

#22 FORUM POST ON THE SABBATH DAY LAW

Dear all,

Here is something to consider if you think you are commanded to keep the sabbath.

[Exodus 20:8 KJV] "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."

[Exodus 20:9 KJV] "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:"

[Exodus 20:10 KJV] "But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates:"Outside of emergencies do you refrain from any form of labor? Outside of emergencies do you rely on someone laboring to meet your needs? You do realize that verse 10 says you don't make servants work either. I guess you can claim to keep the ten commandments if you revise and spiritualize them so you can declare you do.

D_____

Dear D_____

The law of keeping the Sabbath Day has NOT been abolished. However, many believers have a very mistaken understanding of how converted believers keep the Sabbath Day.

I'll explain:

For a person to be acceptable to God, we must trust in Him to direct our lives and the paths that we take. This mindset is called FAITH.

David was acceptable to God because of his great faith - even though he still sinned in other areas.

The physical keeping of the Sabbath Day foreshadowed the faith that God would give to all mankind via the Holy Spirit under the New Covenant. Under the New Covenant, the Sabbath Day law is fulfilled when a believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit and begins walking by faith. This is accomplished by Christ's work of "conversion". Conversion occurs when Christ gives a person the Early and Latter Rains of the Holy Spirit, followed by His judgment. For converted believers, having faith and walking by that faith happens automatically and requires no work from themselves to follow the law. Why? Because the Holy Spirit within them does all the work.

Phil 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

In this way, a converted believer keeps the Sabbath Day law. The physical keeping of the

Sabbath by observing one day a week is then no longer required because a converted believer will rest from their work 24/7.

Because this is how a converted believer keeps the Sabbath Day, Paul said this:

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves (referring to their faith): it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

And this:

Heb 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works (24/7), as God did from his (on the 7th day).

Joe

Another member responded.

Dear FaithWillDo,

God is trustworthy, therefore His instructions are also trustworthy (Psalm 19:7), so the way to trust in God is by obediently trusting in His instructions and it would be contradictory for someone to think that we should trust in God but not in His instructions. So the positions that God should not be trusted when it comes to keeping the 7th day holy is the opposite of trusting in God. The Spirit has the role of leading us in truth (John 16:13), the Spirit has the role of leading us to obey God's instructions (Ezekiel 36:26-27), and God's instructions are truth (Psalm 119:142), but the Spirit does not have the role of leading us away from obeying what God has instructed. The New Covenant does not involve rejecting God's instructions, but rather it involves God putting them in our minds and writing them on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33).

If we did on every day what God wants us to do on the Sabbath, then we would do no work, but God also wants us to work on the other six days. In Hebrews 3:18, they did not enter into God's rest because of their disobedience, and in Ezekiel 20:13, it specifically mentions that they greatly profaned God's Sabbaths, so someone should not think that they can enter into God's rest while having the same disobedience that prevented the Israelites from entering into God's rest. In Hebrews 4:9-11, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, we should rest from our work as God rested from His work, and we should be careful to enter into that rest so that no one might fall away by the same sort of disobedience, so we should continue follow Christ's example of keeping the 7th day holy.

S

Dear S _____,

The Old Covenant was given to prove to Israel that man is NOT capable of obeying God's law. Only Jesus Christ is able to perfectly keep the law. For anyone else to keep the law, Christ must be living within them so that He keeps the law for them. This is the basis of our salvation. Christ is the one who gives a person their will and ability to follow the law. Without Christ, a person will always fail and it only takes ONE failure for the penalty of sin (death) to apply.

When Christ keeps the law from within a person, the person will have ceased from their own labors of trying to follow the law. When this happens, the person will be keeping the Sabbath Day law seven days a week and will have entered into the rest of Christ. This is what it means to be faithful. Walking by faith is the spiritual fulfillment of the physical Sabbath Day law. For a person to walk by faith, Christ will be the one who is causing it to happen. Mankind has NO WORKS of their own to contribute to their own salvation. Christ is the one who is responsible for our salvation and is the one who will do all the work.

When a babe in Christ (Early Rain only) believes that they must rest one day a week but work the other six days, it represents that they have mixed the Old Wine (Old Covenant) with the New Wine (New Covenant). When they do this mixing of works with faith, it will bite them like a serpent and they will fall from grace.

