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**A STUDY OF BIBLICAL LAW AS IT RELATES TO MAN'S
LOST CONDITION BEFORE THE CROSS OF CHRIST AND
JUSTIFICATION THROUGH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF
JESUS OUR LORD**

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INTRODUCTION	

The purpose of this material is to provide a working knowledge of the various laws and system of laws which are mentioned by several of the writers in the New Testament when explaining to other Christians about the Good News of Christ and our relationship with God.

While this is not intended to be an exhaustive study of law, it is hoped that the topics covered will provide a solid framework through which one can come to a clearer understanding of many difficult passages which relate to the Christian and law.

This groundwork will help us to understand the condition that our souls were in before Jesus died for us. When we get ahold of this, we will then love God like we have never loved Him before. There will always be room in our hearts for a deeper appreciation for the Love of God for us by coming to a clearer understanding of the price that was paid for our sins and the Spiritual Freedom that has been so freely given to us.

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THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH

“ The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes ! “
(Romans 1:16)

Question - What does the word Gospel mean? **Answer -** Good News!

Question - What is the Good News? **Answer -** We have been set free!
(Galatians 5:1)

Question - What have we been set free from? **Answer -** The Law of Sin and Death .
(Romans 8: 1-2)

Question - What was the Law of Sin and Death? **Answer -** Very simply, if you sin,
you will die or just break one command / law and you are condemned.

Question - When did God put this law into effect? **Answer -** In the Garden of Eden
when God said “ The day that you eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of
Good and Evil, you shall die.”

Question - What kind of death was God talking about, physical or Spiritual?
Answer - Spiritual.

Question - How do we know that it was Spiritual death? **Answer -** Because Adam ate
of the fruit yet lived to be 930 years old . (Genesis 5:5) In Romans 5:12 we
read that sin brings forth death. We know that this is Spiritual death since
babies die physically yet never sinned, and also the mentally retarded die
physically yet never sinned.

God created man with physical life, Eternal Life, and everlasting existence. (Matthew
25:46, Mark 3:29, II Samuel 12:23, John 17:2-3, I John 3:15; 5:11).

Eternal life is mentioned 30 times in the New Testament and every time it is speaking of a
Quality of Life that God gives to us that live with him. God gives us Eternal Life when we
accept his Son as our Saviour. (I John 5:11-12 and John 17:1-3). Eternal Life means far
more than lasting forever, because lasting forever might well be a curse and not a blessing,
such as those who will be punished forever with the devil and his angels. Eternal Life
means nothing other than the Life of God himself. What God promises us is that here and
now there can be given to us a share of the very Life of God. Spiritual life is in its very
nature Eternal because it comes from God who is an Eternal Spirit, so God shares with us
His Life which is of an Eternal Quality.

Question - Why is it so necessary for God to share with us His Life? **Answer -** In I John
1:1-3 it says that His Life makes it possible for us to have fellowship with one another, and
with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. When we have fellowship with the Life of
God, we participate in the Eternal Life which He shares with all of those who are in Jesus

Christ. All others are dead, separated from the Life of God. This is Spiritual death. This should help us to see how important it is to have Eternal Life abiding in us so that God can have fellowship with us.

Question - When Adam sinned, what was he separated from? **Answer** - Eternal Life, the fellowship of the very Life of God. Also, the flesh began a decaying process and soon would return to dust. (Genesis 3:19). A man is separated from God when he is separated from what God alone can give and that is Eternal Life. In Ephesians 2:1 and Colossians 2:13, we read of people who were dead. **How?** They had lost their life with God because of their sins.

Question - How were the Ephesians made alive in Ephesians 2:1, 5? **Answer** - They were given back their life with God. This helps us to see that there are two distinct kinds or qualities of life.

Question - What are these two kinds of life? **Answer** - Life of the flesh and Life from God or Eternal Life. John says in I John 5:13 that “ I have written to you who believe, that you may know, that you have (present tense) Eternal Life. (John 3:36; 5:24; 6:33-35, 53-54 and I John 5:13). It is very important that we understand that we can know whether or not we are saved. John says that we can know now! **How?** By God’s written word. (I John 5:13, Romans 6: 13-23).

