

# *Howards Corner*

## ***To those that truly want to know the truth.***

It has been true from the beginning of Christianity that we have been saved by grace and not by keeping the law. It has been plainly said and taught by many references in the bible but is still after 2000 years being taught in some churches or is not corrected as though it was not in the scriptures. It is not obscure but is plainly in Romans and Galatians and Ephesians and was fully proclaimed in Acts 15 by the church leaders.

It happens when the word is not fully understood, and misinterpretations occur. We do not understand because all things in the bible do not necessarily apply to Christians. We do not rightly divide the word of truth. The words of the law were written in the Old Testament for the Jews by God through Moses. These words were for the Jews alone and at the coming of Christ they are not applicable to the Christian. We have a new covenant which came about by the shed blood of Christ.

The first clue for you in reading the bible is to look at the cover of the bible and you will find one section called the Old Testament and the other section the New Testament. God made a covenant with Israel and the laws were for them until Jesus came and gave us a new covenant. This new covenant was with all Christian believers, both Jew and gentile and it then superseded the Old Covenant. The Old covenant was no longer valid because a new covenant was initiated by Jesus. So, all the laws of the Old Covenant no longer can be applied to the new believers in Christ. There are many things in the Old Testament that still teach us about many things, but the law is not to be applied to the true believer.

For the unbelievers and the Jews, the law is still valid, and they will be judged by it. For the Christian we are Saved by grace by faith in the shed blood of Jesus and if we have believed and accepted this salvation, we are no longer under the laws of Moses for one greater than Moses has come. If we put ourselves back under the law, we are no longer able to be in Christ as Christians because we are trusting in keeping the law for our salvation and you cannot trust both. You cannot have freedom in Christ if you try to hang on to the Law. That means the ten

commandments also. It is not possible to keep the law anyhow. Peter says in Acts 15 why do we put this burden on the gentiles to keep the law when we and our ancestors have not been able to do so.

It is necessary to completely trust in Jesus alone to receive your salvation and receive the Holy Spirit. You cannot receive the Holy Spirit unless you have surrendered to Jesus completely. Then the Holy Spirit will enable you to be righteous in your actions for when He is in you, and you operate in His love you will want to do right and things like not lying, and stealing will not be in you for He will make you a new creature. You must understand that there is the spirit of the law and the letter of the law. If we think that we are able to keep even the 10 commandments, you must see what Jesus said about the spirit of the law. An example is Jesus's illustration of "You shall not Murder". He explains that if you hate a man in your heart, you are guilty of Murder. He further illustrates that to even call a person a fool puts you in danger of "Hell fire". So, all the "laws" are filled with the spirit of the law implications. It is then apparent we cannot keep the law without the spirit of Christ abiding in our hearts.

Non are righteous! Man's righteousness is as filthy rags in the site of God. So, if we are presumptuous as to think we are righteous in our own ability then we are saying I am righteous in myself. That is why Jesus Christ came because it was not possible to keep all these laws in our own ability. Remember even if you break one law you are guilty of all and for the Jews of the Old Testament the only solution was to sacrifice the blood of a lamb to receive forgiveness and that is only good for a year. Christ came then to be the blood of the lamb for us as Christians, but it was shed once for all that would believe that He was who He said He was and believed that His blood then takes away our sins for our guilt was laid upon Him and therefore we are considered in right standing before God the Father. You cannot add anything to that. Not by saying you are keeping the law and not by our works. Doing righteous works do add to our rewards in Christ but do not add to your salvation. You are saved by the work of Christ on the cross with the shedding of His blood and the faith you have in the work of Christ to accomplish your personal salvation and His ability to resurrect you on that day when He returns.

Jesus has not passed on the ability to save your soul to any church organization or to priests or popes or any other entity. It is done solely by your personal trust (faith)

in Jesus as your only source of salvation. These churches may be used to bring you the word of salvation and to teach and mature you in your walk of faith, but they do not have power to save. It is only possible by the shed blood of Jesus and by Him sending into you His Holy spirit to complete the work of righteousness in you. So, if you are led away by trusting in these other entities for your salvation then you have lost your way and you may not be able to receive the Holy Spirit into your heart. You must be totally committed to Jesus alone for your salvation and in Him alone to send His Holy Spirit into your heart and life. You cannot walk the Christian life without the Holy Spirit. It is simple to understand now why you must be born again for you will not be able to see and understand spiritual ways on your own.

