



**FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH**

# **“The Bible, Part 243”**

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**Pastor Darryl R. Curtis**

Family Life Baptist Church  
Now Meeting at 1427 Hillcrest Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48910  
Phone: (517) 393-9399  
Email: [info@familylifebc.com](mailto:info@familylifebc.com)  
Website: <http://www.familylifebc.com>

***Informed. Insightful. Intelligent.***



Our text for today is **Galatians 2:14**:

**14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?”**

Thank you for listening and thinking with me as we study God’s Word to obtain the mind of Christ, meaning, to have the Bible illuminated in our minds so we can clearly understand the principles that Jesus taught and base our daily personal decisions on those principles.

We come to Church because we want to be obedient to the Bible, which is the doctrine of Jesus Christ, in an informed, insightful and intelligent manner.

As we begin, let me communicate to you that my preaching is based upon the fact that every episode recorded in the Bible is literally true.

We live in a culture in which fantasy and fiction dominate, but we need to resist the allure of made-up stories and intellectually concocted arguments as we develop faith in the meticulously recorded factual history of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ by the eyewitnesses who were present on the scene.

We must do whatever we need to do to develop the personal faith needed to believe that the Bible is the absolute truth, and recognize that every fiction put forth by man or by the devil to contradict or minimize the impact of Biblical accounts is a lie.

The first Christians were, of course, Jews. The Lord Jesus Christ was a Jew by birth, and the Jewish fraternization laws discouraged Jews from having friendly relationships with those who were not Jews. The Lord God told Moses, in **Deuteronomy 7:1–6, 9-11**:

**1 “When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the**

**Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,**

**2 and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.**

**3 Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.**

**4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.**

**5 But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.**



**6 “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.**

**9 “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;**

**10 and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.**

**11 Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them.**

Thus, when the very much Jewish Lord Jesus Christ picked the men to be His disciples, He picked men from his own community. In fact, on one missionary journey, the Lord Jesus Christ chose to take a shortcut through Samaria, a province settled by the King Assyria during the Assyrian deportation, at the end of the Israelite period of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Biblical history informs us, from **2Kings 17:13–20, 24-36, 40-41:**

**13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.”**

**14 Nevertheless [Israel and Judah] would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.**

**15 And [Israel and Judah] rejected [the Lord God’s] statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; [Israel and Judah] followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them.**

**16 So [Israel and Judah] left all the commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.**

**17 And [Israel and Judah] caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.**

**18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.**

**19 Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.**

**20 And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast [Israel] from His sight.**



**24** Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

**25** And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the LORD; therefore, the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

**26** So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, “The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore, He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land.”

**27** Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, “Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land.”

**28** Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

**29** However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt.

**30** The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,

**31** and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

**32** So they feared the LORD, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places.

**33** They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods—according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

**34** To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the LORD had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel,

**35** with whom the LORD had made a covenant and charged them, saying: “You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them;

**36** but the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice.

**40** However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals.



**41 So these nations feared the LORD, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.**

These pagan inhabitants who worshiped the Lord God still lived in the geographical land allocated to Samaria by the king of Assyria even when Jesus was born. But when Jesus first sent out His disciples to preach, Jesus instructed them, in **Matthew 10:5–7**:

**5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.**

**6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

**7 And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’**

The initial ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ was strictly to the Jews. But it was not long before the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ became more inclusive. **John 4:1–6** informs us:

**1 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John**

**2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples),**

**3 He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.**

**4 But [Jesus] needed to go through Samaria.**

**5 So [Jesus] came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.**

**6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.**

Jesus decided to initiate a conversational interaction with a woman of Samaria. **John 4:7–8**: informs us:

**7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”**

**8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.**

The woman was surprised to hear Jesus' voice. **John 4:9** informs us:

**9 Then the woman of Samaria said to [Jews], “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.**

It had been centuries since the Samaritans were transplanted into the Palestine, but the Jewish standard concerning the Samaritans was the same as it was when the Samaritans were first transplanted. The Samaritans were not Jews nor were they conquerors, therefore, the Jews had nothing to do with them. The Jews had dealings with the Romans, as the Romans were the military rulers of the Palestine, but the Jews had as little to do with the other Gentiles and the Samaritans living in the Palestine as they possibly could.