By being made free from the terrible Law of Sin and Death which once separated us from God, Christians now have Assurance of Salvation. Because as long as we walk in the light of the revealed word, living as a Christian as best we can, Christ’s blood keeps us clean in spite of our inability to be sinlessly perfect. (I John 1:7). In Romans 6:14 we read that sin shall not have dominion over us; For we are not under law but grace. Christians are now under Christ, not answerable to The Law of Moses, nor are we under the curse of The Law of sin and Death. This does not mean that we are perfect, nevertheless, we are free from the condemnation of sin. (Romans 8:1).

There have been two extremes reached because of misunderstanding the Biblical teachings on the subject of Grace and Assurance of Salvation :

1. One extreme is to use this doctrine as a license to sin that grace may abound. In Romans 6:1-2 Paul makes it very clear that God not only forbids such, but part of the Christian doctrine which we accept in order to be freed from sin is that we agree to become bond slaves to God’s will until death. The entire passage in Romans 6:1-23 teaches that we are dead to sin and alive to God. We do not practice sin as a way of life, because now we practice righteousness as a way of life.
2. The other extreme is that freedom from The Law of Sin and Death is equivalent to freedom from the possibility of ever being lost. However, the Scriptures are very clear that willful sin condemns even those who have received the Knowledge of the Truth, and further insists that the continual cleansing is conditioned on the continual obedience of faith. (I John 1:7 and Revelation 2:10). **The Word of God makes it**

very plain that the Christian can so sin as to be Eternally Lost. (Romans 11:20-22, I Corinthians 10: 1-12, II Peter 2:20-22). The Bible makes it very clear that there is a great difference between willful sin, and making a mistake in a moment of weakness. Willful sin separates us from God and the blood of Christ. (Revelation 2: 4-5 and Hebrews 10:26). When sin is not willful / premeditated, it does not separate us from Christ's blood. (I John 1:7).

Question - What did Christ come to save us from? **Answer** - Jesus came to Redeem us of our sins, past and future. (Matthew 1:21 , I Timothy 1:15)

Question - Before The Law of Moses was given, what condition did sin leave man in? Man was Spiritually dead, separated from God. (Isaiah 59.2, Romans 5:14).

Question - When The Law of Moses was given, what provision did it make to forgive men of their sins? **Answer** - None. (Romans 3:20, Galatians 2:16).

Question - Was The Law of Moses and The Law of Sin and Death the same thing?
Answer - No

Question - Is The Law of Moses in effect today? **Answer** - No

Question - Is The Law of Sin and Death in effect today? **Answer** - Yes. Those outside of Christ are condemned by it. (Romans 8:2).

Question - Since babies are born with physical live, Eternal Life and everlasting existence like Adam, when do they lose their Eternal Life? **Answer** - When they break a Commandment of God and know that they are doing so. (Romans 7:7-11).

Question - When does a child reach the age of accountability? **Answer** - When he or she knows that they are breaking God's commands. At this point The Law of Sin and Death goes into effect and Spiritual death / separation occurs. When The Law of Sin and Death passes upon our children, it should be a very urgent time in our lives.

Question - In Romans 7:7-11 Paul says there was a time in his life when he was not under the Law of God. When was this? **Answer** - When he was a child and did not know The Law of God.

Question - If Paul was not under The Law of God, what law was he living under?
Answer - The law of his parents. During this time Paul could lie, steal or disobey his parents and it was not sin, because he did not know that these were Laws of God.

Question - When did these things become Laws of God to Paul? **Answer** - When he

gained knowledge of them.

