

## **Gospel Guardianship**

### **Galatians 3:19-29**

Truth: Living by faith consciously places God at the center of every problem, every yearning, every hope, every decision, every action. Living by faith means that we look to Jesus as our first resort and not our last resort.

**MAIN IDEA: The righteous shall live by faith. Let us reject the Law as our hope for God's blessing. Let us cling to Jesus in faith and rejoice in the blessings that flow only from Him.**

#### **The Good Purpose of God's Law**

##### **1. The Law imprisons us in our sin.**

*Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, **since through the law comes knowledge of sin.**" (Romans 3:19-20 [ESV](#))*

Truth: The Law is given to condemn us, not to rescue us. Let us not use the Law as part of the solution to our problems.

##### **2. The Law painfully teaches us our need for the Messiah.**

Truth: Legalism teaches that Jesus needs the Law to grow righteousness in our souls. Legalism teaches that setting the Law aside and focusing only on Jesus will lead to us into sin.

What the Law can do and what the Law cannot do

The Law is able to . . .

1. Convict us but not relieve us.
2. Condemn us but not justify us.
3. Brings us to despair, but not to hope.
4. Brings us to sorrow, but not to joy.
5. Enslave us, but not free us.
6. Create fear, but not love.
7. Stimulate a critical spirit, but not voice of encouragement.
8. Help us to see our dirt, but not to cleanse us.
9. Give us cause to shrink from God, but not draw near to Him.
10. Obligate us, but not lead us.
11. Make us Martha's, but not Mary's.
12. Urge us try harder, but not move us to pray.
13. Bring us to God as our Judge, but not make Him our Father.

14. Guide us with truth, but not empower us with the Holy Spirit.
15. Demonstrates God's righteousness, but not God's love.
16. Grumble about our wages, but not rejoice in the gift.
17. Trains us toward performance-based relationships, but not love-abounding relationships.

## **The Greater Benefit of Faith in Jesus.**

### **1. Faith in Jesus justifies us.**

*Free from the law—oh, happy condition!  
Jesus hath bled, and there is remission;  
Cursed by the law and bruised by the fall,  
Christ hath redeemed us once for all.  
Once for all—oh, sinner, receive it;  
Once for all—oh, doubter, believe it;  
Cling to the cross, the burden will fall,  
Christ hath redeemed us once for all. Philip Bliss*

### **2. Faith in Jesus brings us into God's family.**

*"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God," (John 1:12 [ESV](#))*

### **3. Faith in Jesus unites us to Jesus.**

Truth: We cannot have both Jesus and the Law as our governing principle. We must choose between the two!

Truth: The church of Jesus is not united by cultural traits, but by the cross of Jesus. We are not united by our shared morality, but by our shared Messiah!

### **4. Faith in Jesus makes us heirs of God.**

*he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace **we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**" (Titus 3:5-7 [ESV](#))*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:3-5 [ESV](#))*