

The Curse of God's Law

1 “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse.....” Galatians 3:10.

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.” Galatians 3:10.

2 There are two types of promises based upon the particular course of action one chooses to take.

“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee...” Deuteronomy 28:1-2 (the next 12 verses show all the blessings that would come).

“But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee...” Deuteronomy 28:15 (the next 53 verses show all the curses that would come).

3 “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3:4.

4 The sin of breaking God's commandments has the curse of death wrapped up in it, for "by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin" (Romans 5:12). Without sin death would not exist, because "the sting of death is sin" (1 Corinthians 15:56). As this is true, then why does Paul say that "as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse"? The law itself is not a curse because Paul himself acknowledges:

"Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good."
Romans 7:12.

These commandments and laws of God are described as being the "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25). God's law of liberty can actually be divided into two great parts: the first four commandments deal with our relationship to God, showing how we are to live in harmony with our Creator — who is the Source of our life. The second part, or last six commandments, deal with our relationship to other human beings, showing how we are to live in harmony with them — who are our fellow equals. This shows that while God's speaks liberty to all those who keep it, if you were to break any part of this law you would be placed under the curse of death for having committed sin.

Since the law of God is holy and just and good, then why would Paul say that as many who were of the works of the law were under the curse? This was because "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Every single human being has chosen to sin, and thereby all have failed to fulfill the works of the law in their own lives. For any one of us to then seek by our own good works to try and remove this curse from ourselves for having broken God's law, we would still remain under the curse for already breaking it.

5 As God's law only condemns the guilty, then how can anyone have their past sins forgiven and thereby be enabled to live?

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin....Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God...that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." Romans 3:20, 24-28.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:7-9.

6 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” Romans 3:23-26.

This free gift of justification is only for “the remission of sins that are past”. This means that justification does not include any present sinning or any future sinning. The sins we are committing now or will commit in the future cannot be automatically forgiven without our first confessing and repenting of them.

7 Once we become justified by faith and are fully cleansed and made righteous through Christ, should we continue to break and make void God’s law in our new purified lives?

“But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.” Galatians 2:17-18.

Once we are justified and made righteous, if we should then choose to break God’s law and commit sin, we would no longer be justified because we have made ourselves a transgressor once again. This then means that we would need to humbly confess and repent of this sin so that we can be re-justified and made righteous once again. Jesus Christ has not redeemed you or me or any other human being from the necessity of having to keep His ten commandments, but “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us” (Galatians 3:13). Jesus Christ Himself “who knew no sin” became “sin for us...that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

8 The statement “No man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith” (Galatians 3:11), is true, but it is important the we have a clear idea of the meaning of the word “justified” and “just”.

“Justified” means “to render just or innocent” (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, Greek word #1344). While “just” means a person who is already “holy” or “righteous” (Strong’s, #1342). Therefore the just, or those who are holy and righteous, “shall live by faith.”

The Bible states that “all unrighteousness is sin” (1 John 5:17), and that all “sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4), which means that all unrighteousness is the transgression of the law. As this is true, then all righteousness must be obedience to that law. So for anyone to be declared righteous, then they must not be knowingly disregarding or disobeying any part of God’s law.

“For not the hearers of the law are just (or are righteous) before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified (or made righteous).” Romans 2:13.

9 How are we to go from living in sin and unrighteousness, to now living without sin in righteousness?

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

If we allow Christ to live in us, then just how did Christ live while He was on this earth, and thus would live within us?

“I [Jesus Christ] have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.” John 15:10.

“I [Jesus Christ] also overcame [all sin], and am set down with my Father in his throne.” Revelation 3:21.

10 The life of Christ is like an example we can look to in order to know how to follow it and grow up more fully into Him.

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth” 1 Peter 2:21-22.

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” Ephesians 4:15.

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18.

Growing up into Christ is not done instantly, but it is a process of going from a life of sin to living a new life in Christ. This new life is gained by daily allowing Christ to live in you, being “[a]live unto God” (Galatians 2:19), and “dead to sin” (Romans 6:2). It is putting “on the Lord Jesus Christ, and mak[ing] not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” Romans 13:14. It also means choosing to follow God’s will at all times and in all places and not your own self will.

11 “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ” Philippians 1:20-21.

This phrase “For to me to live is Christ” is one of the greatest verses ever written that explains the process of the gospel of salvation! This process of your keeping of God’s law through faith by allowing Christ to live in you and not self to live in you, is referred to in the Scriptures as being sanctified through the Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2), and this is the hope and goal of every true Christian.

“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he (Christ) reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.” Colossians 1:21-23, 26-29.

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.” 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7.

12 “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13.

“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21.

It is only when we allow God to work in us through Jesus, that together all sin can be overcome in your life!

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13.

13 When the shed blood of Christ covers you, your sins are then forgiven and Christ’s righteousness is by faith imputed to your account making you justified or righteous before God. As you continue to choose to allow Christ to live in and work through you, His righteousness is by faith imparted to you, and you can then work the works of Him “who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9). So Christ’s righteousness is imputed to you because you broke God’s law and needed cleansing, and then it is imparted to you so that you can now keep this law without breaking it. This means that Jesus is “THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” (Jeremiah 23:6), because “he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:10).

14 It is by faith in God working in you, and your moment by moment choice to work in harmony with His will, or combining faith and works together, that you then become doers of His law and can remain justified or righteous before God. Perfect obedience can only be accomplished through God's divine power working in you. But divine power alone, without your choice to act in harmony with it, will accomplish absolutely nothing.

“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone....Seest thou how faith wrought with his (Abraham's) works, and by works was faith made perfect?...For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:17, 22, 26.

God will not overcome sin for you without your help! And you cannot overcome sin without His help! You can exercise all the faith in the world, but faith alone will never enable you to keep all of God's commandments. You must act in harmony with your faith. Your faith must become active and alive, not remain inactive and dead. So as by faith you receive the Lord Jesus, He then lives out His perfect law in you.

“But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterward be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.” Galatians 3:23-25.

15 Christ did not come to free and save us in our sins, but instead to free and save us from our sins (see Matthew 1:21). The salvation which Jesus brings to us all is not just release from the penalty of sin, but it is victory over sin itself.

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law” (Galatians 3:13), from the curse of sin and death. This He has done by “being made a curse for us,” and thus we are freed from all necessity of continuing in sin — not freed from the necessity of keeping God's law. Sin can have no more dominion over you if you will only accept Christ in truth as your Saviour, allowing Him to live in and through you, and then continue to choose to serve and obey Him instead of self each moment of each day.

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.....For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels....(because) he (Christ) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” Luke 9:23, 26; Hebrews 5:9.

16 If while you are living in this new life in Christ, you should then stumble and fall into sin, this does NOT mean that you are instantly lost.

“For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again” Proverbs 24:16.

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.” 1 Timothy 1:15.

So if you should stumble and fall into sin after you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, do NOT become hopelessly discouraged, but instead flee to your loving Saviour, confess and repent of your new sin, and Christ will indeed forgive you and give you the strength to rise back up and continue fighting the good fight of faith! Realize and dwell upon the following great facts of truth:

“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.” Jeremiah 31:3.

“[Christ] is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:34-35, 37-39.

“...let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.” Isaiah 27:5.

“...and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:20.

17 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1.

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” 1 Corinthians 16:13.

“For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 3:8.