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”(verse 13,14)

“ **Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.**”(Revelation 22:14). Thus, those who endure to the end and remaining obedient to God’s law shall **finally be saved (Heb 9:28). They will be glorified**, their mortal bodies changed, and

will be kept forever without sin. “And **He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.**”(Revelation 7:15-17)

Now is the time to know what Salvation is. Now is the time to have unwavering faith in God. His Grace is sufficient for us. When we accept it as a free gift by faith, it will lead us to obedience which, after the image of Christ shall have fully been formed in us, it will crown us with Christ's own righteousness unto the eternal ages.

May the Lord Help His People

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