

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

GALATIANS 3:11 • TV-036A

A television broadcast sermon delivered

SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH, 1977

By

HENRY T. MAHAN

Transcribed, edited and published

MAY 16TH, 2019

HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY

Zebulon Grace Church

6088 Zebulon Highway

Pikeville, KY 41501

PH: 606-631-9053

Galatians 3:11

“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith.”

I’m going to speak to you today on the subject: **“THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”**

And our text will be taken from **chapter 3 of Galatians, verse 11.**

But before I bring the message I want to talk to you just a little bit about something that is on my heart. I wish you’d listen to me very carefully. Mr. Spurgeon told about a little boy who was heard to pray at a Saturday night devotional prayer meeting in this manner. He said, “Lord, help my pastor to say something tomorrow that I can understand.”

Paul was concerned about this. He wrote in **1 Corinthians chapter 1:17**; *“Christ sent me not to baptize but to preach the Gospel; not in words of man’s wisdom lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.”*

And then he wrote in **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**; *“Brethren, when I came to you I came not to you with excellency of speech or wisdom declaring unto you the testimony of God. My speech was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom but in the demonstration, in the power, of the Holy Spirit.”*

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

GALATIANS 3:11 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Now I know that preachers are scolding the people today but I'm going to be different. I declare unto you that our problem is not in the pew; our problem is in the pulpit. Our problem is not in the pew. Our problem is not with the people. Our problem is in the pulpit.

Our problem today is with the preachers. This is where God speaks to His people. God speaks from the pulpit. God speaks to His people through His servants and this is where our problem is. We're facing today apostasy in the pulpit. That's where the problem is.

The Word of God is being denied. Modern thought is being substituted for the inspired Word of God, creation, the fall, (what happened in the garden), Holy Spirit conviction, substitution, blood atonement, (what happened on the cross), the new birth, righteousness, (what happens in the sinner's heart when God saves him) a real experience of grace, original sin, and God's sovereignty.

These things are not being preached. Our people know nothing about them. These things are being outright denied from the pulpit. And that's where the problem is. We're facing in the pulpit not only apostasy but we're facing compromise in the pulpit, in an effort to gain numbers, in an effort to gain public approval and in an effort to gain crowds.

The pulpit has resorted to jokes, entertainment, contests, and prizes. People are actually, (believe it or not, and I know you believe it) people are actually being given rewards to come to the house of God. They're actually being given prizes to worship God almighty.

This is compromise. This is admitting that the Word is not enough; we've got to have entertainment. We've got to have contests. We've got to have rewards. We've got to have prizes.

This is admitting defeat. This is saying the Word of God is not sufficient to accomplish what God sent us to accomplish, that the Holy Spirit is not able to do what God sent Him to do, that we've got to do His work for Him.

We're not only facing apostasy and compromise in the pulpit but we're facing absolute deadness in the pulpit. Now most preachers will not deny that a state of deadness exists in the church today.

But instead of crying: "Oh Spirit of the living God; breathe on these dead dry bones. Oh Spirit of the living God; give them life." Instead of praying for the Spirit of God to give life, instead of preaching the Word of God to those dry bones as God commanded Ezekiel to do; we're trying to resurrect these dry bones with socials.

We're trying to bring them alive with ballgames, contests, relays, and fleshly activities. We're trying to do with these socials and fleshly activities what only God can do and that is give life to dead sinners.

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

GALATIANS 3:11 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Compromise, apostasy, deadness; no, it's not the people who need the reformation it's the pulpit. We need once again to reform the pulpit. That's what happened in the days of Calvin, Zwingli, Luther, Knox, and these great men.

The pulpit was revived and the pulpit was reformed and it went out to the people. We must return to the power of the early church. Do you know where the power of the early church was? Preaching, their power was in their preaching. God raised up preachers.

God didn't raise up organizers and musicians. He didn't raise up promoters and ear-ticklers; He raised up preachers. And He sent those preachers forward, men who prayed, men who studied, men who got a message from God, and that message burned on their hearts until they emptied themselves of it, until they delivered it to the people.

Like old Richard Baxter once said; "I preach as one who may never preach again." I wonder what we would preach on Sunday morning if we knew that we would never preach again, this was it, this was our last message.

But that's what Baxter said; "I preach right now, in this given moment, I'm preaching as one who may never preach again. I'm preaching as a dying man to dying men."