Question - When was Paul alive once? **Answer** - When he was a child and still had Eternal Life within him. Paul said “ When the Commandment came, I died “

Question - What kind of death did Paul die? **Answer** - Spiritual death / separation from God when he came face to face with The Law of Sin and Death. At this point in Paul’s life lying, stealing, and disobeying his parents became sin. In I Corinthians 15:56 Paul says that the strength of sin is the Law. In Romans 7:24 Paul said that he became miserable and wretched when he found out about The Law of Sin and Death and cried out “ Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? “ In Romans 7:25 he gives the **Answer**; “ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! “

In Romans 8:1-3 Paul says that The Law of The Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus was able to do what The Law of Moses could not do, and that was to set us free from The Law of Sin and Death. The Law of Sin and Death immediately separates a man from God’s Fellowship, when he willfully sins, and Paul states that there was nothing that The Law of Moses could do about it.

Question - What were the legal requirements of The Law of Moses? **Answer** - Sinless perfection. (Deuteronomy 27:26, Jeremiah 11:3, Galatians 3:10, II Corinthians 3:6-9, Ezekiel 18:4). The Law demanded sinless perfection and human flesh was not able to give it or live it. This is what Paul says in Romans 8:3 when he says that The Law of Moses was weak through the flesh . So since The Law of Moses could do absolutely nothing to stop death’s doing of The Law of Sin and Death, it left the sinner helplessly and hopelessly separated from God. (wretched - Romans 7:24).

When a man sins, he is killed Spiritually by The Law of Sin and Death as described by Paul in Romans 7:11. This being the case, all men from Adam to the second coming of Christ pass under the curse of The Law of Sin and Death, (Romans 5:12) and into the bondage of Satan (Hebrews 2:14-15). It is very important that we understand the terribleness of The Law of Sin and Death. We will never be able to appreciate the Grace of God like we ought to, until we understand the condition that The Law of Sin and Death left us in, before we came to believe in Christ.

The Law of Moses operated strictly through manpower, so what The Law could not do (and that was to make a man righteous once he sinned) God himself would have to do if it was to be done. And God did it by making it possible for us to be set free through the power of justification through faith in Jesus. When we are Justified by Faith, we are not only freed from all our sins, but also from The Law of Sin and Death. Thanks be to God for his Grace. In John 14:6 Jesus said “ I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life! (Eternal Life)

It is important for us to understand the price that was paid for our sins. The following Questions focus on some aspects of this price which should produce greater appreciation

for the love of God for all of us. If our hearts can get a firm hold of these things, we will be motivated to greater heights of service and devotion.

Question - Since God's Law demanded that sin be paid for, what was the price that God put upon sin? **Answer** - Spiritual death (Romans 6:23) and a Perfect Blood Sacrifice (Hebrews 9:11-14; 10:16-19).

Question - Could man ever redeem himself? **Answer** - No. God made no provision for man to redeem himself by his own efforts because all of man's efforts lead to death. If just physical death paid for man's sins, then all men would be saved because all die.

Question - Define Spiritual death? **Answer** - Left up to man it was being forever separated from God.

Question - Who came and paid this debt for man that he could not pay? **Answer** - Jesus.

Question - What did it cost Jesus? **Answer** - It cost Him His physical life, as He shed His Blood for us and it required His being separated from God - He tasted of Spiritual death. We usually only think of Christ's physical death as that which paid for our sins, but if we look more closely at the true price, we will see that there is more to it than that.

Question - Since Jewish history tells us that the road to Rome was lined with crosses where people were crucified, what made Jesus' death such a great occasion when hundreds of others had died the same kind of death?

Answer - **Jesus was the only one who was God's Son;** He was the only One that was Crucified who had kept The Law perfectly; He was the only One Crucified that was separated from God without a single sin; **He was the only Perfect Sacrifice out of all that were crucified,** and He was the only One who was nailed to a Cross that The Law of Sin and Death had no power over because He had never sinned.

