

Quit Striving and Start Trusting

The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification – Direction 6

Direction 6: Those that endeavor to perform sincere obedience to all the commands of Christ, as the condition by which they are to procure for themselves a right and title to salvation, and a good ground to trust on Him for the same, do seek their salvation by the works of the law, and not by the faith of Christ, as He is revealed in the gospel and they shall never be able to perform sincere and true holy obedience by all such endeavors.

Thesis: You cannot earn salvation or attain holiness by your own power.

I. Obedience to the Law is not the Gospel Way of Salvation

- A. Paul condemns those who seek salvation by works rather than by faith.
- B. The difference between law and gospel is not perfect doing and sincere doing, but in doing and believing.
- C. Sincere obedience is impossible except through the law but salvation is through gospel.
- D. Those that try to earn salvation by sincere obedience disobey Christ, who offers salvation through free grace and which we receive by faith.
 - 1. They are trying to heal themselves and sanctify themselves and in so doing they void Christ's salvation while claiming it as their own.
 - 2. They really act contrary to salvation by grace because they seek God's grace while looking to their works.
 - 3. They act contrary to salvation by faith because they strive in their own works rather than trust in Christ's.
- E. Neither Christ nor his apostles taught works as a condition of salvation.

II. Sanctification through Works is Law, also; it is not the Gospel way.

- A. Salvation through works keeps one from laying hold on the only means of holiness.
- B. Sincere obedience is as impossible as perfect obedience.
- C. The law does not give the strength to keep it.
- D. This view also goes contrary to good sense.
- E. The law does not bring healing but condemnation.
- F. Salvation by works was cursed as a result of Adam's sin and so works death rather than life.

Conclusion: God's purpose in giving the law to Moses was never to attain to salvation or holiness. God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob promised blessing; the Mosaic covenant was added so Israel would see their sinfulness and death and understand the impossibility of achieving life through works rather than grace.

We must praise God not only for his deliverance from bondage through Christ. Do not seek to be entangled again in the yoke of bondage (Gal. 5:1).