My friend, we are preaching to men who have one life to live, one death to die, one judgment to face, and one long eternity to live.

And I'll tell you this, like one great old preacher said; "Nothing will do a helpless sinner good except the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; nothing that I have to offer, nothing that I can say, nothing that I can contribute; only the Gospel of Jesus Christ will do the sinner good."

And you know; we don't have many shots to fire. We don't have many opportunities to preach. We don't have many opportunities to reach the heart of the sinner. And those shots that we fire must be fired with purpose and they must be fired with aim in order to accomplish the greater glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, we need a reformation but not in the pew. We need a reformation right here in the pulpit. We need to do what God sent us to do. We need to cry out before the throne of the living God for a message, for a word from the king.

As ambassadors for Christ we go forth to preach a message but we must not preach our message or the church's message or the denomination's message but God's message.

We need to cry to God; "Give us a message and give us the boldness and courage to preach it. And give us a people with ears to hear and hearts to receive that which God has burdened us with (the message)."

I'm going to give you an example of what I believe we need to preach in this day. Now, four times in the Scripture you have this one verse of Scripture, four times, in **Habakkuk**, in

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

GALATIANS 3:11 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Romans, in **Galatians**, and the book of **Hebrews**, this same statement is made four times in the Word of God; *“The just shall live by faith,”* four times, *“The just shall live by faith.”*

Now, any message that’s so often repeated must be important. Any message so often repeated ought to be preached. Any message so often repeated in God’s Word ought to be received. I’m going to deal with these four verses of Scripture one at a time.

First of all, if you will turn to the book of **Habakkuk**; that’s in the Old Testament, turn to the **book of Habakkuk, chapter 2:4** and you’ll read there, *“The just shall live by faith.”*

Now, this first text found in the Old Testament shows that God has never redeemed sinners but one way. That’s what its showing. It’s in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. It’s the same message and it’s the same Gospel.

In the Old Testament men were saved not by law, not by ceremony, not by works, but by faith, by faith in Jesus Christ. In the New Testament they’re saved the same way. It’s the same message in the Old and the same message in the New.

Paul said; *“I am an apostle of Jesus Christ. I’m separated unto the Gospel of God which He promised before in the Holy Scriptures, by the holy prophets, and it’s concerning His Son Jesus Christ.”*

The *“just”* of the Old Testament lived by faith. The *“just”* of the New Testament lived by faith. The *“just”* of the Old Testament lived by faith in the coming Redeemer who was to die. The *“just”* in the New Testament lived by faith in the Redeemer who did come and who died.

Go to the oldest book in the Bible. Do you know what the oldest book in the Bible is? It’s the book of **Job**. And Job wrote in the oldest book in the Bible; *“I know that my redeemer liveth and though He’s going to stand upon this earth and the worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh, I’ll see the Lord, whom I shall see for myself and not another.”* My Redeemer, the same Redeemer Paul talked about and Job talked about, Job who lived before Moses, who lived before Abraham.

And our Lord said to the Pharisees concerning Moses; he said, *“Now you claim Moses as your father. If you had believed Moses you would have believed me. Moses wrote of me.”* When Moses told about the Passover in Egypt, how that Israel slew the lamb and put the blood on the doorposts and the lintel; that Passover was Christ. That’s what the Scripture says, *“Christ is our Passover.”*

When Moses smote the rock out there in the wilderness; the people were thirsty. God told him to smite the rock and it would give forth water. When he smote that rock and it gave forth water; that rock was Christ. That’s what the Scripture says; *“That rock was Christ.”*

Our Lord spoke of Abraham; He said, *“Abraham saw my day. Abraham saw my day and rejoiced.”* Abraham saw how that God would give a Saviour, how God would send a Redeemer,

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

GALATIANS 3:11 • HENRY T. MAHAN

how that God would provide Himself a sacrifice. Those words came out of Abraham's own mouth, "*God shall provide himself a sacrifice.*"

Abraham preached the Gospel, the same Gospel I'm preaching, the Gospel of substitution, the Gospel of blood atonement, the Gospel of Christ's sacrifice. That was Abraham's message, the same message we're preaching.