Question - Why was Jesus hanging on the cross then? **Answer** - **He was there in our place.**

Question - What did God say through Isaiah that sin does? **Answer** - **It separates one from God .(Isaiah 59:2)**

Question - In addition to Christ's blood what else did He pay? **Answer** - He experienced Spiritual separation from God as required by God through the words spoken by Isaiah. If physical death only would pay for man's sins, then why did Jesus cry out just before His death " My God, My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me? " (Matthew 27:46)

Question - In Hebrews 2:9 we are told that “ Jesus by the grace of God should taste death for every man “. What does this verse mean? **Answer** - Christians do not have to taste of the death that Jesus tasted of because He did it for us. **So this death that Jesus tasted of could not mean physical death because if Jesus doesn’t come back while we are still alive, we will have to die physically.** Therefore, the death that He tasted of for us was Spiritual death. This is what The Law of Sin and Death required. He died for us so that we won’t have to Die. (I Thessalonians 5:10) This taste of Spiritual death is referred to in the Book of Acts as “ His soul was not left in Hell. “ (Acts 2:27-31)

It is noteworthy that Jesus, although He was suffering terribly from the pains of the body, seemed to be receiving strength from His Heavenly Father because He did not say anything to indicate otherwise. Consider Jesus words in John 16:32: “ I am not alone, because The Father is with Me.” It must have been that just before He died, God placed all of the sins of the world on Him (II Corinthians 5:21) and then turned His back on Him. If not, why did Jesus cry out “ My God, My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me? “

We must see the terribleness of The Law of Sin and Death before we can fully appreciate the love that God has for us. We must see just how much He hates sin. We are completely unworthy of all His Mercy and Grace, but He has made us Heirs with Christ because He wants us to be in Heaven with Him. We can now stand justified before God everyday, not because of our doings but because of what He has done for us.(Titus 3:4-7)

THE BEGINNING OF LAW

In Genesis 2:15 the Lord God took Adam and put him in the Garden of Eden to dress and keep it. Up to this point in the Book of Genesis nothing is said about law, but in Genesis 2:17 we find the first recording in the Bible concerning law: “ But of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil thou shalt not eat; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. “

Question - What is a simple name for this Law? **Answer** - The Law of Sin and Death.

Question - Did this Law that God gave them demand flawless obedience? **Answer** - Yes It said “ If you eat, you will die. “

In Genesis 4:6 Cain killed his brother Abel. In Genesis 4:11-13 God tells of his punishment to Cain for the wrong that he had done and Cain says that his punishment is greater than he can bear. These verses illustrate that some kind of law was in existence. Also, in Genesis 6:5 God says that the people’s hearts were on evil continually, again indicating that there was some kind of law in effect. This was about 1536 years after God had created man.

In Romans 5:12 we read “ Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men for all have sinned. “ From this verse we learn that there was some kind of law that had its beginning when Adam ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (right and wrong). In Romans 5:14 “ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is a figure of Him that was to come. “

Question - What would these people have had to do to sin like Adam sinned?

Answer - They would have had to eat of the forbidden fruit. This verse (Romans 5:14) says that they did not do that, but still they died Spiritually because of other sins in their lives. This continues to tell us that there was some kind of law in existence.

In Romans 2:14 we read “ For when the Gentiles, which have not the Law, do by nature the things contained in the Law, these, having not the Law, are a Law unto themselves. “

Question - What law was it that Paul said that the Gentiles did not have?

Answer - The Law of Moses. Yet Paul said they did by nature the things contained in The Law of Moses.

Question - What part of The Law of Moses was Paul referring to when he said they did these things by nature? Was he referring to The Moral Law in the Law of Moses or The Ceremonial Law in The Law of Moses? Or both?

Answer - The Moral Law, because in Romans 2:15 it says that they “show the work of The Law written in their hearts.

Question - Was Adam created with The Moral Law written in his heart as mentioned of the Gentiles in Romans 2:14-15? **Answer** - No. If he was, why was he forbidden to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil if he already knew the difference between right and wrong?

Question - What do the words “Moral Law” mean? **Answer** - that which is morally wrong. In Romans 5:12 we have already read that Adam’s sin caused everyone to sin.

Question - How did his sin cause other’s to sin? **Answer** - When he ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he then knew what was right and wrong morally. Part of God’s Plan was then to implant, write upon the hearts of future generations His Moral Law.

Question - Did Adam break The Moral Law when he ate of the forbidden fruit?

