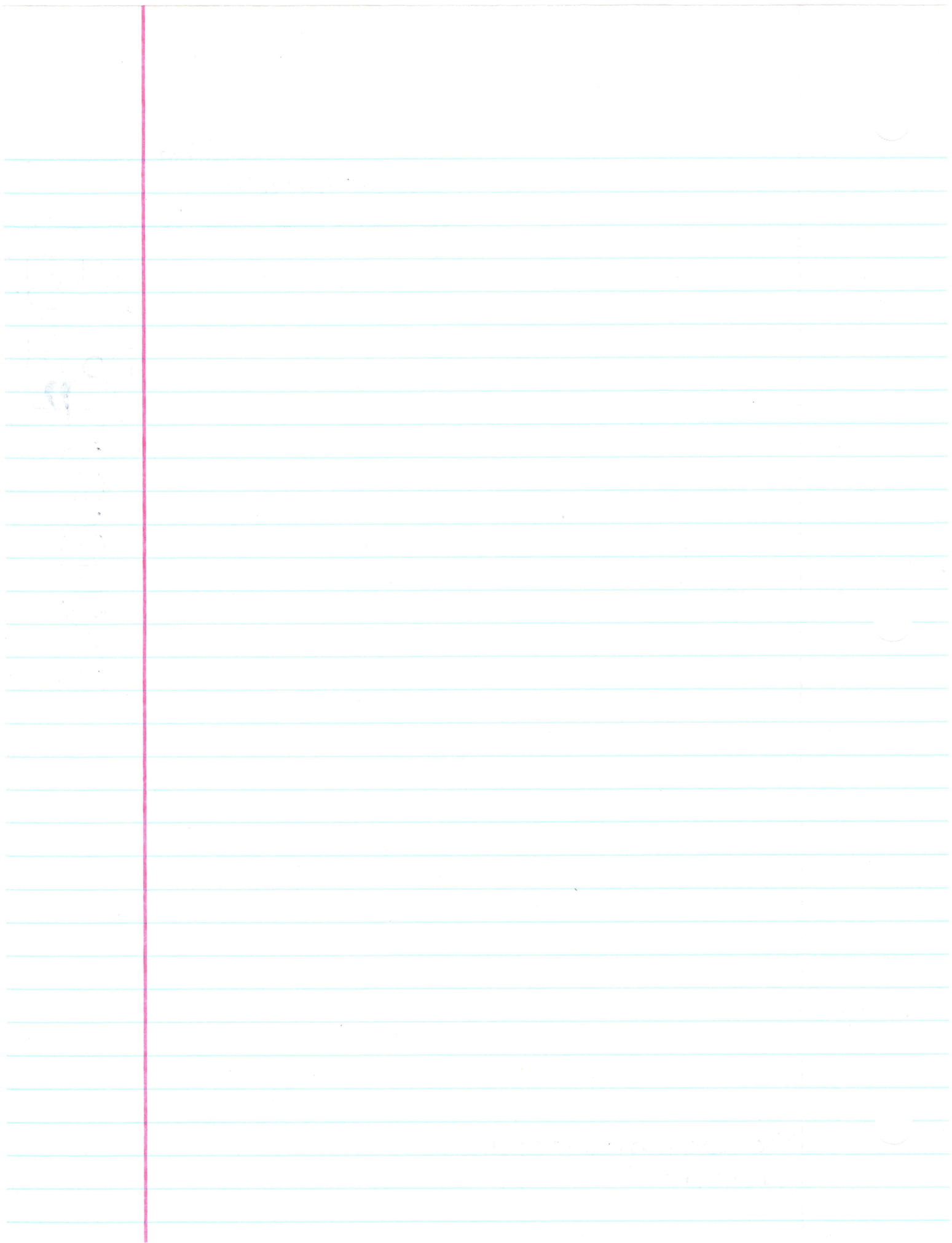


#26

Just Live By Faith

SONGS OF PRAISE
— Psalm 32:7 —
PERMANENCE

The teaching ministry of
John Kerr



- Galatians 3
 - Galatians 3:11
- Just, Live By Faith
- Righteousness, Not of Works
- "But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith."
- Galatians 3:11 (NKJV)

No one is justified by the law. The law does not justify. It was not given to justify. Quite the opposite; it was given to highlight sin. Like one of those bright, fluorescent-yellow markers, the law makes our unrighteousness stand out. You cannot please God by being obedient to His law! Why?

