

## Habakkuk 2:4 & Galatians 3:11 – The Just & Faith Part 1

In this two-part series on the Just & Faith, unlike written in a NIV, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”, we’re going to apply the biblical principal of rightly dividing the word of truth, as correctly stated in a King James Bible... “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJB)** Regarding this contrast in readings, I jest that a mother ‘correctly handles’ a freshly baked pie from the oven to kitchen table to then ‘rightly divide’ between father & children. The greed behind the multitude of English translations, in pretending to make the word of God easier to read, destroys doctrinal truth.

When Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, makes reference to Habakkuk 2:4, regarding the just & faith, he omits the pronoun ‘his’. Have you ever noticed this omission & wondered why?

**Habakkuk 2:4** Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.  
...the JUST shall live BY HIS FAITH

**Galatians 3:11** But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith.  
...The JUST shall live BY FAITH

One thing I stress over & over, on my website & studies, is the difference between O.T. justification from that presented in the N.T.; in particular as revealed by Paul. Under the O.T., a just man was one who was righteous before the LORD and the imputation of righteousness was based on faithful obedience. This is exactly what is expressed in Habakkuk 2:4, the focus of Part 1... the JUST shall live by ‘HIS’ faith.

Though this principal preceded the law, we’re picking up at the giving of the Mosaic Covenant. The law, among other things, was Israel’s righteousness to be lived out both nationally & individually.

**Exodus 19:5-8** Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: **6** And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. **7** And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. **8** And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

...IF ye will OBEY my voice indeed, and KEEP my covenant  
...ALL that the LORD hath spoken WE WILL DO

**Deuteronomy 6:24-25** And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as *it is* at this day. **25** And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

...IT shall be OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, IF we observe to DO all these commandments

Notice carefully, in the following passages, how that the words ‘justify’ & ‘just’ are tied to the righteous and are based on one’s actions regarding the law.

**Deuteronomy 25:1** If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that *the judges* may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked.

...then they shall JUSTIFY the RIGHTEOUS  
...and condemn the wicked

**Ezekiel 18:4-5** Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. **5** But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right, ...But IF a man be JUST, and DO that which is LAWFUL and RIGHT

**Ezekiel 18:8-9** He *that* hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, *that* hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man, **9** Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he *is* just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD.

...hath not given forth upon usury ... neither hath taken any increase ... hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity ... hath executed true judgment  
...WALKED in my statutes ...KEPT my judgments, ...DEAL truly;  
...HE *is* JUST

**2 Chronicles 6:21-23** Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: hear thou from thy dwelling place, *even* from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive. **22** If a man sin against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to make him swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house; **23** Then hear thou from heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, by requiting the wicked, by recompensing his way upon his own head; and by justifying the righteous, by giving him according to his righteousness.  
...by JUSTIFYING the RIGHTEOUS, by giving him according to HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

**2 Chronicles 6:28-30** If there be dearth in the land, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting, or mildew, locusts, or caterpillars; if their enemies besiege them in the cities of their land; whatsoever sore or whatsoever sickness *there be*: **29** *Then* what prayer *or* what supplication soever shall be made of any man, or of all thy people Israel, when every one shall know his own sore and his own grief, and shall spread forth his hands in this house: **30** Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men:)  
...and RENDER UNTO EVERY MAN ACCORDING UNTO ALL HIS WAYS, whose heart thou knowest

How often, over the years & even in recent weeks, have I seen arguments used from Ezekiel as evidence one could lose their salvation today! In the following passages, note that Israel is being addressed and how that the Jew was not only divided into one of two categories (the righteous & the wicked), but an Israelite could fall in and out of these groupings. Please pay attention to all indicated in CAPS.

