

TITLE AND NUMBER: 242 Live by faith



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Galatians 3:23-29

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, nor is there male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

LOOKING FURTHER: Galatians 2:11-3:22; Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5:17; John 10:10b

What does the Bible passage tell us?

This passage comes at the end of a section in chapters 2 and 3 which talks about the difference between trusting in the **law**, which God gave to Moses, and living by **faith**, which came through Jesus Christ. Paul explains in verses 26-29 that God gave the law to the people to put them on the right track towards Him. However, very many extra laws were added which became a great burden for the people and they lost track of the reason behind the basic Ten Commandments or laws. They thought that the only way to God was through keeping all the laws.

When Jesus came, He did not come to abolish the law but to fulfil it (Matthew 5:17). He spent His 33 years on earth teaching the people by His own example that if they lived by faith they would understand the 'real' meaning of the Ten Commandments; each one was designed to bring them closer to God and to live in love not in judgement.

We are called, therefore, to remember that we cannot 'earn' our way into heaven. It is a free gift! Our task and our joy are to follow the way that Jesus taught and showed, which we read about in the Gospels. There we see that His actions were always based on love of the individual person, whoever that might be. This was going against the culture of His day when people who were rich, privileged and – seemingly - righteous were considered important and those who were poor, sick, under-privileged or sinners were not – much like today. And yet it was this Jesus, who loved all people, who was and is the Son of God. Surely, He and His example are what we should follow.

If you think the way to follow Jesus is trying to be holy and giving up pretty much everything, think again! Yes, Jesus wants us to be sorry for our sins. But then He wants us to live full lives in line with His example – loving and serving God and other people in ways which will bring joy to us as well as to others.

Reflection

- Do you sometimes feel discouraged, thinking that the task of following Jesus is too difficult and that there is no joy in it? Talk to anyone you know who is a Christian and ask them whether Jesus brings them joy.
- Ask Jesus to put His joy into your heart and to show you how He wants you to follow Him.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



E A I T H

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