Isaiah, read **Isaiah 53:4-6**; "*He was wounded for our transgressions. By His stripes we are healed.*" Who's He talking about? Well, the Ethiopian Eunuch asked Phillip that very question, "*Of whom is the prophet Isaiah speaking? Does he speak of himself or some other man?*"

And Phillip replied, speaking in the power of the Holy Spirit, "*Jesus Christ. He began at that same Scripture and preached to him Jesus Christ.*"

That's who saves sinners in the Old Testament. From the first blood offering of Abel to the last blood sacrifice before Calvary; every drop of blood in the Old Testament was not a means of salvation but was a means through which people could see the Saviour.

Every drop of blood was a type of Christ. Every drop of blood pointed to Calvary, pointed to the cross, pointed to the one who would die on the cross and save sinners.

So **Habakkuk chapter 2:4**, Old Testament Scriptures, before Christ was ever born in Bethlehem, before He ever went to the cross of Calvary, before He ever was buried and rose again, before He ever ascended back to the Father the Scripture says: "*The just shall live by faith.*"

All right now; turn with me to the book of **Romans chapter 1:17**. And this second text shows faith in Christ in the midst of a crooked, perverse, and wicked generation.

Confidence and faith in Christ. Take **chapter 1 of Romans** sometimes and read it and you'll blush at the depravity of the human race. In fact, it says three times in that first chapter that "*God gave them up.*" You have in that chapter people who were unthankful, people who were idol-worshippers, nature worshippers, homosexuals, murderers, haters of God, without natural affection. This is a terrible chapter of the cesspool of human corruption and the depravity of the human race.

And right in the middle of it, right in the middle of all this vile depravity and corruption you have the apostle Paul standing forth saying, "*I'm not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.*"

One bright spot, one brilliant light, one great testimony; in the midst of all this cesspool of human corruption comes forth the testimony of one man; "*I'm not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith as it is written; the just shall live by faith.*"

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

GALATIANS 3:11 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Even in the days of apostasy, even in the days of perversion, even in the days of the greatest depravity, even in the days of the greatest corruption, when the sentence of God comes upon the human race God gave them up. Leave them alone; they've turned to their idols. God turned them over to do that which is inconvenient.

But one man by the grace of God is enabled by the Holy Spirit to look to Calvary and say "*I'm not ashamed of the Gospel.*" For in that Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. In that Gospel of a crucified Saviour; the righteousness of God is revealed. Amid all the unrighteousness of man shines forth the perfect holiness of God.

And in that Gospel the wrath of God against sin is revealed. In Christ God justifies the sinner perfectly. In Christ God sanctifies the sinner wholly and completely. In Christ God glorifies the sinner eternally.

Thirdly; turn to **Galatians 3:11**. And here in **Galatians 3:11**, if you'll read it carefully, you'll find that the message and the strength and the purpose of this text right here, "*The just shall live by faith;*" the message of it and the purpose of it is found right here in the first sentence.

Now just before He says, "*The just shall live by faith*" He says this, "*No man is justified by the law in the sight of God.*"

Now man might justify himself by his deeds and he may even be justified in the eyes of his friends by his deeds. And he may be justified in the eyes of the community by his deeds, but not in the sight of God.

"By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in God's sight. For in God's sight the just shall live by faith."

Now let me ask and answer four questions about the law. Now this will help you if you'll listen, four questions about the law of God. It says here; "*No man is justified by the law in the sight of God.*"

First of all: What is the law? Well, the law is the character of God. The law is a summary of the holiness of God. The law of God reveals God's holiness. "*God is holy saith the Lord.*"

And then the law of God gives us the requirements of God upon all of His subjects, angels and men, heaven and earth. All of God's subjects are under the law of God, that's right. This law of God is the law of His holiness and the law of His universe. And everybody living in that universe, whether you like it or not; you're under the law of God.

You say: "I'm not under the law of God." Oh yes you are! Everyone that is in this universe is under the law of God almighty who owns this universe. The law of God is the perfect standard of holiness which God has set forth for every one of His subjects.

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

GALATIANS 3:11 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Now listen; what does the law require? It requires more than you see on the surface. That's where the Pharisee's missed it. It says, "*Thou shalt not kill.*" Well, they thought just because they never took a sword and took the life of an individual that they weren't guilty of murder.

But Christ said this; "*You've heard it said thou shalt not kill. I say unto you, to hate in your heart is to be guilty of murder already.*" The law says, "*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*" But Christ said, "*To lust in your heart is to be guilty of adultery.*" The law says, "*Thou shalt not covet.*" Christ said, "To be dissatisfied with what you have is covetousness."

