
BIBLE TALK

Hi, welcome to "Bible Talk." This week we are investigating this question: *Did Christ die in vain?*

Galatians 2:21

21 "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

The word "*vain*" means useless or for no purpose. This passage in Gal 2:21 is saying that if righteousness comes thru "*the law*," then Christ died for no purpose.

Q: What is "*the law*" which this verse is referring to? It is actually referring to the OT law. This passage is saying that if men could have been saved by the OT law alone, with nothing more, then Jesus died in vain.

Hebrews 9:18-20

18 Therefore not even the **first covenant** was dedicated without blood.

19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,

20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."

"first covenant" -- refers to the OT and implies there is a second testament (NT)

Notice carefully that the OT was "*dedicated with blood*"; it was ratified and brought into force by the blood of animals. Until it was formally dedicated with blood, it was not binding upon the people.

In the same way, the NT was "*dedicated with blood*":

Matthew 26:27-28

27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Instead of dedicating the NT with the blood of animals, Jesus dedicated it with His own blood! If for no other reason, the NT is superior to the OT because it was ratified with a better sacrifice!

Just as the OT was not binding until dedicated with blood, the NT was not binding until Jesus shed His blood.

Hebrews 9:16-17

16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

Now ... here's the point: Jesus died on the cross to dedicate a ***New Testament!*** If the OT could have saved men and taken them to heaven, there would have been no need for another testament!

Do you see why we say that Jesus would have died in vain if the OT was still binding? His death "dedicated" the NT, but if the OT was sufficient, then Jesus wasted His blood! He died a needless death!

Hebrews 8:8-13

8 Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

9 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD.

10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

11 "None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Listen to this.

1) The NT is "not according to the covenant God made with the Jewish fathers."

The NT is completely different. It's not just an appendix to the OT.

2) The NT has LAWS in it and these laws will be engraved upon the hearts of God's people.

This eliminates the idea that the NT is strictly grace with no law.

3) The OT is "ready to vanish away."

We cannot decide to keep both the OT laws and NT laws at the same time; it's an impossibility!

Paul put it like this:

Galatians 2:21

21 "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

Jesus wasted His time on the cross and His death was worthless if the OT could save men from their sins. This being the case, we dare not return to the OT Law and attempt to live by it. The OT is no longer binding and we must abide by the laws of the NT today. We cannot return to the OT to justify religious practices today such as: Sabbath keeping, holy water, a separate priesthood, sacred temples, mechanical instruments of music, divorce and remarriage for trivial causes, infant membership, polygamy, military warfare, and salvation without baptism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.