

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“Works of the Law?”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 3:1-5

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-8.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 9.** We continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #18. I have titled today’s message *“Works of the Law?”*
-) There are plenty of topics the Bible covers. Everything from how we should treat others, to Spiritual gifts, to explaining creation (GEN) all the way through end times (REV). And we can have a healthy discussion about our possessions or about turning the other cheek, about being evenly or unevenly yoked or how to be a good Samaritan.
-) But there is no topic in the Word of God as important as the topic of soteriology (salvation – how does one get saved – are we right with God). Its ramifications are a matter of eternal life or eternal death. So, how does a sinner get right with God?
-) **SLIDE 10.** Answer. The Bible, and only the Bible, shows us that path of salvation. And that path of salvation comes through the gospel (ROM 1:16-17).
-) **SLIDE 11.** We have spent 17 weeks studying the Book of GALATIANS. To summarize what we have learned from 1:1 through 3:5 is this: works, in any way, shape, or form, cannot contribute to nor are they a piece of the salvation equation. That is the simplicity of the true gospel. Christ has done it all.
-) **SLIDE 12.** This truth is affirmed by EPH 2:8-9. Explain.
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-) **SLIDE 13.** But there's an issue in the churches at Galatia. Paul questions the Galatians in 3:2. Read. Hey, Galatians, how did you get saved? Was it something you worked towards, or was it something you accepted by faith?
-) But once you question that, then comes the next obvious question. Hey, Galatians, are you truly saved? Could you be believing in and trusting a false gospel?
-) I certainly hope we understand the ramifications of what we know and understand concerning this topic. A person will spend their eternity based on what gospel they believe. Let's make sure we get the gospel right! Amen?
-) **SLIDE 14.** And according to Paul in GAL, ROM, and EPH, we are saved by faith alone apart from our works. Explain. This was the cry of Martin Luther and the 16th century reformers.
-) What about today? The Word of God does not change. Are people believing in a gospel by works today? Yes.
-) Today and next Sunday I will be speaking about Roman Catholicism in the 21st century. It is not my intention in this message to condemn or to insult anyone who is part of the RCC or to bash the Catholic religion. My intention these next two weeks is to provide you with Roman Catholic doctrine and compare that with what the Bible teaches.
-) I am convinced there is nothing more loving than the truth. So, what I say in today's message, I say in love because I must speak the truth. The truth really does matter.
-) This morning and next Sunday we will be looking at what RC teaches about salvation. How does one get saved in RC? How does one get right (justified) with a holy God? How are one's sins forgiven? And can I have assurance of my eternity?
-) I grew up in Roman Catholicism, and these are the questions that I struggled with, always trying to find the right answers.

-) **SLIDE 15.** ROMANS 10:17. To have saving faith (a faith that saves), one must hear the gospel. And one must hear the right gospel. News flash. Not all paths lead to God. You cannot be saved without the right gospel.
-) **SLIDE 16.** Biblical Salvation timeline. Explain.
-) This is the simplicity of the gospel. Is this what RC teaches? No. Let's look at what they teach and the steps necessary for a person to be right with God in that religious system.
-) **SLIDE 17.** What I'm about to teach here comes from the Catholic website ***ewtn.com*** which is the Eternal Word Television Network. Another Catholic website called ***www.catholic.com***. I will be quoting a man by the name of James Akin from his article "*Justification in Catholic Teaching.*"
-) What do Catholics teach about justification? How does a Catholic believe they get saved?
-) **SLIDE 18.** The RCC claims absolute power when it comes to matters of Scripture interpretation. The Council of Trent, Session 4, Concerning the Use of the Sacred Books.
-) This means that Martin Luther nor John MacArthur nor Charles Spurgeon nor RC Sproul nor Charles Stanley nor David Jeremiah nor me or you can faithfully interpret the Scriptures. Only the mother church—the Catholic Church.
-) **SLIDE 19.** The RCC claims absolute power when it comes to matters of salvation. From *www.catholic.com*. In other words, salvation is not possible unless you are part of the RC church.
-) **SLIDE 20.** Canon 9. Explain.
-) So, before we dive into the salvation process as taught by the RCC, they are saying that 1) only they can properly interpret the Scriptures, and because of that 2) only they can determine how a person comes to salvation, and 3) faith must accompany works for one to be saved.

-) Can you see how upset they must have been with Martin Luther?
-) In Catholicism, justification (to be saved) is a 4-step process. Today we will cover just step #1. We will look at steps 2 thru 4 next week.
-) **SLIDE 21**. STEP 1. Initial Justification. Catholics believe in something called original sin (ROM 5:12). We call it the human condition. But Roman Catholicism teaches that the stain of this sin which all people are born with must be cleansed. And that cleansing comes through water baptism.
-) **SLIDE 22**. The website states: "*The Catholic church is thus firmly in line with Scripture when it says that baptism is the means by which we are incorporated into Christ, and thus that baptism is the means through which we receive justification.*"
-) **SLIDE 23**. They use ROM 6:3 and GAL 3:27 to support their view. So, upon this initial justification, a person water baptized in the Catholic Church has been made right with Jesus Christ. That is why babies are baptized in the Catholic Church.
-) Catholics will only accept a Catholic water baptism as a remission of this original sin. They teach that water baptism is necessary, but only a RC water baptism will suffice.
-) **SLIDE 24**. RC timeline.
-) How do Protestants respond to these verses? The word baptism (to immerse) here is not and cannot be taken in its literal water sense. It is used figuratively as if one would say, "*That man went through a baptism of fire while experiencing his illness.*"
-) **SLIDE 25**. All true Christians have, by placing their saving faith in Christ, been spiritually immersed (baptized) into the person of Christ. In 1COR 10:1-4, Paul tells us that the Israelites were baptized into Moses meaning they followed Moses. True Christians are baptized into Christ. We follow Christ.

-) Protestants believe original sin is a condition and not a specific sin. Every human being will sin because it is in our nature to do so. That's why we call it the "*human condition.*"
-) **SLIDE 26.** So, let's sum up the first step of RC justification. It is a process and not a one-time event. One must be baptized in the Catholic Church to remove the stain of original sin.
-) Now that we have covered the first step in the RC justification process, I must ask. Is this what GALATIANS is teaching us? No. Are we saved by the works of the Law? No. We never have been, and we never will be. The righteous will live by faith.
-) Why is this message important? Because there are 1.6 billion Catholics around the world. And if they believe RC teaching, then they believe a false gospel. And that is a lot of lost souls believing they may be on the path to righteousness when they are not.
-) Is a person saved by works of the Law? By no means!
-) Next week, we will look at steps 2 thru 4 in the RC justification process.

1/10/2021 at Beech Grove Christian Church