



Dr Bart Box

Legalism: Its Attraction, Absurdity, and Antidotes

Acts 15:1-35

Three Aspects of Legalism

- The Attraction of Legalism...
 - Is rooted in our _____ for acceptance before God.
 - Is evident in its _____ among the religious.
 - The religious _____ in Jesus' day struggled with legalism.
 - The _____ church struggled with legalism.
 - The church _____ struggles with legalism.
- The Absurdity of Legalism...
 - Is seen in the eternal _____ of God.
 - Peter saw God's plan through the _____.
 - Paul and Barnabas saw God's plan among the _____.
 - James saw God's plan in the _____.
 - Is apparent in the universal _____ of man.
 - No one can achieve _____ to the law.
 - No one can avoid _____ from the law.
- The Antidotes to Legalism...
 - Are found in gospel _____.
 - We are _____ in matters of indifference.
 - We are _____ in matters of the gospel.
 - Are found in gospel _____.
 - We are saved by _____ alone.
 - We are saved in _____ alone.
 - Are found in gospel _____.
 - We must remember that legalism threatens the _____.
 - We must remember that legalism obscures God's _____.
 - We must remember that legalism undermines our _____.
 - We must remember that legalism destroys our _____.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:4-9)



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Acts 15:1-35

Three Aspects of Legalism

- The Attraction of Legalism...
 - Is rooted in our **desire** for acceptance before God.
 - Is evident in its **appeal** among the religious.
 - The religious **leaders** in Jesus' day struggled with legalism.
 - The **early** church struggled with legalism.
 - The church **today** struggles with legalism.
- The Absurdity of Legalism...
 - Is seen in the eternal **plan** of God.
 - Peter saw God's plan through the **Holy Spirit**.
 - Paul and Barnabas saw God's plan among the **Gentiles**.
 - James saw God's plan in the **Scriptures**.
 - Is apparent in the universal **failure** of man.
 - No one can achieve **conformity** to the law.
 - No one can avoid **guilt** from the law.
- The Antidotes to Legalism...
 - Are found in gospel **conviction**.
 - We are **flexible** in matters of indifference.
 - We are **inflexible** in matters of the gospel.
 - Are found in gospel **clarity**.
 - We are saved by **grace** alone.
 - We are saved in **Christ** alone.
 - Are found in gospel **consequences**.
 - We must remember that legalism threatens the **mission**.
 - We must remember that legalism obscures God's **glory**.
 - We must remember that legalism undermines our **salvation**.
 - We must remember that legalism destroys our **confidence**.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:4-9)