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# The Cross and Performance- Based Acceptance



“Belief in the necessity of good deeds: Christianity- the belief that good deeds are required for entrance into Heaven.”

- The Encarata Dictionary



“Seeking to achieve forgiveness from God and acceptance by God through obedience to God.”

- CJ Mahaney



Mark 3:1-4 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. <sup>2</sup> And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup> And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." <sup>4</sup> And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent.



Mark 3:5-6 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup> The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.



What was meant to be a day  
of worship and rest became  
a day of suffocating burdens.



1 John 5:3 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.





God's Grace + \_\_\_\_\_

= Acceptance with God



Legalism occurs today when  
Christians confuse  
justification and  
sanctification.



<sup>1</sup> What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.



<sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup> “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; <sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”



Galatians 3:1-2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. <sup>2</sup> Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ.



Galatians 3:3-5 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? <sup>4</sup> Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? <sup>5</sup> I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ.

