

Faith without Works

Theme: Establishing the law through faith.

Romans 3:31

Introduction:

- A. **There are always people that listen at the message from extreme point-of-views.**
 - 1. Preach on baptism and some think the messenger is against faith in Christ.
 - 2. Preach on faith in Christ and others think the messenger doesn't believe in baptism.
 - 3. Preach on law keeping and some think the messenger minimizes God's grace.
 - 4. Preach on grace and others think the messenger minimizes the need for law keeping.
 - B. **People in the New Testament era were no different than we are today.**
 - 1. The apostle Paul knew the reaction he would get for teaching how man is justified by faith – not law keeping.
 - 2. Knowing this he asked a rhetorical question: *“Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.” Rom. 3:31*
- If we are saved by faith, how do “we establish the law”?

Discussion:

- I. The Purpose of “The Law”
 - A. **The Law of Moses required payment for sin (ceremonial or moral).**
 - 1. The same law that demands obedience also requires the shedding of blood for forgiveness of those sins. **Heb. 9:22**
 - 2. But the blood offerings through the Law were never meant to “perfectly” take away sins.
 - B. **The purpose of the Law, therefore, served as a shadow of the gospel. Heb. 10:1-4**
 - 1. The gospel revealed Jesus as the perfect sacrifice to take away the sins that the Law could not.
 - 2. Further, the Law served as a tutor to bring man to faith in Jesus Christ. **Gal. 3:24**
 - 3. Thus the gospel of salvation by faith (in Jesus as the Christ) upholds the law by fulfilling its utmost demands. **Rom. 3:31**
- II. Law of the Spirit
 - A. **Through faith in Christ – we live by another “Law”.**
 - 1. We live by the Law of the Spirit. **Rom. 8:2**
 - 2. The requirement of the law means we “walk in the Spirit.” **Rom. 8:4**
 - 3. By “walking in the Spirit” our course of life upholds (“establishes”) the righteousness of the Law of Christ. Cp. **Tit. 2:11-15**
 - B. **By establishing the law we have a living – spirit filled – faith. Rom. 8:5-8**
 - 1. We are not justified by the “works of the law”.
 - 2. We are justified, however, by a living faith that works the works of God. cp. **Jas. 2:14-17; Eph. 2:10**

Conclusion:

- A. While we do not take the extreme position of being justified by the works of the law, neither do we take the position of “sinning, that grace may abound.”
- B. Instead, we establish the law – as God intended through the gospel – by walking in the Law of the Spirit, that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us.