

## LIVING BY LAW OR LIVING BY FAITH

(Christian Fellowship at Bucklands Beach - 13/11/94 - EKB)

1. **Readings:** *Rom 3:20-31, Rom 8:4, Gal 3.*
2. Living by law or living by faith are the **two ways** people seek to get right with God.
3. Several years ago, in India, while walking along the Hyderabad Bombay road, a young man caught up to me and asked if I was a Christian. I said that I was, and he said that he was a Hindu. I asked him how he hoped to go to heaven, and he listed a number of “good deeds” he was doing to achieve this desired end. He was worshipping the Hindu gods, offering the sacrifices, making pilgrimages and helping needy people. I asked Srinu how many good works he had to do to have his sins forgiven, and he replied that he had no idea. I shared with him that the reason why God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for us, was so that through believing in His shed blood, we might receive full forgiveness of every sin, and receive God’s gift of eternal life. (On a later visit we met Srinu again, and with great joy he told us how he had become a believer in Christ.)
4. **Living by Law**
  - a. We are saved by what we do
  - b. Man trying to put himself in the right with God by his own good deeds, *Rom 3:20, Gal 2:16.*
  - c. Hoping that in the end I will have done enough good deeds to cancel out my sins and failures and be accepted by God as righteous in His sight.
  - d. Relying on my own abilities and efforts to keep God’s laws
  - e. Depending on my own works and merits to earn God’s blessing, *Tit 3:5.*
  - f. Man trying to have a part in achieving his own salvation.
  - g. Man reaching up to God.
  - h. Says: “Do it!”**Living by Faith**
  - a. We are saved by what we believe
  - b. Believing that God has already put us in the right with Himself through the sacrifice of Christ, *Rom 3:24.*
  - c. Believing that right now God declares me righteous in His sight, before I have done anything, by what Christ has already done for me.
  - d. Believing that Christ is living His life in me by the power of the Holy Spirit and enabling me to do God’s will. The Law Giver on the Throne is the Law Keeper in my heart, *Phil 2:13, Gal 2:20, Rom 8:4, Rom 8:2, Col 3:4.*
  - e. Believing that God freely blesses me in every way through Christ.
  - f. Believing that God has done all for our full salvation.
  - g. God reaching down to bless man, *Jn 3:16.*
  - h. Says: “It is done!” *Jn 19:30.*
5. Example of the Pharisee and the tax collector - *Lk 18:9-14.*

6. **Results:****Living by Law**

- a. Pride  
*Lk 8:11*
- b. Self righteousness  
*Lk 18:12*
- c. Judging others  
*Lk 18:11*
- d. "Blindness" to spiritual reality - *Mat 23:16,17,19*
- e. Legalistic and narrow  
*Mat 23:23*
- f. Striving to obey in human ability - *Mat 23:15*
- g. Guilt when one falls short
- h. Condemnation from failure
- i. Fearful of never being being good enough
- j. Cursed - *Gal 3:10*

**Living by Faith**

- a. Humility, surrender to Christ as Lord - *1Pet 5:6*
- b. Confession of sins depending on Christ's righteousness - *1Jn 1:9*
- c. Forgiving and blessing others  
*Mat 5:44*
- d. "Eyes" that see truth  
*Mat 13:16*
- e. Accepting others as they are  
*Rom 15:7*
- f. Resting in Christ and trusting Him to live His life in us by the Spirit's power - *Mat 11:28,29*
- g. Clear conscience, forgiveness and peace (*Heb 9:14, Rom 5:1*)
- h. No condemnation, Acceptance by God - *Rom 8:1, Eph 1:6 NKJV*
- i. Trusting Christ to put us right and keep us right
- j. Blessed - *Eph 1:3*