Prov 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. 27 For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. 28 She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increases the transgressors among men. 29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? 30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. 31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red (Old Wine), when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moves itself (man's works) aright. 32 At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

The Old Covenant was given to prove to Israel that man is NOT capable of obeying God's law.

Nowhere does the Bible say that, but rather it states the opposite. In Romans 10:5-8, Paul referred to Deuteronomy 30 as the word of faith that we proclaim in regard to the righteousness that is by faith proclaiming that the Law of God is not too difficult for us to obey and that obedience to it brings life and a blessing while disobedience brings death and a curse, so choose

life! Moreover, there are many example of people in the Bible who did keep the law, such as with those in Joshua 22:1-3, Luke 1:5-6, Revelation 14:12, and Revelation 22:14.

FaithWillDo said:

Only Jesus Christ is able to perfectly keep the law. For anyone else to keep the law, Christ must be living within them so that He keeps the law for them. This is the basis of our salvation. Christ is the one who gives a person their will and ability to follow the law. Without Christ, a person will always fail and it only takes ONE failure for the penalty of sin (death) to apply.

If we needed to have perfect obedience to the law, then repentance would have no value, so the fact that repentance has value democrats that we are not required to have perfect obedience. The only reason why someone would need to have perfect obedience to the Law of God would if they are going to give themselves to pay for the sins of the world - the rest of us can thankfully have our sins forgiven. The Law of God was never given as something that was to be obeyed apart from Christ.

FaithWillDo said:

When Christ keeps the law from within a person, the person will have ceased from their own labors of trying to follow the law. When this happens, the person will be keeping the Sabbath Day law seven days a week and will have entered into the rest of Christ. This is what it means to be faithful. Walking by faith is the spiritual fulfillment of the physical Sabbath Day law. For a person to walk by faith, Christ will be the one who is causing it to happen. Mankind has NO WORKS of their own to contribute to their own salvation. Christ is the one who is responsible for our salvation and is the one who will do all the work.

Christ lived in obedience to the Law of God, so that is also the way that we live when we he is living in us, which includes keeping the 7th day holy. In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus was inviting people to come to him for rest and to learn from him, not inviting people to come to him for rest instead of learning from his example. By Jesus saying that we would find rest for our souls he was referencing Jeremiah 6:16-19, where the Law of God is described as the good way where we will find rest for our souls. We have find rest for our souls instead of following God's instructions for how to find rest for our souls. In Revelation 14:12, those who kept faith in Christ are the same as those who kept God's commandments, so we can't have faith n Christ instead of keeping God's commandments. God is trustworthy therefore His law is also trustworthy (Psalms 19:7), so the way to trust in God for our salvation is by obediently trusting in His law and it would be contradictory to think that we should trust in God for salvation instead of trusting in His instructions. God has not given any instructions for man for how to do works of our own to contribute to our own salvation, but rather God graciously teaching us to be a doer of His law is how He is giving us His gift of salvation. Works that we do on our own would be works that are completely independent of anything that God has instructed.

FaithWillDo said:

When a babe in Christ (Early Rain only) believes that they must rest one day a week but work the other six days, it represents that they have mixed the Old Wine (Old Covenant) with the New Wine (New Covenant). When they do this mixing of works with faith, it will bite them like a serpent and they will fall from grace.

Prov 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. 27 For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. 28 She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increases the transgressors among men. 29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? 30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. 31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red (Old Wine), when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moves itself (man's works) aright. 32 At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder.

The New Covenant still involves following God's law (Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 36:26-27), so I'm not mixing the covenants. The Bible repeatedly connects our works with our faith such as with the examples of faith in Hebrews 11 or with James 2:18 saying that he would show his faith through his works. In Psalm 119:29-30, he wanted to put false ways far from him, for God to be gracious to him by teaching him to obey His law, and he chose the way of faith by setting it before him, so this has always been the one and only way of salvation by grace through faith, and it would be absurd to think that he wanted God to be gracious to him by teaching him how to fall from grace.

