

(435) *on her machine (52 min)*
Paul says, "That which was unto life became to me unto death." He means when I took it as a means of salvation it became unto me unto death instead of unto life. So we say it's foolish and dangerous for anyone to seek to obtain eternal life merely by his efforts to keep the law and yet the sad thing is that fifty years ago, sixty, seventy years ago in this country, you would find pulpit after pulpit after pulpit in which a godly minister preached who believed the Bible from cover to cover, never questioned the deity of Christ, the necessity of salvation through His atonement, the fact of His miracles and so on, but who preached sermon after sermon after sermon on the ethical commands of the Word of God until the people got the impression that the way to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ be saved was to keep the law. (6) And that was the impression which many, many people had from the preaching of very godly ministers who could have given you a beautiful discourse on justification by faith. And perhaps they did once in a while. But they were constantly putting the stress on the law in a way which led people to get the false impression. And Dr. Machen in one of his books gives an ~~XX~~example to try to show the folly of that sort of thing. He says, "What is the Gospel? What is the good news? Imagine somebody running up to a man in the street and telling him, 'I've got some good news for you.' The man says 'What is it?' He says, 'Keep the commandments.'" Well of course that's not good news - keep the commandments. The good news is that Jesus Christ has kept the commandments for us. The good news is that Jesus Christ has a new life to give to us. He has borne our sins on the cross. But many, many a minister who thoroughly believes the evangelical doctrines puts so much of his stress in his preaching on the laws, that multitudes of people fail to understand it and there are great orthodox churches today in the United States - denominations that - small ones now - but denominations that stand absolutely true to the Word of God, believe it from cover to cover but in which the stress is such in the preaching that very few of the people get into their minds the understanding of truly what it means to be saved by faith. And so in that situation there were some people who were perhaps not so highly trained, some of them at least, who got a grip on this doctrine of salvation by faith from the New Testament and as they read the New Testament and saw the great stress on it, they began to preach it and stress it tremendously. Salvation by faith - not by works, by faith in Christ - not by keeping the law, and stressing that as they did and reading Paul's contrast between the law method and the grace method of