**Ezekiel 3:17-21** Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the HOUSE OF ISRAEL: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give THEM warning from me. **18** When I say unto THE WICKED, THOU shalt surely die; and thou givest HIM not warning, nor speakest to warn THE WICKED from HIS WICKED WAY, to save HIS life; the same WICKED MAN SHALL DIE IN HIS INIQUITY; but his blood will I require at thine hand. **19** Yet if thou warn THE WICKED, and HE TURN NOT FROM HIS WICKEDNESS, nor from HIS WICKED WAY, HE SHALL DIE IN HIS INIQUITY; but thou hast delivered thy soul. **20** Again, When a RIGHTEOUS MAN DOTHTURN FROM HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, and COMMIT INIQUITY, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, HE shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, HE SHALL DIE IN HIS SIN, and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH HE HATH DONE SHALL NOT BE REMEMBERED; but his blood will I require at thine hand. **21** Nevertheless if thou warn THE RIGHTEOUS MAN, that THE RIGHTEOUS SIN NOT, and HE doth not sin, HE shall surely live, because HE is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

**Ezekiel 14:13-20** Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon

it, and will cut off man and beast from it: **14** Though these three men, NOAH, DANIEL, and JOB, were in it, EHEY should deliver *BUT* THEIR OWN SOULS by THEIR RIGHTEOUSNESS, saith the Lord GOD. **15** If I cause noisome beasts to pass through the land, and they spoil it, so that it be desolate, that no man may pass through because of the beasts: **16** *Though* these three men *were* in it, *as* I live, saith the Lord GOD, THEY SHALL DELIVER NEITHER SONS NOR DAUGHTERS; THEY ONLY SHALL BE DELIVERED, but the land shall be desolate. **17** Or *if* I bring a sword upon that land, and say, Sword, go through the land; so that I cut off man and beast from it: **18** Though these three men *were* in it, *as* I live, saith the Lord GOD, they SHALL DELIVER NEITHER SONS NOR DAUGHTERS, BUT THEY ONLY SHALL BE DELIVERED THEMSELVES. **19** Or *if* I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon it in blood, to cut off from it man and beast: **20** Though NOAH, DANIEL, and JOB, *were* in it, *as* I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; THEY SHALL *BUT* DELIVER THEIR OWN SOULS by THEIR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

**Ezekiel 18:20-25** The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL BE UPON HIM, and THE WICKEDNESS OF THE WICKED SHALL BE UPON HIM. **21** But IF THE WICKED WILL TURN FROM ALL HIS SINS THAT HE HATH COMMITTED, AND KEEP ALL MY STATUTES, AND DO THAT WHICH IS LAWFUL AND RIGHT, HE SHALL SURELY LIVE, HE SHALL NOT DIE. **22** ALL HIS TRANSGRESSIONS THAT HE HATH COMMITTED, THEY SHALL NOT BE MENTIONED UNTO HIM: IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT HE HATH DONE HE SHALL LIVE. **23** Have I any pleasure at all that THE WICKED should die? saith the Lord GOD: *and* not that HE should return from HIS ways, and live? **24** But when THE RIGHTEOUS TURNETH AWAY FROM HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND COMMITTETH INIQUITY, *AND* DOETH ACCORDING TO ALL THE ABOMINATIONS THAT THE WICKED MAN DOETH, SHALL HE LIVE? ALL HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT HE HATH DONE SHALL NOT BE MENTIONED: IN HIS TRESPASS THAT HE HATH TRESPASSED, AND IN HIS SIN THAT HE HATH SINNED, IN THEM SHALL HE DIE. **25** Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal?

3 points in closing this segment of Part 1 & a prelude to Part 2:

1. As circumcision was a dividing sign under the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 17:1-14), so under the Mosaic Covenant an Israelite could be cut off from the congregation of Israel (Ex 12:15,19; Ex 30:33,38; Ex 31:14; Le 7:20-21,25,27; Le 17:4,9,14; Le 18:29; Le 19:8; Le 20:17-18; Le 22:3; Le 23:29; Nu 9:13; Nu 15:30-31; Nu 19:13,20). There was no 'eternal security' measure put in place to remain within the congregation of Israel!
2. Justification under the Mosaic Covenant EXCLUDED certain sins... "And by him all that believe are JUSTIFIED FROM ALL THINGS, from which YE COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW OF MOSES."  
**Acts 13:39**
3. An inseparable component of 'his faith', regarding obedience to the law, included... "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."  
**Deuteronomy 6:5** This verse MUST be put into the context of the entire chapter! (Cf. Dt 6:1-25; Isa 1:1-16; Rom 9:31-32)

In Part 2 of The Just & Faith, we're going to witness things being opposite.