Because you CANNOT BE obedient to His law! To be obedient to God's law so that God is pleased you must obey EVERY law, ALL THE TIME!

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them'."

But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith."

- Galatians 3:10,11 (NKJV) (emphasis mine)

If you try to live by the law (God's law), you are cursed, because you must do everything written in the law, and you cannot do it.

Paul was not timid in his rebuke of the Galatians because they were returning to living by works. Look at what he said:

SONGS & DELIVERANCE
- Psalm 32:7-

- "O foolish Galatians! who has bewitched you..."
- "Are you so foolish?"
- "Have you suffered so many things in vain?"

Paul was flabbergasted that these people, who were justified by simple faith in Christ, would return to trying to please God by their good deeds.

"Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?"

- Galatians 3:3

Look at that. You began your life in Christ by walking in the Spirit. When you came to Christ by faith, His Spirit was placed in you, giving you the life of God - eternal life. (Eph 3:19) You have God living His life inside of you, in fullness. Do you think that you are now going to be made complete by the flesh? Look at our key verse; those who have been justified by faith, live by that same faith.

Trying to please God by doing things to please God, does not please God. Faith - simple belief - pleases God.

Trying to do good works

But doesn't Ephesians say we were created for good works?

READ: Ephesians 2:1-10

Now, notice something:

- "He made alive" - v.1
- "But God... made us alive" - v.4
- "and (God) raised us up" - v.5
- "and made us sit together" - v.5
- "that He might show" - v.7
- "it is the gift of God" - v.8
- "For we are His workmanship" - v.10

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God pre-

Just, Live By Faith

— Righteousness, Not of Works

prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Of course, God wants us to walk in good works. God planned ahead of time — "before ordained" (1KJ) for us to walk in good works. But faith is how we get there. Good works is not OUR work, it's HIS work. Look again. God prepared the good Faith is works He wants us to do beforehand how we And we are HIS workmanship. We get there. are His project. He does the work.

So how does all this work? What do I do?

- 1: I get up in the morning, and yield myself to whatever work God wants to do in me today.
 - In faith, I'm allowing myself to be His workmanship.
- 2: I walk in His Word; reading, and meditating on it, and speaking it out loud; because "faith comes by hearing... the Word of God." (Rom 10:17)
 - In faith, I'm building my faith the way God says.
- 3: The Holy Spirit writes the laws of God onto my heart, and causes me to walk in it. (Jer 32:33*)
 - In faith, I surrender my will; which allows the Spirit to cause me to do His will.
 - Those good works are by faith. (*also Ezek 11:19, 20; 36:26, 27)
 - Those are the good works God planned.
 - Justified by faith — Eph 2:8, 9
 - Living by faith — Eph 2:10

Glory to God!

"But without faith, it is impossible to please God,"

- Hebrews 11:6

All that I offer to God, outside of His grace, is tainted by sin. He cannot receive a blemished sacrifice.

- When I come to God for salvation, the only thing I can offer Him is the perfect blood of Jesus.
- When I come to God with my life, the only thing I can offer Him is the grace*, purchased by that blood.

* God's unmerited favor.

This is just living by faith.

Note: This study is very similar to another one I just did. I even asked the Lord if he really wanted me to do this one. I'm convinced that someone needed to have this truth explained just this way.

God keeps reminding me that I have to live this way. Satan tries to convince me that I owe God; but that debt was paid, so that I can walk in peace with my Father. Faith is the way to fellowship with Him, without condemnation. (Rom 5:1; 8:1)

"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

* - 1 John 4:16 (NKJV)