

The Law After Justification

Galatians 2:17-21

Intro:

- A. Paul has asserted that men are justified apart from law-keeping. Vs. 16
 - 1. "...man is not Justified by the works of the law."
 - 2. "...not by the works of the law..."
 - 3. "...by the works of the law shall NO flesh be justified."
- B. What about after justification?
 - 1. How are we to live our lives?
 - 2. What is our guide?
 - 3. What will happen when we sin?

I. If We Are In Christ And We Sin, Is Christ Made A Sinner?

- A. Vs. 17 "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners..."
 - 1. "Seek" = ζητεω = "to seek after", "to look for"
 - 2. "Justified" = "to be declared to be in right standing with God by God".
 - 3. "Found" = εύρισκω = "to find; as without seeking, meet with, light upon, to discover, find out".
 - 4. "Sinners" = άμαρτωλος = "erring from divine law".
- B. "...is therefore Christ the minister of sin?"
 - 1. "Minister" = διακονος = "service rendered to another"
 - 2. "Sin" = άμαρτια = "failure", "missing the mark".
 - 3. "Does that make Christ the agent of sin"?
- C. "...God Forbid"
 - 1. "γινομαι" = "let is not be"
 - 2. "Of course not"

II. The Law And The Believer.

- A. Vs. 18 "For if I build again the things which I destroyed..."
 - 1. "Build" = οικοδομεω = "to build a house".
 - 2. "Destroyed" = καταλυω = "to tear down".
- B. "...I make myself a transgressor."
 - 1. "Make myself" = συνιστημι = "to make stand, with or together", "to present oneself as such".

2. "Transgressor" = παραβατης = "one who steps aside" (from the approved path).
 3. If Paul had denounced the law as a way of justification and then as a believer he began to keep the law as a system of sin deliverance he would become one who used it in a wrong fashion.
- C. **Vs. 19 "For I through the law am dead to the law,"**
1. "Died" = αποθνησκω = "to die out", "to become quite dead".
 2. "For under the law I became very dead".
 3. **Romans 7:7-12**
 4. "I, indeed, through the law became dead to law."
TCNT
- D. **"...that I might live unto God."**
1. "Live" = ζω = "to live".
 2. "in order to live for God."

III. What The Law Did To Paul.

- A. **Vs. 20 "I am crucified with Christ;"**
1. "Crucified" = συσταυρωω = "to crucify with anyone".
 2. "As far as the law is concerned I may consider that I died on the cross with Christ... - Phi
 3. Christ had the sin of man placed upon Him. The law demanded His death. Paul could not keep the law, the broken law demanded the same. The law crucified Christ, it crucified Paul.
- B. **"...nevertheless I live;"**
1. "Live" = ζω = "to live"
 2. "still I am living"
- C. **"yet not I, but Christ liveth in me;"**
1. "I am not living, it is Christ living in me"
 2. Paul could not rise from the dead but he is living because he is in Christ.
- D. **"...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God,"**
1. "Flesh" = σαρξ = "life on the material side"
 2. "The life I now live as flesh I live it by faith, the faith of the Son of God..."
- E. **"who loved me, and gave himself for me"**
1. "Loved" = αγαπω = "to cherish with reverence".
 2. "Gave himself" = παραδιδωμι = "to hand over to another", "to deliver over".

- G. Vs. 21 "I do not frustrate the grace of God..."
1. "Frustrate" = ἀθετέω = "to displace", "set aside", "disregard as a treaty of oath".
 2. Αθετέω pres. ind. act. to set aside, to reject. In the papyri it was used of loans which were repaid and cancelled and for the rejection of certain officials who were described as inefficient and incapable of doing their duty. It was also used of grain which was rejected by the inspector as unfit for food (MM)
- F. "...for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."
1. "Righteousness" = δικαιοσύνη = "right standing with God".
 2. "Vain" = δωρεάν = "gratuitously" = "then without purpose", "groundlessly", "without effect."