

Scriptural Balance

"Therefore we conclude that a man is **JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WITHOUT THE DEEDS OF THE LAW.**"(Rom.3:28)

Do I believe and dogmatically stand on the truth of this statement by Paul concerning **EVERY ELECT, JUSTIFIED, REDEEMED**, regenerated and converted sinner? **ABSOLUTELY!** If any person who professes to be Christ's denies or rejects this truth, they are in reality still "*dead in trespasses and sin*", "*alienated from God and enemies in their minds by wicked works*". The justified saint rejoices in and takes great comfort and security from this "precious promise" that rests exclusively in the Person and Work of their Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, Mediator, and Friend, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Let me be perfectly clear:** The **ENTIRETY** of the elect's salvation is absolute and secure **IN THIS PRESENT LIFE**, as well as in eternity , **AS ABSOLUTE AND SECURE AS THE ONE** who accomplished the work, without **ANY CONTRIBUTION FROM THE SINNER** in any way, to any degree, at any time - "*Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*"(**I John 4:17**) No amount of **FUTURE SIN** can bring a **JUSTIFIED SINNER** back under the guilt, penalty, or condemnation of God's law, and no amount of **FUTURE OBEDIENCE** or "good works" contribute to making them more saved, more holy, more accepted, or more entitled to eternal life than they **ALREADY ARE** based exclusively on the blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ - "*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*"(Col.2:9-12); "*Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"(Rom.8:33-39)

Even though I dogmatically and uncompromisingly believe and teach this glorious Gospel of God's free grace, I **CANNOT** and **WILL NOT** deny the truth set forth in God's Holy Word concerning those **SAVED** exclusively through Christ's accomplished work of redemption **RESPONSIBILITY** and **DUTY** to honor, glorify, and magnify Him "*who loved me and gave Himself for me*" in **EVERY AREA** of their lives. There are **NO CONTRADICTIONS** in the

word of God, so we **CANNOT** and **MUST NOT** change the meaning or intent of Scriptures in order to prove something that God's Word does not declare. While we **ARE NOT** "*under the Law*", that doesn't mean we are "*without law to Christ*". While some harp on **Romans 7** teaching that the justified saint is in fact "*DEAD TO THE LAW by the body of Christ*" (**WHICH IS THE GOSPEL TRUTH**), they refuse to declare one key feature of Paul's example - The justified saint is "**MARRIED TO CHRIST**". Keep in mind the bond of marriage he used. While **MARRIED** to the law, we owed a legal debt to and service to all it demanded, and we could never be set free by any amount of obedience. The **ONLY WAY** we could be freed was by the **DEATH** of our husband, which death was accomplished through the "*body of Christ*", the entire work of redemption performed by Christ's entire person. But being set free through the offering of "*the body of Christ*", we are now "*married to Christ*", meaning that we "*are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and your spirit which is his.*" While we served our first husband, **THE LAW**, out of legal threats of punishment or mercenary promise of reward, **WE NOW** love, serve, and adore Christ, and that not perfectly, out of grace and gratitude for His mercy and grace which He so freely and richly bestowed. To teach anything else, we would be forced to deny Christ's teachings while on the earth, as well as deny the admonitions and warnings issued by His apostles in the second half of every epistle He moved them to write. May we as His children humbly bow to His written word, seeking to "*bring forth fruit unto God*".