

THE SAVING LIFE OF CHRIST

The Exchanged Life

Galatians 2:16-21

The **exchanged life** is the **victorious Christian life**. It isn't a *method* or *technique*...it's entirely different. It's a revolutionary new *principle for living*. "...*It is no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me...*" (vs. 20). That's the **exchanged life!**

This is the **Gospel** being lived. It's not the **Gospel, plus something else**. It's a life being *lived by faith*...a life that *walks by faith*.

We must learn a *new terminology*. We must learn to *express our faith* without *compromising* to the *world* and to the *flesh*. We must quit *making excuses* for our *sin*. To *divorce* the *behavior of the Christian* from the **Gospel** is entirely *wrong* and it isn't *true to the Word of God*. Yet, all too often such is the characteristic of Christians and the Church. We want to speak of the *carnal Christian*...the *back-slider* as an excuse. What we must do is teach and preach genuine and true *salvation...holiness...faithfulness*. Not a *performance based life* of Christianity...but an **exchanged life**...Christ living in and through us.

I want us to explore the true spiritual content of the **Gospel**... *not just heaven one day*, but *Christ right now! Christ in you* ...based on the truth of *justification*. This is the **Gospel!**

I. THE BASIS OF THE EXCHANGED LIFE:

Nevertheless knowing that a man is not **justified** by the works of the Law but **through faith in Christ Jesus**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be **justified by faith in Christ** and not by the works of the Law; since by the **works of the Law no flesh will be justified** (vs. 16)...

In **verse 16**, Paul affirmed that **justification** is *by faith alone and not by works* (Law)...*three (3) times*.

Justified...is a legal term, borrowed from the courts and means *to declare righteous*. The opposite is *to condemn*. It's an *act of God* in which He views our *sin* as *forgiven* and *Christ's righteousness* as *belonging to us*. We are *declared righteous* in His sight.

"For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."

~Romans 3:28

The basis for the **exchanged life** is *faith in Jesus Christ alone* for our *justification*...*our imputed righteousness*. We exchange our *old nature*...our *sin nature*...for the *righteousness of Christ!*

Abraham...even before the **Law** was given...he trusted.

"Then he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness."

~Genesis 15:6

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval."

~Hebrews 11:1-2

Hebrews 11...By faith...Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab the harlot... vs. 32, *"And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets..."*

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

~Hebrews 11:6

II. THE BATTLE AGAINST THE EXCHANGED LIFE:

But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be! For if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor (vs. 17-18)...

The battle is between the *sin nature* (the flesh) and the *new nature* (the Spirit). When we become a child of God, we receive a *new nature*...we receive the *indwelling* of the Holy Spirit.

“For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate...For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want...Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.”

~Romans 7:15, 19, 24-25

The dispute in [verse 17-18](#), then, is over the need to *keep the Law* as a means of *salvation* (what the Jews believed) ...or whether one is *justified by faith in Christ alone*. Faith in Christ for one's *justification* and *forgiveness* removes the need for keeping the *Law* as a *basis of performance* to be *forgiven* and *accepted* by God.

If a person can believe in Christ for *salvation* and then does *as he pleases*, he is negating the *grace* that God gives. **Paul** notes that this would *make Christ the promoter of sin*.

On the contrary, if a believer would *return* to the *Law* after trusting Christ alone for *salvation*, that *Law* would only demonstrate that he was a *sinner*...a *transgressor*.

“Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.”

~Romans 7:4

“You will know them by their fruits...”

~Matthew 7:16

III. THE BEAUTY OF THE EXCHANGED LIFE:

For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me (vs. 19-20)...

In [verse 20](#), it enlarges the meaning of [verse 19](#). We *died to the Law* because we are *crucified with Christ*. Basic to the understanding of this verse is the meaning of *union with Christ...in Christ, Christ in me!* Literally it means...*I have been and continue to be crucified with Christ*. This doctrine is based on the passage in [Romans 6:1-7](#).

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His

death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.”

~Romans 6:1-7

And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me (vs. 20b)...

A *living faith breaths* with the activity of Jesus Christ. The *work of God*...it's your *faith* in the adequacy of the One who is "in you"...the One who releases His *divine action* and *power* "through you."

*Good works are those works that have their origin in Jesus Christ...whose activity is released through your body, and is then presented to Him as a *living sacrifice* by a *faith* that expresses *absolute* and *total dependence* on Him.*

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

~Romans 12:1-2

IV. THE BOLDNESS OF THE EXCHANGED LIFE:

I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly (vs. 21)...

The implication is that there were individuals *setting aside God's grace* and returning to the **Law** for their

righteousness (ie. the **Pharisees**). The essence of *grace* is for God to give people what they *have not worked for*...

“Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

~Romans 4:4-5

If *righteousness* comes by keeping the **Law**, the **Cross** was a *futile gesture*...it's the *greatest travesty* of all time.

TRUTHS TO BE LEARNED:

- **To be in Christ...that is REDEMPTION. For Christ to be in you...that is SANCTIFICATION.**

To be in Christ...that makes you *fit for heaven*. *For Christ to be in you*...that makes you *fit for earth*!

To be in Christ...that changes your *destination*. *For Christ to be in you*...that changes your *destiny*!

The one makes *heaven* your *home*. The other makes this *world* His *workshop*...through you!

If you will but trust Christ, not only for the *death* He died in order *to redeem you*, but also for the *life* that He lives and waits to *live through you*...the very next step you take will be a step taken in the very *energy* and *power* of God Himself.

- **The battle of the exchanged life is that everyone is susceptible to SIN. Uniquely gifted individuals and even ministers of the gospel can commit serious transgressions, sometimes becoming guilty of the very errors and sins they once strongly preached against.**
- **Die to your SELF-WILL and INDEPENDENCE and be raised to a childlike DEPENDENCE on Christ and Christ alone.** This is obedience through faith.