

Introduction: The NT Church & the Canon of Scripture

It is often argued that the early church was built on oral tradition and the teachings of the Apostles and that only later was the canon of Scripture decided. The church, however, has always had Scripture by which to “test” the apostolic teachings and writings that became the New Testament (Acts 17:11).

“It is all too frequently overlooked...that from the very beginning, Christians were committed to the books of the Hebrew Scriptures and saw them as paradigmatic for understanding the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Not only do our earliest Christian writings (for example, James and Paul’s letters) exhibit extensive engagement with the OT texts, but the same interest in the OT is evident throughout many other NT books such as Matthew, John and Hebrews.”

- Michael Kruger, *The Question of Canon*

Main Point: While the Old Testament plays an important role in revealing the history of salvation and the wisdom of God, the Law itself confirms the judgment from which only _____ can deliver us.

Galatians 3:10-14

- Paul quotes Scripture to describe what _____ upon the Law truly means. (v. 10)

- (1) His description of those like the Jewish false teachers contrasts with that of “those of faith.”

“all who rely on works of the law”

- Lit. those who are “of the Law,” meaning their _____ of existence is based upon the belief that Torah observance was necessary for those who would be rightly related to God.

- (2) Contrary to their claim of blessing, they are under a _____ based on the testimony of the Torah itself.

“curse”—κατάρα (katara)—a curse or imprecation; in this context, it is the direct judgment of God that is upon humanity because of sin.

“CURSED BE EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, AND DO THEM.”

- His quotation is from Deut. 27:26 and it explains how the Law was intended to function.

“abide by” →

“do them” →

“In Paul’s thinking, then, the Law set a high bar of complete obedience to all its requirements. Those who do not obey all that is written in it are cursed. People do not obey the Law completely, and are thus cursed by it.”

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Key Point: We cannot _____ and _____ which aspects of the Law we want to follow.

- Paul quotes Scripture to further explain that no one can be declared _____ before God apart from _____. (vv. 11-12)

- (1) It is before the face of a _____ God that we live and we will be _____ by His righteous standards.

“Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law...”

- (2) Paul’s reference to Habakkuk 2:4 demonstrates that faith was understood as _____ even under the old covenant.

“THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

- There is some ambiguity as the Hebrew can be read as “the righteous one will live by his faith/faithfulness.” The book of Habakkuk itself culminates with an exhortation to continued trust in God’s promises and so Paul’s interpretation and usage are legitimate.

“Paul quoted [this verse] to show that justification comes through faith not the Law...[and] that being in right relationship with God has always been through faith, not Law.” - Michael Vlach, *The Old in the New*

- (3) He then references Leviticus 18:5 to show that the Law is something _____ from faith.

“But the law is not of faith, rather ‘THE ONE WHO DOES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM.’”

- This verse is found among a warning for God's people not to conduct themselves like the Egyptians and the Canaanites but instead to keep their covenant with the Lord and _____ in accord with His commands.

“...the law has to do with “doing” and “living by its prescriptions” and not with faith. So this fundamental passage of Jewish religion cannot just be Christianized and used to urge Gentile Christians to observe the Mosaic law, as the Judaizers were doing.”
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What was the role of faith under the Mosaic Covenant (The Law)? – Deut. 10:12-22

- Israel's relationship to the Lord was never intended to be merely external.
- They were to acknowledge the Lord and to worship ("fear") Him.
- The Law included the sacrificial system which "covered" their sins temporarily.
- They were to exercise faith and trust in Lord's promises even as Abraham had done.

Israel's salvation was based on God's _____, their experience of His blessing was based on their _____ to His commands.

Key Point: The salvation of God has always been granted to sinful humanity by _____ and through faith.

- Because of the curse of the Law, it was therefore necessary for God to make a _____ for humanity to receive His promised blessings. (vv. 13-14)

- (1) Paul uses the language of _____ to explain God's remedy for humanity's dilemma.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us”

- The focus here is on the work of Messiah in _____ in the place of sinners, something that would have been virtually unthinkable to Jews of the day but should not have been (Isa. 53:4-6, 8b, 11b).

ἐξαγοράζω (exagorazō)—to secure deliverance; to liberate. This was commercial language related to a business transaction. It is used theologically of a spiritual purchase related to salvation.

- (2) He then explains how this was accomplished, quoting from Deut. 21:23.

“for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO IS HANGED ON A TREE”

- The original context refers to dealing with the body of someone convicted of a capital crime under the Law.
- This is an ironic use of the text as it warns of leaving up a hung body which would defile the land.

- (3) The purpose of Messiah's crucifixion was that sinful humanity might receive the blessing of _____.
- _____ *by faith!* *To be counted among God's* _____!

- (4) It was also in order that the Gentiles might receive the promised _____ through faith.

- The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant also come with the blessings of the _____ Covenant (Ezek. 36:26-27; Joel 2:28-29) in Messiah.

Key Point: It is through Christ _____ that we come to benefit from God's promises by faith.

Paul's Message to the Galatians

The Galatians must understand that to rely on works of the Law brings cursing and not blessing and they should instead rejoice in what is already theirs because of the redemption they have in Christ!

Concluding Thoughts

1. It is the height of _____ to believe that we can have a right standing before a Holy God based on our works!
2. Our only basis for hope for a right standing before God is to be found ____ _____!

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