

## Fulfilling the Law

### BACKGROUND:

At the time of Jesus, the Law was the center of Jewish faith.  
The O.T. does not teach that anyone is saved by the Law.  
The Jews expected Gentiles to come into the faith. (Isa. 51:4-5)

### PROBLEM:

It was not made clear on “*what conditions*” they were to except the Gentiles into their faith.

Gal 5:1-10 - *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a **yoke of slavery**. 2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. 3 Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. 4 **You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.** 5 But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. **The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.** 7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." NIV*

- It is the job of every believer to protect the *freedom* given to us through Christ's death.

It is a religious spirit that seeks ministry, position, and favor from God without understanding the fulfillment of who Jesus is and what He represents for our life.

### REASONS THE LAW CANNOT SAVE

1. Because of the weakness of the flesh.

Rom 8:7 - *the sinful mind is hostile to God. **It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*** NIV

2. Because of the weakness of the Law.

Gal 3:21 - *Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For **if** a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.* NIV

Gal 3:16-18 - *The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ. 17 What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. 18 For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.* NIV

It is a Pharisaical mindset that elevates **ministry over relationship, works over faith, doing over done.**

### THE ANSWER

- **Faith alone in Jesus is how the Gospel of salvation is received, nothing more, nothing less.**

**Acts 15:7-11** - After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. 8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9 He made no distinction between us and them, for **he purified their hearts by faith.** 10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? 11 No! **We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved,** just as they are." NIV

**Rom 13:8-10** - Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. NIV

**Matt 5:17** - "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. NIV