



# Berean Christian Fellowship

## DEVOTIONAL 152.0

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### Are You Justified by the Law?

**“Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24 NASB).**

Many people today still maintain that we must live by aspects of the Mosaic Law to partake of Salvation. For example, they say we must keep the Sabbath, observe Jewish festivals, not eat prohibited foods (i.e. pork), or many such combinations of the ordinances.

Firstly, people who obey laws are trying to justify themselves to the authorities, because if you keep the law, you have nothing to fear from the law. But the point of God’s Law is not to offer justification to any man, because no man can keep it, for *“by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin”* (Rom. 3:20). *“A man is not justified by the works of the Law...since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified”* (Gal. 2:16b). The point of the Law is to reveal our sinful condition and lead us to Jesus. For *“the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe”* (Gal. 3:22).

It is important to note that the New Testament differentiates between God’s Moral Law (Ten Commandments) and the Mosaic Law of ordinances about behavior, observances, food, etc. For the Believer, Mosaic law is left as issues of conscience (Rom. 14), for *“one person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind”* (Rom. 14:5). *“One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him...Do not*

*tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense”* (Rom. 14:1-4; 20). *“Nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean”* (Rom. 14:14b), *“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”* (Rom. 14:17).

So, do we *“nullify the [Moral] Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law”* (Rom. 3:31). How so? The Moral Law (Ten Commandments) leading to Christ as a tutor is fulfilled in Believers by the indwelt Spirit—a “guardian” of holiness (Rom. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:15-16), for *“now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor [leading to salvation]. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ”* (Gal. 3:25-27). We can be the sons of God because the blood of Christ’s sacrifice clothes us in His righteousness, *“so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit”* (Rom. 8:4-5), which puts God’s Law in our minds and hearts (Heb. 8:10b), bearing His fruit in us, which is *“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law”* (Gal. 5:22-23), for *“love is the fulfillment of the law”* (Rom. 13:10).

So, the Mosaic Law has no hold on the us, and the requirements of the Moral Law have been fulfilled by Christ’s imputed righteousness to us. We no longer need try living by the Law to seek justification before God. Instead, we are justified by the blood of Christ, and we walk by the Spirit to please our Father, imitating God *“as beloved children”* (Eph 5:1). *“If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law”* (Gal. 5:18). Even so, Amen.

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