S _____

Dear S _____,

You said:

Nowhere does the Bible say that, but rather it states the opposite. In Romans 10:5-8, Paul referred to Deuteronomy 30 as the word of faith that we proclaim in regard to the righteousness that is by faith proclaiming that the Law of God is not too difficult for us to obey and that obedience to it brings life and a blessing while disobedience brings death and a curse, so choose life! Moreover, there are many example of people in the Bible who did keep the law, such as with those in Joshua 22:1-3, Luke 1:5-6, Revelation 14:12, and Revelation 22:14.

Paul supports my statement here:

Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

The Old Covenant of Law was given to the Nation of Israel to be their schoolmaster to lead them to Christ.

The Old Covenant stipulated that as long as the nation obeyed God's law, they would be acceptable to Him. However, the Nation of Israel had no ability to be obedient to God because they were spiritually marred. The temple sacrifices were put in place to put a temporary covering over their sins. Christ came to be the permanent sacrifice. In this way, Christ fulfilled the Old Covenant of Law. But since Christ's sacrifice on the cross did nothing to stop mankind's sinful ways, Christ introduced a new covenant. In that new covenant, Christ will do all the work of making mankind obedient to the laws of God. He does this by spiritually changing mankind by giving each person the free gift of the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit, mankind will be governed by the Spirit and will cease sinning. So yes, the Law of God is not too difficult to obey because Jesus Christ has come and given us the Spirit which causes us to "will and to do". After a person is converted, they will enter into the rest of Christ and will be obeying the Sabbath day law.

You said:

If we needed to have perfect obedience to the law, then repentance would have no value, so the fact that repentance has value democrats that we are not required to have perfect obedience. The only reason why someone would need to have perfect obedience to the Law of God would if they are going to give themselves to pay for the sins of the world - the rest of us can thankfully have our sins forgiven. The Law of God was never given as something that was to be obeyed apart from Christ.

Scriptural repentance is a repentance from works. The other side of that coin is faith. The Old Covenant is works based. The New Covenant is based on faith in Christ to do all the works of making us righteous before God. After a person has been converted, they will be governed by the Spirit and will eventually stop sinning once they have matured to a "man of full age". At that time, the person be like Christ and will have perfect obedience. Their obedience comes from the Spirit and not from themselves. That spiritual change is mankind's salvation.

You said:

The New Covenant still involves following God's law (Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 36:26-27), so I'm not mixing the covenants.

You are missing the point I was making. Yes, we are to follow the commandments of God. The Old Covenant is based upon mankind's own ability to follow the Law and the New Covenant is based upon Christ's ability to follow the Law. After a person is converted, Christ will live within them via the Holy Spirit and cause them to "will and to do". This will cause the person to rest from their own works because Christ within them is now doing all the works. When this change occurs within a person, the Sabbath Day law is then spiritually fulfilled within the person. They will then rest 24/7 from their works. A physical rest from work one day a week is no longer necessary.

Consider this scripture again:

Heb 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works (24/7), as God did from his (on the 7th day).

The Sabbath Day is based upon God resting on the seventh day after the six days of His creation work. Paul equates that same day with entering into the rest of Christ. This spiritual change within a person fulfills the physical observance of the Sabbath Day law.

Joe

S_____ did not responded but another member did.

Dear FaithWillDo,

Keeping the Sabbath isn't a work.

God did not make the Sabbath for man.

It is a gift.

God made man for the Sabbath.

Origin

Old English *sabat*, from Latin *sabbatum*, via Greek from Hebrew *šabbāt*, from *šābat* 'to rest'.

B_____

Dear B_____,

Anything that a person takes credit for doing that they believe earns or entitles them to salvation is a "work". Christ is the Savior and He does all the work of saving mankind. His work is spiritual and He performs it within us. Mankind contributes nothing because they have nothing that they can contribute.

So what is salvation and why can't mankind do anything to earn it or receive it?

Salvation is to be spiritually converted into a child of God who does not sin.

Mankind was created spiritually marred. The flaw in man's spirit is its weakness. It is that

weakness that causes mankind to put their own needs over their need to be obedient to God. The Old Covenant of Law was given to reveal this truth to mankind.

The only way to correct mankind's spiritual flaw is for the Holy Spirit to indwell a person. When the Spirit does, it will spiritually strengthen the person. After a person is strengthened, they will put their need to be obedient to God over their own needs. This is the same reason why Jesus never sinned. He had the Spirit without measure. He never put His own needs over His need to be obedient to His Father. He even went to the cross rather than disobey God.

