

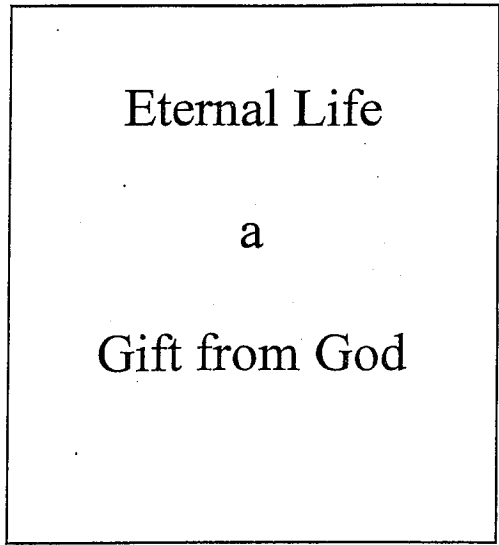
5. WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?

As you think on these things, does the following verse from God's Word speak to your soul?

Galatians 2:16 - *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."* The word "justified" means accepted and forgiven by God because of Christ.

Do you know in your heart that you are a sinner in need of a saviour, and can you say from the heart in the full assurance of faith that the Lord Jesus Christ is your Saviour? *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Rom. 10:13).

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The title of this tract states a fact that is inescapable. The Bible, God's Word, tells us plainly that there is no other way of obtaining eternal life but as a gift from God. Read it and see.

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1. MISTAKEN IDEAS.

There are many who say, "I believe that if I keep the Ten Commandments I will go to heaven when I die." The problem with that is that none of us, including you, keep the ten commandments. So where does that leave us?

Others may think, "If I do my best to keep the Ten Commandments and keep more than I break, I will go to heaven when I die." This may sound reasonable to most people, but, as we shall see, it does not meet God's standard.

2. WHAT THE LAW REALLY DOES.

Neither idea expressed above is of any value, for the Law of God makes no allowance for failure, whether one has tried his best or not. The Bible says: *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all"* (James 2:10). In point of fact, all of us have broken the law, for *"sin is the transgression of the law"* (I John 3:4) and *"all have sinned"* (Romans 3:23).

The Law of God was not given to get men to heaven, but to reveal that all men are guilty before Him. *"Now we know that what things soever the law saith,*

it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God" (Romans 3:19).

3. GOD'S GRACIOUS PURPOSE.

God's purpose in this is to make us see our sin, guilt and condemnation before Him, and to seek salvation where alone it may be found, in the grace of God through Jesus Christ. God tells us, *"Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe"* (Galatians 3:21, 22).

4. GOD'S GRACIOUS GIFT.

The law cannot give life, it can only condemn sinners. Eternal life can be received only as a gift of God's grace. *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:23). That gift was purchased by Christ's blood and is received by grace alone through faith alone in Him alone. Those who trust Him can say, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).