

Charged With Being Legalists

- Salvation is conditional (obedient faith).
Ephesians 2:8-9 versus Matthew 7:21?
- We must find and follow the New Testament patterns for Christ's authority.
II Timothy 1:13
- Careful obedience to the apostles' teaching. Acts 2:42; I Timothy 4:6;
II Timothy 3:10

2



A Proper Definition Is Essential

- To know the truth, John 8:31-32
 - Legal: “deriving authority from or founded on law,” “conforming to or permitted by law or established rules” (Webster)
 - Legalist derives his authority from law, or bases his authority on law
 - “Legalism” must be properly defined, not prejudicially applied.

4

The Condition of Obedience to be Saved by Christ is Not Legalism


- Jesus requires obedience, Matthew 7:21
 - Jesus saves the obedient, Hebrews 5:8-9
- Apostles taught obedience, Matthew 28:18-20
 - Obedience to the faith is essential for our salvation and God's glory, Romans 16:25-26

5

Careful Obedience is Not Legalism; It is Faithfulness

- Charge: “Requiring obedience nullifies grace by trying to earn (merit) salvation.”
 - False: Obedience does NOT nullify grace, Joshua 6:2-5
 - It is praised by Paul, II Timothy 3:10; I Timothy 4:6
 - Working (active) faith justifies, James 2:20-24

6



Who Are the Legalists in the Bible?

The Real Legalist Says Law-Keeping Saves You – Romans 4:1-5

- Nobody qualifies, Romans 3:20, 23; Galatians 3:10-11
- Sin is the fatal flaw of salvation by law-keeping, cf. Romans 7:9-12; 3:20
- Legalism demands sinless perfection
 - Earned salvation (a debt owed), Romans 4:2-4

What About the Pharisees: Weren't They Legalists?

- Yes, for believing salvation was by the works of the Law of Moses (law-keeping), Acts 15:5, 9-11; Galatians 2:16
- Pharisees were not rebuked for obeying God's law but for believing the Law saves souls, Romans 9:30-10:3



Applications for Us (Lessons for Christians)

Lessons As We Live By Faith

- **You are not a legalist for affirming salvation is conditional**, Acts 10:34-35; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:37-38
- **It is not legalism to have Bible authority for all we believe and practice**, Colossians 3:17; II Timothy 1:13
 - How to be saved, Romans 6:17-18
 - How to worship, John 4:23-24; Luke 6:46
 - Local church organization and work, I Timothy 3:15

Lessons for Us

- **Obeying Jesus is not legalism**
 - Jesus taught and required obedience:
 - To have eternal life, John 8:51
 - It is what love does, John 14:15
 - To love Jesus and be loved by God, John 14:21, 24
 - To be a friend of Jesus, John 15:14; I John 2:3-6
- **Grace and obedience are compatible**, Romans 6:16

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Hear the Word of God**
 - **Romans 10:8** – “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)”
- **Believe that Jesus is the Savior**
 - **Romans 10:11** – “For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’”

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Repent of your sins**
 - **Acts 3:19** – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”
- **Confess that Jesus is the Son of God**
 - **I John 4:15** – “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Be immersed in water (baptized)**
 - **Acts 2:38** – “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- **Remain faithful**
 - **Hebrews 3:14** – “For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.”