

Living by Faith in the Presence of the Curse

Galatians 3:10 - 12

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July 28, 2013

To rely on law keeping is to be cursed

Galatians 3:10a (NASB)

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse

- Abraham was blessed by faith, not law keeping
- Those who rely on works are universally cursed

2

Deuteronomy 27:26 cited to prove the universal curse and human inability

Galatians 3:10b (NASB)

For it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them"

- Human inability is an inescapable implication of Paul's logic
- Deuteronomy 30:6 pointed to the need for a circumcised heart

3

No single person is justified by means of law works

Galatians 3:11a (NASB)

Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident;

- This applies to individuals, not merely groups
- “Before God” (as Judge) shows that this is forensic
- This truth is plainly clear or evident (*de_los*) from Scripture because no one but Jesus has or can fulfill the Law perfectly

4

God’s answer to Habakkuk’s question about human evil is applied to all

Galatians 3:11b (HCSB)

because **the righteous will live by faith.**

Habakkuk 2:4 (NASB)

Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him;
But the righteous will live by his faith.

- Habakkuk 2:4 is an antithetical parallelism
- Hab. 2:4b is also cited in Romans 1:17 & Hebrews 10:38

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Why attempted law keeping leads to being cursed

Galatians 3:12 (HCSB)

But the law is not based on faith; instead, **the one who does these things will live by them.**

- Citation is of Leviticus 18:5
- Romans 10:5 also cites this
- This is why even “good” sinners are cursed (see Luke 10:28, 29 (the Lawyer and good Samaritan))

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Implications and Applications

- > When God has spoken in Scripture, concerning our key questions, we must listen and believe
- > We must accept and believe God's answer to the problem of evil in the world and not run to philosophers and human wisdom

Habakkuk's First Lament

Habakkuk 1:2-4 (NASB)

How long, O Lord, will I call for help, And You will not hear? I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save. Why do You make me see iniquity, And cause me to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; Strife exists and contention arises. Therefore the law is ignored And justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore justice comes out perverted.

God's Answer

Habakkuk 1:6 (NASB)

For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, That fierce and impetuous people Who march throughout the earth To seize dwelling places which are not theirs.

Habakkuk's Second Lament

Habakkuk 1:12, 13 (NASB)

Are You not from everlasting, O Lord, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. You, O Lord, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct. Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

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God's definitive answer

Habakkuk 2:3, 4 (NASB)

For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay. Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.

11

Habakkuk's response: believing God's promises

Habakkuk 2:14 (NASB)

For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea.

- Habakkuk 2:14 is an eschatological promise!
- God's plan of Messianic salvation is fulfilled in stages

12

Habakkuk prays

Habakkuk 3:2 (NASB)

Lord, I have heard the report about You and I fear. O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.

- Habakkuk's lament becomes a godly prayer
- He accepts God's wrath as necessary but prays for mercy!
- We should see Habakkuk as a role model for us and do likewise

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Habakkuk praises God in faith

Habakkuk 3:17, 18 (NASB)

Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

14

Humbly accept God's answers rather than turn to human philosophy

1Corinthians 1:18,19 (NASB)

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside."

15

God uses means: we must preach the gospel

1Corinthians 1:21 (NASB)

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