Also, scripture says that Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. When Christ enters into a person via the Holy Spirit, the person will rest from their own works of trying to be acceptable to God. Why? Because Christ within us cause the person to "will and to do":

Phil 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

This spiritual change is what the Sabbath Day law foreshadowed. So yes, God made man for the Sabbath Day because God wants us to trust Him and depend upon Him for everything. When we do, we are obeying the Sabbath and are at rest from our labors 24/7. This is what it means to walk by faith and is why the New Covenant is Grace through Faith. Faith is rest and rest is obedience to the Sabbath Day law.

In the end, Christ will see to it that all mankind enters into His rest and receives the salvation He came to freely give mankind. It is all His work to perform.

1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Rom 5:15 But shall not the act of favour be as the offence? For if by the offence of one the many have died, much rather has the grace of God, and the free gift in grace, which is by the one man Jesus Christ, abounded unto the many.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

Anything that a person takes credit for doing that they believe earns or entitles them to salvation is a "work".

You don't understand Sabbath.

Sabbath isn't a work. As explained.

Sabbatarians also know that keeping the Sabbath does not save them. They are saved in Christ. God's gift of Sabbath was God's gift for us.

Just as his grace gifted us with faith and Salvation
After Salvation is when we recognize the gift of Sabbath.

You appear to adhere to lazy easy believerism.

Christ never taught we work to stay saved.

That we are saved is why we do the work God calls us to.

There's a difference.

B

Dear B _____,

Trying to follow the laws of God (like the Sabbath Day law) are works.

And yes, the Sabbath Day is God's gift to mankind. When Christ enters a person, they will rest from their works of trying to make themselves acceptable to God. Christ Himself is the gift of the Sabbath Day. That is why when Christ lives within a person, they are obeying the Sabbath Day and are resting from their works. Christ is doing the works for them. The physical observance of the Sabbath Day prior to a person's conversion is only a foreshadowing of the true gift that will come later.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

Trying to follow the laws of God (like the Sabbath Day law) are works.

No.

Is not stealing a work? If you're not a thief are you saved?

Please.

Arguing against morality and thinking the moral laws of God are works, is umbilical.

FaithWillDo said:

And yes, the Sabbath Day is God's gift to mankind. When Christ enters a person, they will rest from their works of trying to make themselves acceptable to God. Christ Himself is the gift of the Sabbath Day. That is why when Christ lives within a person, they are obeying the Sabbath Day and are resting from their works. Christ is doing the works for them. The physical observance of the Sabbath Day prior to a person's conversion is only a foreshadowing of the true gift that will come later.

Good luck with Sophistry.

B

Dear B _____,

"Morality and thinking the moral laws of God" are not works. Trying to follow the laws of God without Christ within you doing it for you is what constitutes "works". That is the difference between the Old and New Covenants. What you are teaching is the mixing of the old and new wine and is what causes a believer to fall from grace.

It is the works of Christ within a person that will give mankind the gift of rest that the Sabbath Day law foreshadows.

Joe

The original poster finally responded.

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

The law of keeping the Sabbath Day has NOT been abolished.

[Exodus 31:16 KJV] "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, [for] a perpetual covenant.".....The sabbath is a perpetual covenant for "the children of Israel". Paul says we were strangers from the covenant. Gentiles weren't given this covenant, only Israel.

FaithWillDo said:

For a person to be acceptable to God, we must trust in Him to direct our lives and the paths that we take. This mindset is called FAITH.

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Faith is believing God.

D

Dear D _____,

Yes, faith comes by hearing the Word but the individual must have at least a small measure of the Holy Spirit (Early Rain) for faith to develop within them. Faith is a gift from God and it accompanies the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

"Faith" is one of the "things of the Spirit of God". Without Christ first giving a person the Spirit, they will never have faith in Him or truthfully call Jesus "Lord".

Because faith is a gift from God, it is not a work of man. When Christ is ready to save a person, He will freely give them everything they need to be saved (converted). The individual has no works of their own to contribute. This is the true Gospel of Christ. And because Christ loves all mankind, He will eventually come to every person who has ever lived and give them His free gifts.