Answer - No. The Moral Law did not say “ do not eat of the forbidden fruit “. (Romans 5:14).

Question - As stated earlier in Romans 5:14 death reigned from Adam to Moses due to sin. What law did men break? **Answer** - The Moral Law.

Question - Who set The Law of Sin and Death in motion? **Answer** - Adam.

Question - When did he set it in motion? **Answer** - When he disobeyed God's command to not eat of the forbidden fruit.

Question - How long was The Law of Sin and Death in effect? **Answer** - Until the end of time when Christ comes again. (Romans 8:1).

Question - Is The Moral Law a Law of Sin and Death? **Answer** - Yes. (Romans 5:12-14; 2:14-15).

Question - Is The Law of Moses a Law of Sin and Death? **Answer** - Yes. (Deuteronomy 27:26, Exekiel 18:4, Galatians 3:10).

Everyone was subject to The Moral Law until The Law of Moses was given on Mount Sinai.

Question - When The Law of Moses was given, who was subject to it? **Answer** - The Jews.

Question - What about the Gentiles? What law were they under while the Jews were under The Law of Moses? **Answer** - The Moral Law. (Romans 2:14).

Question - After the Cross what law were the Jews subject to? **Answer** - The Law of Faith in Christ Jesus.

Question - After the Cross what law were the Gentiles under? **Answer** - The Law of Faith in Christ Jesus.

Question - At what age in life do we become subject to The Law of Faith? **Answer** - When we know that the wrongs that we are doing are against God and not Just our parents.

Question - What does the word Law mean? **Answer** - Basically, it means the expressed and binding will of someone, so if someone is under law to that someone, he is bound by the expression of that will.

THE LAW OF WORKS AND THE LAW OF FAITH

There are two systems of law spoken of by Paul in Romans 3:27: A Law of Works and a Law of Faith. Let's define each of these:

1. The Law of Works is an arrangement whereby and wherein a man is justified by his

flawless obedience to the expressed and binding will of God.

2. The Law of Faith is an arrangement whereby and wherein a person is justified before God by an obedient faith in the flawless Jesus.

Examples of The Law of Works include:

1. Genesis 2:17 - The Law of Sin and Death; If you sin, you die Spiritually.
2. Genesis 3:1-7 - We find that through Adam's eating of the forbidden fruit that he passed on to all men a law that is called the Moral Law. (Romans 2:14-15). The Moral Law was a Law of Sin and Death. (Romans 5:12-14). All people sinned, so all people died Spiritually. A law which demanded sinless perfection was a Law of Sin and Death and thus a Law of Works.

Question - What about The Law of Moses? Was it a Law of Works? **Answer** - Yes, Why? Because it demanded flawless law keeping. If a person broke one law, he stood condemned. (Deuteronomy 27:26, Ezekiel 18:4, Isaiah 59:2, Galatians 3:10).

Question - Was The Law of Moses a Law of Sin and Death? **Answer** - Yes, but it was not The Law of Sin and Death. The term " Law of Sin and Death " refers to any law demanding sinless perfection.

So we see that the Moral Law and The Law of Moses are both a Law of Works.

Question - Again, what does a Law of works require? **Answer** - Flawless obedience.

In the Book of Romans (3:27), Paul mentions a " Law of Works " or just the word " works " to convey the fact that he is talking about a law that demanded flawless obedience which for man was an experimental impossibility. It was not that God had harnessed man with a law that was impossible for man to keep, because one man did keep it and condemned sin in the flesh, and his name was Jesus (Romans 8:3). So experience has shown that through the weakness of the flesh, man could not be justified by a Law of Works, but he can certainly be justified by a Law of Faith through the flawless Jesus!