The Christian church was initially formed at the Jewish Pentecostal celebration that occurred fifty days after the Passover in which the Lord Jesus



Christ was crucified. Pentecost was strictly a Jewish celebration. **Acts 2:1–11** informs us:

**1** When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

**2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

**3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

**4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

**5** And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

**6** And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

**7** Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?”

**8** And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

**9** Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

**10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

**11** Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”

Yes, the men heard their own native languages, but the men listening were all Jews whose families had been through the Diaspora, had been transported to different lands by either the Assyrians or the Babylonians, and returned to their ancestral homes in the Palestine to celebrate the feast.

The church began after Peter preached his Pentecostal sermon. **Acts 2:40–47** informs us:

**40** And with many other words [Peter] testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

**41** Then those who gladly received [Peter’s] word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

**42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**43** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

**44** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

**45** and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.



**46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

**47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The church grew among the Jews by leaps and bounds, but the time finally came for Gentiles to be added to the Church. **Acts 10:1–6** informs us:

**1** There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment,

**2** a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

**3** About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!”

**4** And when [Cornelius] observed [the angel], [Cornelius] was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.

**5** Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter.

**6** He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.”

Before Peter could preach the gospel to the Gentile Cornelius and those in his house, the Holy Spirit had to prepare Peter to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. Peter, as a Jew, had no unnecessary dealings with Gentiles, Samaritans, or people of other ethnicities that did not worship the Lord God. For Peter to try to add Gentiles to the church would not be received well by the Judaizing Christians that inhabited the church. However, since the Holy Spirit told Cornelius to send his men to get Peter, that same Holy Spirit had to prepare Peter to go to Cornelius to preach. **Acts 10:9–35** informs us:

**9** The next day, as [Cornelius’ men] went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour.

**10** Then [Peter] became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, [Peter] fell into a trance

**11** and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth.

**12** In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air.

**13** And a voice came to him, “**Rise, Peter; kill and eat.**”

**14** But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.”

**15** And a voice spoke to him again the second time, “**What God has cleansed you must not call common.**”

**16** This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.



17 Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate.

18 And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there.

19 While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you.

20 Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."

21 Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, "Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?"

22 And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you."

23 Then [Peter] invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

24 And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.

25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.

26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."

27 And as [Peter] talked with [Cornelius], [Peter] went in and found many who had come together.

28 Then [Peter] said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

29 Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?"

30 So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.

32 Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.'

33 So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."



**34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.**

**35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.**

Peter repeated his recitation of the gospel for the benefit of the Gentiles in the Italian Regiment. The Italians responded in a manner that the Jews did not expect. **Acts 10:44–11:1** informs us:

**44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those [Gentiles] who heard the word.**

**45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.**

**46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,**

**47 “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”**

**48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.**

**1 Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.**

But there were those in the Jerusalem church that were not pleased with that which Peter did, even though Peter’s activity was clearly directed by the Holy Spirit. **Acts 11:2–3** informs us:

**2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him,**

**3 saying, “You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!”**

Here is the problem. Cornelius and his men, not being Jews, were uncircumcised. The Jewish law of separation forbid a Jewish man to fellowship with a non-Jewish uncircumcised man. Thus, the question becomes, does a Gentile have to become a circumcised Jew in order to fellowship with the church as Christian? Or can a man become a Christian without circumcision?

In Acts 10, the Holy Spirit made it clear, first by Peter’s dream while he was in the trance and secondly by the Holy Spirit falling on Cornelius and the Italian Regiment once Peter preached Christ to them, that a man does not have to become a Jew to become a Christian. A man does not have to become a Jew to receive the Holy Spirit. If we look at **John 3:16–17**:

**16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

**17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**

There is no mention of “circumcision” in this passage of Scripture. If we look at **Ephesians 2:8–10**:



**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,**

**9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

**10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

There is no mention of “circumcision” in this passage of Scripture either.

Peter’s experience with the Holy Spirit falling on the Italian Regiment proves that a man does not have to become a Jew in any way, physically, psychologically or ritually, to become a Christian. A man never has to darken the door of the Jewish Temple nor spend a moment in a Jewish synagogue to become a Christian. A man never has to practice even one Jewish ritual to become a Christian.