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast ([Feast of Ingathering/Tabernacles](#)), Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

The same event is repeated here:

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

The above scriptures are physical types that foreshadow what Christ will do at the end of the final age. At that time, all mankind will have already been given the Early Rain of the Spirit. With that small measure of the Spirit, they will all respond to Christ and His Bride's (the Elect) call and will freely drink of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain/baptism). This will be their moment of conversion and salvation.

This scripture below will then be testified to be true:

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Has Christ given you enough faith to believe what God said above?

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

Under the New Covenant, the Sabbath Day law is fulfilled when a believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit and begins walking by faith.

There is no scripture to support this. I am sincere, I am not being judgmental, I am not going to mock you. I just want to know if you have been taught this from someone.

Here are the tenants of the new covenant:

[Jeremiah 31:31 KJV] "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:".....It's only made with the house of Israel

[Ezekiel 36:24 KJV] "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.".....it will be when Israel is in the land

[Jeremiah 31:32 KJV] "Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:".....the new covenant is not the old covenant which Israel couldnt keep

[Ezekiel 36:27 KJV] "And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do [them].".....God will put his spirit in Israel to do the statutes found in the old covenant, the statutes Israel failed to keep.

D

Dear D _____,

I have not been taught this concept by anyone except Christ. The Sabbath Day law is part of the whole law of God. The whole Law of God must be followed whether a person is a Jew or Gentile.

Christ even said that He came to fulfill the law of God (not just some of it):

Mat 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

When Christ enters into a person (converts them), He will fulfill the whole law for them, too. That is why a converted believer is no longer under the Law - Christ has fulfilled it for them.

Likewise, the Sabbath Day law is fulfilled for a person when they are converted. Paul equates that as having entered into the rest of Christ..

Heb 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works (24/7), as God did from his (on the 7th day/what the Sabbath Day was founded upon).

The "rest" of Christ is the spiritual fulfillment of the natural Sabbath Day law.

1Cor 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural (observing one day of rest per week**); and afterward that which is spiritual (**the rest of Christ**).**

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

Because this is how a converted believer keeps the Sabbath Day,

You are redefining the sabbath. Either you keep the sabbath according to God's word as commanded in Exodus 20 or you revise it to say you do.

D_____

Dear D_____,

You are only understanding the NATURAL fulfillment of the Sabbath Day law. Christ spiritually fulfills the Sabbath Day law within us upon our conversion. First comes the natural (the law written on tablets of stone/outwardly observed), then comes the spiritual (written in our hearts/spiritually observed).

This concept is critical in understanding the work that Christ is presently doing under the New Covenant - and this work is spiritual work.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

Faith is a gift from God.

[Ephesians 2:8 KJV] "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:".....Being saved by grace is the gift that's not of ourselves. Praise God for his grace!

D

Dear D _____,

You are reading the verse wrong. Faith is the gift that puts a person under God's grace. The verse says "grace through faith". We must have faith or we can't have grace. Paul says that our faith is "not of yourselves" because it came from God as a free gift.

Here is where faith comes from:

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

The phrase "every man" is referring back to earlier in the verse when it says "every man that is among you". Those men who were given a measure of faith are believers (babes). If the phrase "every man" meant "all mankind", then why doesn't all mankind have faith in Christ?

Below is another verse that talks about when a "babe" (who only has the Early Rain) will have their measure of faith increased.

2Cor 10:15 Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,

A babe's faith is increased when they receive the Latter Rain (the baptism of the Holy Spirit). Why? Because the Latter Rain heals a babe's spiritual blindness so that the truth of Christ's New Covenant teachings will clearly open up to their understanding. Paul typed this event when the scales fell from his eyes in Damascus. Only then was Paul able to "eat meat" (learn truth). As a result of his consuming truth, Paul's faith was increased.

Faith is the gift and it is what qualifies a person for God's grace. Since no man can have faith without the Holy Spirit, Christ will give each person of mankind the free gift of the Holy Spirit. Then, when they hear the Gospel, they will have the faith that they need to open up God's grace (manifested in Christ) to them. When Christ comes, He brings salvation (conversion).

