

## **QUESTION 33**

**SHOULD THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST SEEK THEIR SALVATION THROUGH THEIR OWN WORKS, OR ANYWHERE ELSE? NO, EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO SALVATION IS FOUND IN CHRIST.**

### **READ GALATIANS 2:15-21.**

Paul's letter to the Galatians is all about helping them understand how important it is to believe that Jesus's work on the cross is enough. Faith does not need to be supplemented by good living or law keeping. In fact, if we trust in those things, we are not trusting in Christ.

Look at verse 16 and investigate whether Paul says a person can be justified by keeping the law. Paul says a person is not justified by keeping the law! Identify how Christians are justified. By faith in Jesus Christ! It's sometimes difficult to believe that salvation is God's free gift because it is uncommon to get free gifts in life. Most things in life have to be worked for. Paul says the only way to be justified is to believe in Jesus Christ. Those who believe that good works are essential in order to have a relationship with God actually have a very low view of what Jesus achieved on the cross (and a high view of their own capabilities)! The belief that we must add to what Christ has done says that Jesus's death on the cross is not enough.

Humans frequently fail to live in a way that pleases God. Believing that living good lives will make them right with God is trusting in abilities that have proven to be untrustworthy. No one is able to fully keep the law of God and thus please God—except Jesus. The only way to know salvation is through Christ.

Paul says in verse 20 that those who are in Christ have died to law-keeping. That means that Christians should fully trust in Jesus' death and resurrection and resist believing that there are other ways to seek salvation.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

"Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified." (Gal. 2:16)