

soever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."⁸⁷

In this passage the Greek phrase *κατηρρήθητε ἀπὸ Χριστοῦ* is translated "Christ is become of no effect unto you" should be translated "ye are severed from Christ."⁸⁸ The Greek verb *δικαιοῦσθε* which is translated "are justified" is in the present tense, and the use of the present tense in this verb is conative which means that it is used to denote an effort to do something. Thus this verb should be translated "try to be justified."⁸⁹ The Greek noun *χάριτος* which is translated "grace" refers to the method of obtaining salvation by the unmerited favor of God.

In this passage, therefore, the Apostle Paul said that those who try to be justified or declared righteous by obedience to the law are severed from Christ in the sense that they are cut off from any benefit from Him, and they are fallen from grace in the sense that they have abandoned the method of obtaining salvation by the unmerited favor of God.

Here the Bible again plainly teaches salvation by grace alone, for in this passage the Apostle Paul said that those who try to be justified or declared righteous by obedience to the law are severed from Christ in the sense that they are cut off from any benefit from Him, and they are fallen from grace in the sense that they have abandoned the method of obtaining salvation by the unmerited favor of God.

It should be noted that in this passage salvation by grace plus obedience to the law is absolutely impossible, for in this passage the Apostle Paul made it clear that salvation by grace and salvation by obedience to the

⁸⁷Gal. 5:4.

⁸⁸D. Eberhard Nestle and D. Erwin Nestle, Novum Testamentum Graece (20th ed., Stuttgart: Privileg. Wurtt., 1950), p. 486.

⁸⁹A. T. Robertson, A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research, (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1934), p. 880.