## **Let us start to look at proof from Scripture**

Let us look at Hebrews for a moment. The Jews that the writer of Hebrews is addressing were under the Law of Moses for their whole life from their early childhood they have been taught the Law and had been required to keep the law. Their bible was the Old Testament for the New Testament had not been written. So, when they were presented with the new covenant established by Jesus' death on the cross to set them free from the law of sin and death, it had to be very difficult because everyone around them were Jews that still practiced the law and the temple ceremonies with animal sacrifices. If they then accepted the Christian faith of salvation by grace through faith their very lives would be in danger. It had to be very difficult under these circumstances to believe they were under grace and not under the Law.

So let us look at the words from Hebrew which were directed to Jews in the early church to help them understand the need to leave law and receive faith in Jesus alone for your salvation. They were scatter to different places and suffered much for their belief in Jesus as savior and Lord. The Jews around them were still under the law and considered these Christian Jews as traitors as well as the rest of the world at that time.

## **Teachings from Hebrew**

“You are a priest forever,  
in the order of Melchizedek.” Psalm 110:4

*The priesthood in the Old Testament was always from the Levites but Jesus was not from the Levites but was from the tribe of Judah so He would not qualify under the law to be a priest.*

**Heb 7:11-12** If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also.

*So there had to be another law established which then is the Law of Christ for one greater than Moses has come.*

**Heb 7:22** Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant. **Heb 7:24-25** because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. **Heb 7:27** He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. **Heb 7:28** but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever. **Heb 8: 6-7** But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

*You see then that the new covenant is a better covenant a superior covenant because He the Son sits at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us.*

**Heb 8:7** For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.

**Heb 8:13** By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

*You can see that there is a new law, and the first law has become obsolete and will soon disappear, so we are not under the old law of Moses but the new law of Christ the son of God.*

**Heb 9:8** The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning

**Heb 9:12** he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. 9:15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new

covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. 9:22 without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness 9:28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. 29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

*You can see that Christ Jesus has entered into the Most Holy Place and obtained eternal redemption and an eternal promised inheritance by the shedding of His blood and He is coming back again to bring salvation for those waiting for Him.*

So, for you as Gentiles now who have never been under law it should be much easier to understand that your salvation is not based on keeping the law but on grace through faith. However, Gentiles in the churches of today are mixed up on this major point of the gospel. Many today are still clinging to keeping the law and have not been set free and are trying to live by law and by grace. That mixture is not possible if you want victory in your life. You are neither under grace nor are you under the law and that makes you either a weak Christian or not a Christian at all. Further it is impossible to keep the law because there is no longer a temple to sacrifice a blood offering in so there is no way to receive forgiveness under the law. Jesus Christ died once for all and shed His blood once for all and it is not to be repeated every year like the High priest of Israel who went into the **Most Holy Place** with the blood offering to cleanse the Jews for their sins. Jesus is now our High Priest who sits in the heavenly sanctuary at the right hand of God to intercede for us.

## **Now let us look at the New Testament teachings**

### **From Acts chapter 15**

Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.” Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the

message of the gospel and believe. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

*You can then see that the question was settled early in the church history that we are not required to keep the law of Moses but are saved by grace through faith. So why do we today test God by putting a yoke around the neck of believers the requirements of the law?*

From Ephesians

2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

*For if it is a gift then it cannot be earned by our works so we cannot take the credit for our salvation and even our faith. Since we are God’s handiwork, we will do good works which He has called into being by our Lord Jesus through Christ’s word and the giving of the Holy Spirit. If you have not received the Holy Spirit, you cannot produce these “good works” because you will not be able to see them through the human mind but will do them in our human reasoning. Unless we abide in Christ Jesus by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we cannot bear fruit.*

2:13-15 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.