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

I have not been taught this concept by anyone except Christ. The Sabbath Day law is part of the whole law of God. The whole Law of God must be followed whether a person is a Jew or Gentile.

I am having trouble here. Here you say we must keep the law and then here you say When Christ enters into a person (converts them), He will fulfill the whole law for them, too. That is why a converted believer is no longer under the Law - Christ has fulfilled it for them.

Do you follow the whole law?

D_____

Dear D_____,

Yes, I follow the whole law because Christ within me follows it. Let me explain this statement, otherwise you will not understand what it really means.

Christ fulfilled all the Law. The portion of the law that requires a blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins was fulfilled by Christ at the cross. He accomplished this work under the Old Covenant. This final sacrifice ended all the sacrificial ordinances of the Old Covenant (and there are many). The remaining portion of the law is satisfied when we love God and love our neighbors. And that is fulfilled when Christ lives within a person after they are converted. With Christ reigning from within the person, they will spiritually grow to love for God and love their neighbor - and Christ is the one who causes that growth to happen by His continual feeding of truth and His chastisements. After the child of God has grown into a "man of full age", they will be like Christ and will only walk by faith and by the Spirit. This is our salvation. This growth process can take many years and is different for each converted believer. Some don't make it to the final level of maturity before they die but some do. This is why some of the Elect will be "least in the Kingdom of Heaven" and why some will be the greatest. But they are all saved and they will all reign with Christ as His bride in the final age.

As for the Sabbath Day law, it is satisfied because converted believers have rested from their works - their works of trying to live perfectly under the Law by their own efforts. True repentance is a repentance from these works.

Below, I'll explain the difference between the Old and New Covenants.

The "works of man" is what the Old Covenant is founded upon. The Law that was given at that time is not the Old Covenant. It is the eternal law of God that never changes. It applies to all

mankind. It was given with the Old Covenant to show the standard that a person must live up to in order to be acceptable to God. As the Nation of Israel proved, it cannot be done.

The New Covenant was then given to the Nation of Israel so that they can be made truly acceptable to God (later given to the Gentiles). Unlike the Old Covenant, the New Covenant is SOLELY founded upon the works of Christ. The individual has no works of their own to perform. For example, when a person makes a confession of faith or is baptized in water, it is Christ within them who is causing it to happen. He is the one who causes the person to "will and to do" (**Phi 2:13**). The individual cannot take credit for it. When they do, they are stealing from Christ and are showing their lack of faith (lack of trusting Him to do all that is necessary to save them).

The difference between the Old and New Covenant is a stumbling block for babes. Satan uses this difference to deceive them. This is what caused the apostasy of the church near the end of the 1st century. The false gospel that Satan uses says that a babe must add their own works to the works of Christ to be saved. The Doctrine of Free Will is the foundational lie that Satan uses. But the truth is, no man can come to Christ and have faith until Christ comes to them and freely gives them the Holy Spirit. Christ gives a person this gift without their permission and without their asking for it. Paul's receipt of the Early Rain on the Damascus Road is a physical "type" that teaches this truth. If Christ had not come to Paul and given him the Early Rain, Paul would have continued to reject Christ and to persecute Christians until he died. Paul could not have done anything different.

For anyone to call Jesus Lord as Paul did on the Damascus Road, they must experience what Paul did - and that is for Christ to come to them and give them the Early Rain. Without the Early Rain (small measure of the Holy Spirit), no one can call Jesus "Lord".

1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

The "rest" of Christ is the spiritual fulfillment of the natural Sabbath Day law.

1Cor 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural (observing one day of rest per week); and afterward that which is spiritual (the rest of Christ).

The rest in Hebrews is equated to the sabbath day rest, however 1 Cor 15:46 isn't. This verse is speaking about our resurrected bodies.....[1 Corinthians 15:35 KJV] "But some [man] will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?"

[1 Corinthians 15:44 KJV] "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

D_____

Dear D_____,

The phrase "first comes the natural, then comes the spiritual" is a CONCEPT that applies to many things.

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts (converted believers). 10 For concept must be upon concept, concept upon concept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language (spiritual language) will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them (unconverted babes/Early Rain only) concept upon concept, concept upon concept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken (by Satan).

