

DON'T FIX IT!

The country boy mangled the King's English, but still made a valid point: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." The gospel of Christ is not broken; it does not need fixed.

Every accountable person can be charged with having sinned (see Romans 3:23). Through the gospel of Christ, however, we can be justified (acquitted of the charges against us). Paul wrote in Galatians 2:16 that we are justified by the faith of Christ. That isn't just "faith *in* Christ, nor is it talking about Jesus' own personal faith in the Heavenly Father. It's *the* faith *of* Christ, in contrast to *the* Law *of* Moses. "The faith of Christ" is that system of faith of which Jesus is the author. In other words, "the faith of Christ" is the gospel.

Some of the Christians in Galatia came from Jewish backgrounds. By obeying the gospel, they acknowledged that they could not be justified by the works of the Mosaic Law. If those works could have saved them, they would have had no reason to come to Christ. (Just keep doing the works of the Law & all would be well.) Yet some of them were reverting to the Law, and insisting that the Gentiles also submit to it in order to be saved. What nonsense! Why go back to something you've already admitted couldn't save you? (Illustrate: Antibiotics – don't go back to the one that didn't work!) Paul sarcastically asked who had cast a spell on them to make them do such a foolish thing (Galatians 3:1). They had begun in the Spirit (i.e. with the gospel, which gives the gift of the Holy Spirit, and which emphasizes spiritual matters), but were seeking to be perfected (completed) by the Law of Moses, which dealt with innumerable matters of the flesh (circumcision, dietary laws, et. al.).

Today we have less problem with people relying on Mosaic Law-keeping than we do with the tendency to rely on our own personal goodness. When you obeyed the gospel, you must have realized that your own righteousness could not

save you. All the good works you may have done didn't wash away a single sin. Only the blood of Jesus can do that. If you have "quit the church," but think you will be ok because you are still a "good person," you are relying on your own righteousness instead of Christ's. If your own righteousness could save you, then why did you become a Christian at all? Since you obeyed the gospel, why turn back to something that you knew couldn't save you?

The gospel isn't broken. Don't fix it!