2:18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

*These two groups are referring to Jews and gentiles being of one Spirit.*

From Galatians

Gal 2:6-7 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really

no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ

*Have the churches of today allowed and even taught the law and abandoned salvation by grace through faith? Do we now have a different gospel based on works and on other things not in the bible? It is now widely taught that Mat 25: 31-46 is what we are judged on as a church. These scriptures are plainly the judgement of the Nations left on the earth at his second coming and not the church. There is no mention in these verses about faith or grace but only works. There are many teachings that are a different gospel in today's churches.*

*Many churches have abandoned "the gospel" for the "social gospel" and it has destroyed many who have bought into these works only teaching so they have based their salvation on doing some good works. How much good works does it take to save your soul? No amount can save you! If you are in Christ, then you must do the greater good first which is to teach the real gospel and make disciples of the world and then the works of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked and educating the world. But if the greater good is not done then you only have lost sinners that are well cared for, and they will still die in their sins. (I have written on this subject before and will maybe do another article to expand on this subject later.)*

Galatians 2:4 some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. 5 We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

*We do have today people in the church pews that are slaves to the law and doing works and never found this freedom we have in Christ Jesus. They are doing works based on human reasonings and strength and are confusing the real believers by trying to get us back under the law and works. Paul tells us to stay with the truth of the Gospel that has been preserved for us by the words of the bible and by the Holy Spirit.*

Gal 2:15 know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

Gal 3:5-6 So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? 6 So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Gal 3:11-14 Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” 12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Gal 3:23-29 Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. 24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

#### *From Romans*

Rom 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Rom 3:22-24 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Rom 3:28 For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Rom 4:13-15 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, 15 **because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.**

Rom 4:22 This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” 23 The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, 24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Rom 6:14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Rom 7: 6 But now, by dying to what once bound us, **we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.**

Rom 8:1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 **because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.**

Rom 8:9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.**

Rom 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

*To remnant of Israel*

Rom 11:5-6 So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. 6 And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

*The remnant of Israel that will be left on earth to face the tribulation of seven years will be called by the grace of Jesus at His second coming so they will finally believe*

*that He is the Messiah that they rejected, and the remnant will be saved by the same grace with which we believe, and they will be changed and filled with His Holy Spirit.*

*From 2 Cor*

2 Cor 3:6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Cor 3:14-17 for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. 16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

*Remember the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom at the crucifixion of Jesus and for those who believe there is no more veil of the law, and we have freedom in the spirit.*

## **A summation of my thoughts on Salvation by Grace for now**

I have written to you about salvation by grace and the need to have your salvation based entirely on faith in the shed blood of Jesus and the work Jesus did on the cross and not on the law. I have offered you proof from the scriptures that if you are in Christ, you are no longer under the Law but under Grace. If you are still operating under the law and think you can be saved by these works related activities, then you cannot be in Christ Jesus and therefore cannot receive the Holy Spirit into your heart for only those that are in Christ can receive the Holy Spirit for receiving the Holy Spirit is what seals you into His body.

After providing all these proofs from scripture which is recorded in the bible you still are trusting in keeping the law and works for you salvation then I must conclude that you do not believe the word of God as written in the bible. That is a major issue with faith in God and the work of Christ on the cross today. We simply do not believe God but believe ourselves and our ability to be righteous in ourselves and the lies of Satan which he has planted in the churches of today and has been in the churches from early on and continued until today. I assure you the word of God is true and will never pass away. Satan's plan has always been to create doubt and

discredit what God has said. Remember the garden how Satan ask Eve “Did God really Say”. He is asking that question today of todays churches “Did God really say” you are saved by grace and not the law for the law of Moses is now obsolete and has been replaced by the law and spirit of Christ and only if you are in Christ can you understand these spiritual things.

I pray now for the churches and the people in the pew of these churches to re- read the scriptures with a new belief in the scriptures as the word of God and to pray for understanding in your heart. Church teachings can and are wrong sometimes and only if you operate in the spirit of Christ can you understand.

*My prayer is that the “veil” will be removed from your eyes*

Always writing in love or I would not write at all.

***Howard***