



# *Devotional Study Guide Journal*

*January 9<sup>th</sup>*

## ***Freedom from Legalism***

Christians do not live righteously in order to be righteous. We live righteously because we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

### ***2 Corinthians 5:21 Mounce***

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be a sin-offering for us, that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Even though we have already been made the righteousness in God, Christians everywhere spend a lot of time and effort trying to be righteous by praying, reading the Bible, doing good deeds, and not sinning.

Think about the insult this is to Jesus. He DIED to make us righteous, and yet we still do our best to make ourselves righteous. WE can't make ourselves righteous. If we could, Jesus didn't need to die.

Some Christians get a glimpse of this and realize that all of the don'ties in their lives are just legalism. They feel they are breaking free from legalisms when they grow or cut their hair, wear jeans or shorts to church, let a little cleavage show, use slang or off-colored language from the pulpit, practice "body life ministry" instead of teaching from the Bible, feel comfortable having a glass of wine, smoking, or dancing, attend a home gathering instead of an institutionalized church, or have a rock band during worship service instead of an orchestra.

They feel free because they are riding themselves of former legalisms, but many of them are still as legalistic as ever, especially when it comes to "spiritual disciplines." They drink wine but still pray and read the Bible religiously, not missing one day ever. They wear jeans to church, but are still trying to be made righteous by what they do. They don't see these as laws, but spiritual exercise.

But praying, reading the Bible, and a long list of other wonderful things we do as Christians do not make us right with God. Nothing we do or don't do can possibly improve upon what Jesus did at the cross.

This is so common in the church today.

We say, “Let go, and let God,” and then we don’t let go.

We sing, “He who began a good work in me will be faithful to complete it,” and then go about trying to complete the work He supposedly only “began.”

We quote, “Be still and know that I am God,” and then we turn right around and freak out about our circumstances.

We add “ifs, ands, and buts” at every turn.

I am the righteousness of God IF I don’t sin and IF I practice spiritual disciplines.

God will help me, BUT only if I first help myself. I must do MY best and leave the rest to God.

God will heal me, BUT only if I am living a perfectly healthy lifestyle.

God will bless me financially, IF I give ten percent and more.

***Hebrews 4:9-10***

*There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.*

*<sup>10</sup> For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.*

Jesus said, “Come unto me all of you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” There is a rest for us. There is freedom for us. Freedom comes from know we are righteous by faith in Jesus. Faith in what HE accomplished. Faith in who HE has made us. Faith in Him to complete us.

*Take a deep breath. “Jesus, I trust You”.*

*Exhale. “Jesus, I trust You.”*

*Now truly rest. “Jesus, I trust You.”*

*You are free from every religious law.*

*Rejoice.*

