

WHY THE LAW CANNOT SAVE

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Soli Deo Gloria!

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Gal2:16)

INTRODUCTION. Many Christians fall into the error of believing that the reason the Law cannot save is because no one can keep it perfectly. Scripture asserts, however, that even if one kept the Law (i.e., any system of works) perfectly, it cannot justify a fallen creature before God.

MESSAGE. All men since Adam are born (even *conceived*; cf. Ps51:5) under the condemnation of God. This is because, in the Garden, all men sinned in Adam (Gen3:6; Rom5:12). Adam was not merely our representative head, he was our *seminal* head (Cp., Heb7:9-10); this is even true for Eve because of the way God made her from the "rib" of Adam (Gen2:21-23). It is for this reason that **it is impossible** that fallen man could be justified by keeping the Law (Rom3:20); even if he perfectly refrained from sin from the moment of his birth until the time of his death, he would still stand condemned before God for his participation in the primeval sin of Adam (Rom5:18). No system of works or law-keeping can ever erase this past event of history, in which all participated, and for this reason salvation must be by grace (Eph2:8-9; Gal1:6-9).

For this reason, any denial that the Fall was a real, historical event, must be rejected as anti-Biblical. Such a view is not merely error, but heresy—it strikes at the very heart of the Gospel. By denying that the sin of Adam was a real, historical event in which all men participated, the basis of the universal need for a Savior is destroyed, and works-based righteousness (in contrast to salvation by grace) becomes a theoretical possibility. **BUT SCRIPTURE REJECTS THIS (Gal2:16; Rom3:20)!**

CONCLUSION. Man's need is for a new Head. Just as "in Adam" all men are sinners and stand condemned before God, "in Christ" we can be seen as being just as righteous as He is (1Cor15:22; Rom5:19). Being placed "in Christ" as our new Head is accomplished by the new birth (Jn3:7; 2Cor5:17), appropriated by "faith in Christ". Have you put your faith in Christ and been born again?