LAW OF WORKS

1. Justification based on one's Own righteousness. (Romans 10:1-3)

LAW OF FAITH

1. Justification based on God's Righteousness. (Romans 10:4-11)

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| <p>2. Demands flawless obedience.
(Galatians 3:10; 5:1-3)</p> <p>3. Sins counted.
(Romans 1:20; 2:12; 3:9-10)</p> <p>4. Not declared righteous.
(Romans 3:19-20)</p> <p>5. Not justified.
(Galatians 3:11; 2:15-16)</p> <p>6. No grace / mercy.
(Galatians 5:4; Romans 4:4;
Hebrews 7:18-19)</p> <p>7. Brings wrath.
(Romans 4:14-15)</p> <p>8. Brings death.
(Romans 6:23)</p> <p>9. Condemnation.
(II Corinthians 3:7-9)</p> <p>10. Not made perfect.
Hebrews 7:19; 10:1)</p> <p>11. Separated from God.
(Isaiah 59:2)</p> | <p>2. Demands obedience but not flawless since Christ was a Perfect sacrifice.
(Hebrews 12:22-24; 11:39-40; James 2:14-26;
Galatians 5:5-6)</p> <p>3. Sins not counted.
(Romans 4:7-8; I John 1:7)</p> <p>4. Declared righteous.
(Romans 3:21-22;
Hebrews 11:4, 7)</p> <p>5. Justified.
(Romans 3:23-24; 5:1-2
Galatians 2:15-21)</p> <p>6. Receive grace / mercy.
(Romans 6:14-15; 11:5-6;
Ephesians 2:5-9)</p> <p>7. Brings peace.
(Romans 5:1)</p> <p>8. Brings life.
(Romans 6:23)</p> <p>9. No condemnation.
(Romans 8:1-2)</p> <p>10. Made perfect.
(Hebrews 7:19; 11:40;
12:23; 13:21)</p> <p>11. Fellowship with God and Christ.
(I John 1:3)</p> |
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Now let's examine the writings of Paul and James on the subject of " Works ". Many believe that Paul's writings and James' writings contradict one another, since on the surface Paul seem to say that man is not saved by works, whereas, James seems to be saying a man is saved by works. A closer look at their writings and incorporating the concepts of law and justification outlined earlier will reveal that the two writers are in

harmony with one another. The two passages under consideration are Romans 4:1-5 and James 2:21-24.

The word “ Work “ in the scriptures is used always as something done, a deed performed, either good or bad and performed by either God or man. At times Paul will use it simply as acts of obedience, but other times he will use it to stand for “ Law of Works “.

When Paul says that a man is not justified by works, he is saying that man is not able to lay claim for acquittal before God based on his own record of flawless keeping of The Moral Law. In other words, if we sin one time under a Law of Works, all other good deeds that we have done will attain us nothing. Paul is trying to convince man that he is wrong if he believes that he can be justified on his good deed record.

Some of the people that Paul had been talking to were claiming that they had done enough that they should be right with God. Paul says “ Not So.” When obedience to The Moral Law is separated from the sacrifice of Christ, it must be flawless obedience. These people in Romans 4:1-5 thought that they could obey enough to merit justification. So Paul in proving his point uses the example of Abraham.

In the case of Abraham, if he was justified on the basis of his deeds performed, then Paul’s argument fails. But if Paul could prove that Abraham was not justified by works then his argument would stand as true.

Question - Why would Abraham have something to boast of if he would have been justified on the grounds of his works? **Answer** - Because he wouldn’t have committed a single sin.

Question - What man is it that earns acquittal from God? Or to what man does God owe righteousness to. **Answer** - The sinless man.

Question - Was Abraham able to boast before God? **Answer** - No. Why? Because his works were not perfect.

Question - Now under which realm of law did Paul say that Abraham was justified?
Answer - The Law of Faith.

Question - In Romans 4:4 which realm of law would the worker be under? **Answer** - The Law of Works. He would be under the law that said “ Just sin one time and you are not justified “. Therefore, the worker is not just an obedient man, he must be the “Sinless “ obedient man.

Question - In Romans 4:5 which realm of law would the non -worker be under?
Answer - The Law of Faith. How do we know this? The verse says so! The non-worker is the believer, the sinful man who cannot appeal to his perfect record for justification but puts his trust in the flawless Jesus for justification.