So, the law of God, Paul said; "*If you that would be under the law; don't you hear the law? Don't you hear what God's law says?*" God's law says, "*To love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.*" God's law says to, "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" God's law requires not only perfect outward obedience which you can't produce either but it demands a perfect inward obedience.

God's law demands perfect love, perfect thought, perfect motive, perfect attitude, and perfect deeds at all times, the perfect law of God which reaches the heart, the mind, the imagination, the very innermost being of every individual.

Can any human being meet the holy requirements of God's law? A big capital NO! No way! That's right, the Scripture says that; "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*" The Scripture says, "*From the soul of our feet to the top of our heads; there's no soundness in us.*"

The Word of God declares, "*There's none good.*" Now you can keep on talking about how good your mother is and how good your father is, how good your sister or brother is, how good your children are, how good this man is and how good that man is. And compared with other people there may be something commendable about them. But in the sight of God, "*There's none good, no not one.*"

That's what the Scripture says, not compared to the holy law of God; we're talking about holiness. We're talking about perfection. And anybody out there that claims to be without sin; it doesn't matter how you spell your name, the Scripture says; "*If any say he hath not sinned he is deceived and he's a liar, he makes God a liar and the truths not in him.*" Now that's so!

Now you can build, you can jump over a barn if you build a barn low enough. And you can keep the law of God if you lower the standard of God's law enough but you can't touch God's law. God's law demands inward perfection. It demands not only that you abstain from evil but that you produce love and that can't be produced by an evil heart.

Has any human being ever met and kept these perfect requirements? Capital YES! You mean some human being did keep that holy, perfect, law of God? Yes He did; his name was Jesus of Nazareth. He was the God-man. He was God in human flesh. And He came down here as our representative and He met that holy law head-on and He obeyed it perfectly.

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

GALATIANS 3:11 • HENRY T. MAHAN

The Father said; *“This is my beloved Son in whom I’m well pleased.”* As our representative He kept that law. He obeyed that law. And by Adam’s disobedience we fell. Death, judgment, sin, and condemnation came upon all flesh.

That’s all it is. *“In the flesh dwelleth no good thing. In the flesh no man can please God.”* But one man did, our representative Jesus Christ. He perfectly obeyed that law. *“In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son, made under the law, made of a woman, to redeem those who were born under the law;”* for those who couldn’t keep the law, those who were slain by the law, those who were under the condemnation and judgment and penalty of the broken law.”

Christ came down here in human flesh, tempted, tried, and tested in every point, in every jot and tittle of God’s holy law. He never broke that law, not in one point. He obeyed it perfectly. *“And the just shall live by faith in Him. By the law shall no flesh be justified”* but by faith in Christ, by confidence in Christ, by a vital union with Christ you can live. You better listen to that, by Christ.

In **Hebrews 10:38**: *“The just shall live by faith.”* Now listen to **verse 38 and 39, Hebrews 10**: *“The just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in Him. But we’re not of them that draw back unto perdition but of them that keep on believing to the saving of the soul.”*

Now what does this deal with? This text shows this, that the very life of perseverance is faith, not works. Works is not the life of perseverance; faith is the work and is the life of perseverance.

We begin this journey by faith. *“The just shall live, (shall begin to live, shall start life, shall start the journey) by faith.”* *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

“He that believeth on the Son hath life.” That’s how we start. That’s how we begin. That’s how are sins are put away. That’s how we start the journey. Now we keep on the journey by faith. The Scripture says in **1 Peter 1:5**; *“We are kept by the power of God.”* Yes, in the hand of God; by the grace of God we’re kept, not by our works, not by our efforts, not by our merit, but by His grace; *“We’re kept by the power of God through faith,”* not apart from faith, and not without faith. Faith grows, faith continues.

And then in the last place: We complete this journey the same way we began it, the same way we continue it; we complete it by faith.

Listen to Paul in **1 Timothy**; he says: *“The time of my departure is at hand. I fought a good fight. I finished my course. I have (what?) I’ve kept the faith, I’ve kept the faith.”*

“Henceforth there’s laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge shall give to me in that day, not to me only, but to all those who love His appearing.”

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

GALATIANS 3:11 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Yes, the soul is the life of the body. Faith is the life of the soul. And Christ is the life of faith. Did you get that? The soul is the life of the body and faith is the life of the soul and Christ is the life of faith.

“The just shall live by faith!”