

Study Helps for GALATIANS

KEY VERSES-

- 2:16....no one will be justified by keeping the Law
- 2:21....if righteousness is by Law, Christ died for nothing
- 3:11....the “just” shall live by FAITH (fully leaning upon Jesus)
- 3:24...the Law was “put in charge” to lead us to Christ
- 5:1.....it is for freedom that Christ has set us free; don’t let yourself be burdened again by a yoke of slavery
- 5:6....the only thing that counts now is FAITH expressing itself thru LOVE

KEY WORDS/CONCEPTS-

- the Law: God’s requirements for right standing/acceptance with Him; His rules for right living
- Grace: undeserved and unearned acceptance & favor from God
- righteousness: right standing & right living before God
- justified: made right with God; acquitted of guilt; just-as-if we’d never sinned
- faith: to trust in completely; rely upon completely; wholly cling to
- legalism: the concept of being accepted (or loved or blessed) by God based upon the keeping of certain rules or the performance of certain works or rituals [“tied to God by a contract” (based upon our worthiness)]

COMPARISON OF LEGALISM vs GRACE-

LEGALISM: is a roller-coaster relationship with God; always climbing the ladder, falling, & starting over

- produces arrogance & self-righteousness when we’re successful (God owes me)
- produces defeat & insecurity when we’re not (God doesn’t love me as much today)
- NO PEACE or consistent JOY in my relationship with God

GRACE: produces STABILITY, PEACE, and constant JOY in our relationship with God, no matter what our performance is like from day to day

- we are SECURE in His love
- we have the assurance of access to Him & His blessings no matter whether we deserve it or not
- the perfect environment in which to grow up: unnecessary to prove or earn love

Question: WHY would anyone CHOOSE legalism? (As the Galatians were doing)
common reasons:

- 1) Don’t know there’s an alternative--haven’t heard about Grace
- 2) Guilt (I’ve been naughty--God, I’ll make it up to you) You can’t...and it’s unnecessary
- 3) Pride (like the Pharisees, it makes people feel superior to others when successful)
- 4) It feels more “religious” than free Grace; makes more sense