Paul points out that the non-worker is a believer and so is Abraham and that the non-workers faith was reckoned for righteousness and so was the faith of Abraham. So Abraham is an example of a non-worker. Since Abraham could not be justified under a Law of Works, he makes the move to The Law of Faith and commits himself to trust in the Lord so that he can receive the gift of love or grace from God.

“ Works “ as used in this passage by Paul has nothing whatever to do with works of righteousness done by the believer. We know that Abraham was a performer of good deeds under The Law of Faith because James says so in James 2:21. James says that Abraham was justified based on his works of faith.

When we contrast the writings of Paul and James on the subject of “ Works “, we must consider that they are dealing with different problems, using the word “ Works “ differently and at times are using the word “ Faith “ differently.

Paul is trying to convince the Jew that he is wrong if he believes he can be justified on the basis of his work record separate and apart from the sacrifice of Christ. James is trying to convince a man that he is wrong if he believes that he can be justified by doing nothing. In Paul’s case man is claiming to be right with God because he has done enough. In James case man is claiming that he can be right with God while refusing to do anything.

When Paul speaks of faith, he is speaking of a faith that trusts in and obeys God. When James speaks of faith in James 2:21-24, he is speaking of faith as it relates to mental assent only. But James is encouraging the people to have the same kind of faith that Paul is talking about, a faith that trusts and obeys God. James says that a faith that just says “ I believe God “ will not justify. Paul says that a faith that justifies, is a faith that will obey.

Therefore, Paul and James are in total agreement on the subject of Faith and Works. They even quote the same scripture “ Abraham believed in the Lord ; and he counted it to him for righteousness “ to prove their points, and why not (?), they were both guided by The Holy Spirit.

Paul is saying that obedience can never be the means of the sinner’s justification, and James is saying that there is no justified man who refuses to be obedient. The means for every righteous man is the work of Jesus. The full and finished work of Jesus to which no merit can be added by man is the only way to justification. So Paul, when establishing his case for justification apart from law, uses faith in just one way and that is trust and obedience in Jesus, and not in one’s own deeds. Whereas James uses faith as just mental assent, but implies that the faith of Abraham included trust and obedience in God.

SUMMARY

SUBJECT

MAJOR POINTS

1. The Gospel
 - Good News about the fact that we've been set free from The Law of Sin and Death by Jesus, the author of The Law of The Spirit of Life. (Romans 8:1-2)

2. The Law of Sin and Death
 - Any law that demands sinless perfection, such as The Moral Law and The Law of Moses. Very simply, if you sin you will die which is Eternal separation from God. It is the Law today that will condemn all those who come not to Jesus for justification.

3. The Moral Law
 - The Law that God has written upon the hearts of all men as a result of Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden when he ate of The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Those outside of Christ today will come under condemnation of the Law of Sin and Death due to their inability to keep The Moral Law perfectly.

4. The Law of Moses
 - This Law was given only to the Jews by God from Mount Sinai through Moses. It included both Moral and Ceremonial Laws which had to be kept perfectly. This Law magnified sin due to man's inability to obey by the letter. As a result, it also produced condemnation due to the penalty of The Law of Sin and Death. During this period, The Gentiles were under The Moral Law.

5. The Law of The Spirit of Life (Eternal Life)
 - This is the Law of the Christian today. It is also known as the perfect Law of Liberty since it was brought and bought by a perfect Saviour, Jesus Christ, and it gives man back the Eternal Life with God that he lost when he sinned and became

condemned by The Law of Sin and Death.

6. The Law of Works

- It is an arrangement whereby and wherein a person is justified by his flawless obedience to the expressed and binding will of God. The Moral Law and The Law of Moses were both Laws of Works demanding flawless obedience. As a result condemnation.

7. The Law of Faith

- It is an arrangement whereby and wherein a person is justified before God by an obedient faith in the flawless Jesus. The Law of The Spirit of Life in Christ is a Law of Faith. It provides justification to all men of faith including those who lived in Old Testament times before Christ. The Book of Hebrews tells us that by Christ's sacrifice and our faith we are made perfect and we are counted righteous, made heirs of Eternal Life.

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