

Galatians
“Living Free”
Main Teaching: 1:10-6:10
B. 3:1-4:31 Reasoned Grace
1. 3:1-14 Lessons learned

3:10-14
“From got to, too get to”

I. Intro.

II. Vs. 10-12 All of it, all of the time

III. Vs. 13-14 Paid in full

I. Intro.

Paul addresses why our attempt's to live by the law doesn't work; something that old Earl Henry of Lexington Kentucky would attest too. You see old Earl holds the record for most arrests (1030 and counting). He has become somewhat of an Internet star when his county jail's web site began showing the incarceration status of past and present offenders, including their mug shots. Earl's notoriety led to a spot on the "Jimmy Kimmel Show," and later spawned a rock song, a Firefox browser extension, and an oil painting, among other tributes. He even has his own website where you can contribute money, (I'm not sure if that is to pay for his legal fees or a bottle of Jack Daniels)? Currently the Stats for Henry Earl's Alcohol-Related Offenses are:

Total

Number of days spent in jail:	4618 (over 12 ½ years)
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Overall

Average # of days per year spent in jail:	243.05
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Average duration of incarceration period: 4.49 days

Average duration of time not spent in jail: 2.01 days

Dear friend the law can't make you right or do right just ask Henry Earl, though in his case it has made him famous. The Christian experience isn't "DO, DO, DO" ----- it's "DONE", as in Jesus did it all! "*Are you telling me pastor that I don't have to go to Church? I don't have to read my Bible? I didn't have to pray? I don't have to tithe?*"

That's right **you don't HAVE to do any of those things, you GET to do those things** as our Christian life isn't about GOT to, it's about GET to!

II. Vs. 10-12 All of it, all of the time

Vs.10 Paul needed to explain the fine print of attempting to live by the law as a basis of being right before God. The Judaizers had left out a few details as they didn't merely see keeping the law as important they saw it as essential in their relationship to God. Luther equated this with *building a house starting with the roof first*. The law is not a religious cafeteria where you can pick and choose what to be obey. God requires doing the law not believing the law as the laws says "*do and live*" where as grace says, "*believe and live*".

No doubt these legalistic folks would quote Psalm 119:1 "*Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.*" The problem was that they weren't blameless because no matter how hard they tried they could not walk according to the law of the Lord. Paul is not saying that the Word of God is bad, what he means is that **God never intended the law to be the way we gain approval or acceptance before God.** If God had intended this then why did He institute the system of

atonement sacrifices to go along with the law? The entire sacrificial system looked forward to Jesus who would be the Lamb of God that would take away the sin of the world.

Paul is quoting Deut 27:15-26 in which Moses outlined 12 curses (one for each tribe) that followed the 10 commandments. The 12th curse (Deut. 27:26) was against the person who does not set up ALL the words of the law and DO THEM. What is interesting to note is that only here in Paul's quotation do you see a Jew use the word ALL as the Jews refused to translate the Hebrew text of Deut. 27:26 with the word ALL. Apparently they realized that they could not approach God on those grounds and left the word ALL out so as to pick and choose how they were to approach God on the basis of their own works and effort. To prove his point Paul quotes Deut. 27:6 properly and the important point is summed up in two words in this quote "ALL" and "DO". Based upon this passage: If God would approve you on the basis of the law, you first would have to do two things:

- a. DO IT: Not simply know it, not simply love it, not simply teach it, not simply want it, you must do it.
- b. ALL OF IT: Not some of it, some of the time. Not just when you are over 18 or 40. Not just more good than bad.

The Law's requirement was to keep ALL OF IT, ALL OF THE TIME! If the basis of God's acceptance of us is upon our effort then we have no right to choose what, how much or when and where we obey the law. Paul's point couldn't be more clear: "If you are using the law as the basis of approval and blessing before God and are not doing all of it all of the time then you are CURSED by the very law you are trying to use to

gain acceptance and blessing.” This curse is not the curse of reaping what we have sown by our own bad choices, not a curse of the world or even satan but a curse by God!

Vs. 11 To back up his point Paul tells us that this is exactly what God said in the old testament in Habakkuk 2:4 which he quotes here saying, “*But the just shall live by his faith.*” This old testament passage is so important that God has it quoted three times in the new testament.

1. Gal. 3:11: The emphasis is on **just**
2. Heb. 10:38: The emphasis is on **live**
3. Rom. 1:17: The emphasis is on **faith**

Deep down every Jew knew that they couldn’t keep all of the law all of the time and that is why they placed so much upon being descendants of Abraham as they were trusting in what they perceived to be his good works and effort. But already revealed that it wasn’t Abrahams works but his faith that God looked at and declared him right by. The question isn’t whether a believer ought to keep the law morally but rather whether they can obtain right standing before God based upon their works in attempting to keep it, which Paul demonstrates is impossible.

Vs. 12 Here is yet another quote of Paul’s to further illustrate his point this time out of Leviticus 18:5 “*You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if **a man does, he shall live by them.** I am the Lord.*” In quoting this verse Paul is saying that using the law as the basis of acceptance and blessings before God is not like playing “*horse shoes*” as you are not rewarded for your effort and getting close. You can’t say “*Well I’ll do my best and let faith cover the rest!*” You can choose works or faith but not both! The roads of faith and works don not go in the same direction as it relates to approval and

acceptance before God they are heading in opposite directions. So if you want to live by works, by the law, you will not do it all of the time not just try to do it. There are so many who use their works as the basis of their acceptance and blessings before God that count their “*good intentions*” but such good intentions are never going to be counted only perfect performance counts.

III. Vs. 13-14 Paid in full

Vs. 13-14 Having given his readers the bad news Paul can now give us the good news. Because we can't do all of it all of the time Jesus has bought us out of the curse of the law. “*Redeemed*” points to the payment of a price that sets us sinners free. Redemption came from the practices of ancient warfare. After a battle the victors would often capture some of the defeated. Among the defeated, the poorer ones would usually be sold as slaves, but the wealthy and important men, the men who mattered in their own country, would be held to ransom. When the people in their homeland had raised the required price, they would pay it to the victors and the captives would be set free. The process was called redemption, and the price was called the ransom. What was the price that Jesus paid? He stood in our place and took the curse we deserved. **It didn't just cost Jesus something – it cost Jesus Himself.** He made Himself the target of the curse, and set those who believe outside the target. Christ is personally innocent; He did not deserve to be hanged for any crime of His own doing. But because Christ took the place of others who were sinners, He was hanged like any other transgressor. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Deut. 21:23 which says, “*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.*” Jesus received this curse, which we deserved and He did not, so that we could receive the blessing of Abraham, which He deserved and we did not! It would be enough if Jesus simply took

away the curse we deserved. But He did far more than that; He also gave a blessing that we didn't deserve! The central issue with all religion is: How does an adherent come into a relationship with their god. In all other religions the answer to that question is works and effort on the part of the follower. Only in Christianity is the answer different.

According to the Genesis account when Adam sinned God said, "*From now on you will have to work for your bread, live by the sweat of your brow, and work through thorns and thistles.*" But when Jesus (the second Adam) came in the upper room, His broken body became our bread. In the garden of Gethsemane, His sweat mingled with blood and on Calvary, the thorns of the earth were embedded in His brow. He became the curse for us!