The problem in the New Testament Church was that the church was populated by Judaizing Christians, who had been practicing Judaism all their lives, and simply could not get past the fact that Jesus was a Jew, the original members of the early church were Jews, they were Jews, and the only religion with which they were comfortable was Judaism. Even when they listened to Peter’s explanation of the activity of the Holy Spirit welcoming Gentiles in the Italian Regiment into the church, these Judaizing Christians were stuck in the old-time way. Their accusation was clear. **Acts 11:2–3** informs us:

**2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him,**

**3 saying, “You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!”**

In the mind of the Judaizing Christians, there was no worse sin than fellowshiping with uncircumcised men. In their minds, it was simply impossible for uncircumcised Gentiles to be welcomed into the church. **Acts 15:1** informs us:

**1 And certain men came down from Judea and taught the [Gentile] brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”**

But these Gentile brethren had been evangelized by the Apostle Paul. Paul argued with the Judaizers as did Peter, telling them about the conversion of the Gentiles through the power of the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit has the power to save from the guttermost to the uttermost. But Paul’s argument fell on deaf ears, as **Acts 15:5** informs us:

**5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”**

The Jerusalem council met, and came down on Paul’s side, going so far as to send a letter to the Gentile churches informing them that it was not necessary for them to go through any initiation into Judaism, including circumcision, to join the Christian church.



However, the problem in the church was not so much doctrine as it was peer pressure. The Judaizing Christians were simply refusing to give up their position, irrespective of the mandate of the Jerusalem council or of anyone else. As far as the Judaizing Christians were concerned, those Gentiles had to be circumcised, or there could be no fellowship between the Gentile churches and the Jewish church.

Paul stood in the gap for the Gentile churches. Paul, who was the main church planter for the Gentile churches, wrote them, in **Galatians 1:6–12**:

**6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,**

**7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.**

**8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.**

**9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.**

**10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.**

**11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.**

**12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

The Apostle Paul makes it clear that he did not learn the gospel from the early church fathers, for Paul was a persecutor of the early church. But Paul explains, in **Galatians 1:13–17**:

**13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.**

**14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.**

**15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,**

**16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,**

**17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.**

During Paul's time in Arabia, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit transmitted the truth of the gospel to the Apostle Paul privately. Paul did not spend time in Gospel classes taught by his peers in the Jerusalem church, but the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit prepared Paul through individual instruction and by personal revelation to be the Apostle to the Gentiles. The Christian doctrine that Paul preached came directly from the Holy Spirit, thus



Paul was able to testify and argue accurately against the arguments of the Judaizing Christians. Paul relates his experience, in **Galatians 2:1–2**:

**1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me.**

**2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.**

Paul verified that the gospel that he preached did not contradict the gospel that was being preached by the Jerusalem church. And it did not.

The Jerusalem church received Paul, Barnabas and even Titus, who was an uncircumcised Greek, as Christian brothers, and gave Paul and Barnabas the commission to preach the gospel to the Gentiles without commanding that even Titus, who was there with them, be circumcised. Paul relates, in **Galatians 2:3–10**:

**3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.**

**4 And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),**

**5 to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.**

**6 But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me.**

**7 But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter**

**8 (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),**

**9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.**

**10 They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.**

But peer pressure is difficult to withstand. Even Peter was caught up.

**Galatians 2:11–12**: informs us:

**11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed;**

**12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.**



Even Peter was afraid of the Judaizing Christians when they came to Antioch. And since Peter was afraid, the entire Jewish delegation was afraid.

**Galatians 2:13** informs us:

**13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with [Peter], so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.**

But there was one who was not afraid of the Judaizing Christians. That one was the Apostle Paul. **Galatians 2:14–16** informs us:

**14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?**

**15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,  
16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**

The works of the ceremonial Mosaic law, such as circumcision, are of no value for salvation. It is only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that any of us, regardless of our religious background, be it Jewish or Gentile, can be saved. Paul clarifies, in **Ephesians 2:8–10**:

**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,**

**9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

**10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

Paul tells us, as he tells Titus, before whom Paul demonstrated the true gospel, in **Titus 3:4–7**:

**4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,**

**5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,**

**6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

The ceremonial works of the flesh that the Judaizing Christians want the Gentiles to perform are of no value as far as salvation is concerned. The Jewish Temple and synagogue were full of unsaved circumcised men who persecuted the church, even going as far as putting the pillars of the church to death. But those who are saved are saved because of the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself on Calvary's Cross that our sins, though they be many, might be forgiven. And it is only by our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that we are saved.



## FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

It is of the utmost importance that we understand the gospel. It is of the utmost importance that we understand that we are saved by the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is of the utmost importance that we understand that it is not by works of righteousness that we have done, but rather, by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ that we are saved. It is of the utmost importance that we understand that amazing grace should always be our song of praise, for it was grace that bought our liberty. I do not know how Jesus came to love me so, but He looked beyond my faults and saw my need.

So, I will ever lift my eyes to Calvary, to view the Cross where Jesus died for me. How marvelous that grace that caught my dying soul, as Jesus looked beyond my faults and saw my needs.

Pastor Darryl R. Curtis  
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