In 1Cor 15:46, Paul merely applied that concept to the natural body and the spiritual body.

The concept also applies to the Old and New Covenant. The Old covenant is the natural and the New Covenant is the spiritual. The same thing also applies with the Sabbath Day law; the natural is resting one day a week, the spiritual is resting in Christ where he does all the work.

The law written on tablets of stone is the natural. The law written in our hearts is the spiritual.

The carnal mind is the natural, the mind of Christ is the spiritual.

Physical circumcision is the physical, circumcision of the heart is the spiritual.

All the physical types uses in scripture are the natural. Their spiritual fulfillment under the New Covenant is the spiritual.

Here is an example: Noah's ark is the physical and represents Christ who keep us safe during our time of judgment. The conversion of a person when Christ lives within them is the spiritual fulfillment. After Christ enters a person, the old man is judged and destroyed (those outside the ark) - but the new man (those within the ark/Christ) will live. This is conversion and it requires spiritual judgment.

The verse below is talking about spiritual judgment which happens during conversion:

Isa 66:16 For by fire (judgment) and by his sword (Word of God) will the LORD plead with all flesh (all mankind): and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

When this verse above is properly understood, it is actually saying that Christ will save all mankind through His judgment. The old vessel is destroyed and the new vessel is made:

Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

A person cannot be "born again" unless they die (their old man/old vessel that is).

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

You are only understanding the NATURAL fulfillment of the Sabbath Day law. Christ spiritually fulfills the Sabbath Day law within us upon our conversion. First comes the natural (the law written on tablets of stone/outwardly observed), then comes the spiritual (written in our hearts/spiritually observed).

This concept is critical in understanding the work that Christ is presently doing under the New Covenant - and this work is spiritual work.

Are you saying that we have the new covenant? Did you understand what I said about the new covenant in an earlier post?

D_____

Dear D_____,

Yes, I understood.

The Old Covenant has been abolished but not the Law though - it is eternal. The only way to be acceptable to God now is under the New Covenant. Under the New Covenant, Christ will cause us to obey the Law.

You have equated the Law of God as being the Old Covenant. It is not. The Law of God is the standard that the Old Covenant used to show that the Nation of Israel could not follow the

Law from their own abilities (works).

To be acceptable to God, we must obey the Law - and under the New Covenant, Christ from within us will see to it that we do. That is His work to perform, not ours.

Phil 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

One final point; when scripture says that a believer is no longer under Law, it only means that they are no longer under the condemnation of the Law because of their sins. Christ within us takes away our condemnation.

This verse applies though:

John 3:18 He (the new man/child of God) that believeth on him is not condemned: but he (old man/child of the devil) that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Both the old man who cannot believe and the new man who does believe are both contained within one person. The judgment portion of conversion will destroy the old and allow the new to live. Stated again; during a person's conversion process, the old man/child of the devil is judged and destroyed. However, the new man/child of God is protected in the ark and will live on into eternity.

Joe

S_____ responded to me again:

Dear FaithWillDo,

In Matthew 5:17-19, Jesus said that he came to fulfill the law in contrast with saying that he came not to abolish it and he warned against relaxing the least part of it, so you should not interpret fulfilling the law as meaning the same thing as abolishing it or as relaxing even the least part of it. If you retroactively insert the cross back into Matthew 5 in spite of Jesus making no allusion to the cross anywhere in that passage, then you are interpreting Jesus as if he had no intention for his audience to understand what he meant. Rather, Jesus did not invent the concept of fulfilling the law, so we should seek to understand what he meant by it in the context of what it meant in Judaism before he said that he came to fulfill it, which would be what he intended his audience to understand. "To fulfill the law" means "to cause God's will (as made known by the law) to be obeyed as it should be" (NAS Greek Lexicon: pleroo), so Jesus proceeded to fulfill the law throughout the rest of the chapter by correcting what the people had heard being said and by teaching how to correctly obey it as it was originally intended.

According to Galatians 5:14, loving our neighbor fulfills the entire law, so again it refers to correctly obeying it, moreover, it refers to something that countless people have done and should continue to do in perpetuity, not to something unique that Christ did through the cross in order to abolish or relax parts of it. In Galatians 6:2, bearing one another's burdens fulfill the Law of Christ, yet you do not consistently interpret that as meaning that as ending the Law of Christ. The Law of God is not something that is once and done such that if we love our neighbor once, then we have fulfilled our obligation to the law and no longer need to love our neighbor, but rather we need to keep following Christ's example of fulfilling it. If someone stops their car at a red light, then they have correctly fulfilled their obligation to obey that traffic law, but it does not mean that their obligation to stop at red lights has been ended.

The Law of God did not require us to have perfect obedience in the first place, so we do not need to rest from those works. The Law of God was never given as a standard that we need to live up to in order to be acceptable to God. It is contradictory to take the position that the Law of God never changes and the position that parts of it have ended. The Israelites went through redemption cycles of turning away from God and returning to him, so they proved over and over that they could keep it and there are many examples in the Bible of them keeping it. The Bible never calls for us to repent from our obedience to God, but consistently calls for us to repent from our sin in transgression of it. The Mosaic Covenant also did not have any works of our own to perform, but rather everything in it are works of God. Satan does not have the role of deceiving people into obeying God, but just the opposite. Obeying the Law of God has nothing to do with trying to add our works to the works of Christ in order to become saved.

S _____

Dear S _____,

I will respond to a couple of your statements.

You said:

In Matthew 5:17-19, Jesus said that he came to fulfill the law in contrast with saying that he came not to abolish it and he warned against relaxing the least part of it, so you should not interpret fulfilling the law as meaning the same thing as abolishing it or as relaxing even the least part of it.

I have never said that the law was abolished or that some of it was relaxed. None of the law has been abolished. And since it is not abolished, it must be fulfilled. And since mankind cannot fulfill the law, Christ came to do it for us.

When Christ enters a person and converts them, 100% of the law is fulfilled for them, too. They do not need to perform any of the purification or sacrificial ordinances any longer. They do not need to be circumcised, they do not need to physically observe one day of rest per week, they do

not need to slay a lamb on Passover, they do not need to avoid pork products, etc. etc. Christ fulfilled all those laws/ordinances so they do not need to be performed any longer by a converted person. And since Christ is now spiritually governing the converted person (causing them to will and to do), the newly born child of God will naturally love God and their neighbor. That spiritual change will produce outward effects that comply with the law and produce good works.

Here is what Paul said about believing that some of the laws/ordinances were not fulfilled by Christ and that they must still be physically performed by a believer:

Gal 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. 3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Paul uses the example of circumcision in the above passage. However, he could have just as easily used the example of honoring the Sabbath Day by physically resting one day a week. Both physical acts were fulfilled by Christ and are no longer necessary to be performed by a New Covenant believer. Paul even says that if a believer thinks that they still need to do even just one physical act to be acceptable to God, then that believer is still under the Old Covenant of Law and must then follow all the Old Covenant laws & ordinances. Why is this true? Because the belief that Christ didn't fulfill the entire law violates the person's repentance from works and shows a lack of faith. And without faith, the person is no longer under grace. Their sins will remain.

You said:

The Law of God did not require us to have perfect obedience in the first place, so we do not need to rest from those works.

Even just one sin will cause a person to be under the condemnation of the law. So yes, God does require us to have perfect obedience to the law. Christ had perfect obedience to the law and after Christ's work under the New Covenant is complete, all mankind will also have perfect obedience to the law. But since all mankind sins, Christ needed to become a perfect blood sacrifice in order for a person's sins to be forgiven. And because of Christ's sacrifice, all the sins that a person will ever commit will be forgiven by God. To have access to that forgiveness, God requires a person to have faith in Christ. It is that faith that makes Christ's pathway straight for Him to come to them and convert them. Then, after the newly born child of God has spiritually matured so that they only walk by faith and by the Spirit, the person will never sin again. They will then be exactly like Christ. This is our salvation.

As I said earlier, Christ fulfilled all of the law. Because of such, we have no works to perform in

order to be acceptable to Christ. We are acceptable because we trust Christ to do all the works for us and from within us. He is the Savior and will do all that is necessary to save us. And since Christ performs all the works and fulfills all the law, a converted believer will cease from their own works. The spiritual rest that Christ provides for us is what the physical Sabbath Day law foreshadowed would come.

Joe