
The End of Law



Romans 6:14 “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”

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Chapter 1- Introduction

If you want to learn to drive do you go to a Driving Examiner or a Driving Instructor? Likewise, if you want to be holy do you go to the Law of Moses for help, or the Holy Spirit? Now, there is nothing wrong with what Driving Examiners do and the standards they uphold - although they could be a little bit friendlier sometimes! However, their job is not to help you, only to see if you meet the required standard.

Sin is missing the mark. How do we miss that mark? We fall short of the glory or goodness of God. The Law of course is a perfect standard of righteousness; it points out all your faults with absolute accuracy but does nothing to help you become righteous or holy.

Likewise, the UK driving test has to be passed by law and in many ways functions like the Law of Moses – it points out all your faults: major, serious and minor but doesn't lift a finger to help you! It is totally negative and doesn't focus at all on what you might have done right. Thus, passing a driving test doesn't help you learn to drive – it doesn't produce drivers at all. All it does is prevent bad drivers taking to the roads!

For example: Imagine if you never had a driving lesson and all you had to help you was the driving test form. Would it be possible to drive by just looking and learning from that list of possible faults? No, of course not, that would be ridiculous! Imagine working out how to control the clutch or deal with traffic just looking at a list of faults – impossible! No, what you need is an instructor or a coach who knows HOW to drive – an expert, an example. As believers, that's exactly what we have – the most patient, gracious, enthusiastic coach – the expert and wonderful Holy Spirit. My hope and aim therefore, in this short book is to explain clearly why Jesus freed us from the the Law of Moses and I hope my insights as a Driving Instructor have already peaked your interest!

Chapter 2

End of law for righteousness

*Romans 10:4 “For Christ is the **end of the law** for righteousness to everyone that believeth.”*

Most Protestant Christians don't believe they are saved by works. In other words, they don't believe that keeping the Law will ever make them righteous. And yet, many would say of this verse: “well it only says the end of the law for righteousness”, implying that we do need the law as a standard to produce correct behaviour in a Christian's life.

*Hebrews 7:19: “For the **law made nothing perfect**, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.”*

Well, this verse clearly says that the Law made nothing perfect, so why do we think its going to bring perfection or holiness once the believer has experienced salvation? I mean, are we saying that although the Law isn't capable of producing righteousness before we were saved, somehow it is capable of producing and maintaining righteousness after we are saved? Go figure!

We need the law to point out sin?

Anyway, some might say: “we need the Law to point out sin”. Now, they are right in identifying the strength of the Law, its expertise: forensically pointing out sin. Indeed, nothing escapes its perfection, skill and legal prowess.

*Romans 3:20 “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for **by the law is the knowledge of sin.**”*

The Law tells me how crooked I am; grace straightens me out - DL Moody

Does that mean then, that pastors and preachers should preach law every Sunday to convict their congregations and keep them in line? Well yes, if their congregations are unsaved because the Law is designed by God for just such people. **The Law is tailor-made for the unrighteous:**

1 Timothy 1:9 “Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers”

Consequently, if you are preaching the Law from the pulpit at believers then you are preaching the wrong covenant and preaching death! In fact, you are putting your congregation under a curse:

Galatians 3:10 “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”

Not under law

For the believer however - NO! The Law's task is complete. Law was designed by God to lead us to Christ by demolishing our self-righteousness and showing us we need His righteousness.

Galatians 3:24 “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

So, once we have been brought to Christ, the Law's schooling and discipline is over. We have graduated from law school; we are now in the school of faith and of the spirit.

It's time to take off the trainer wheels and get pedalling!

In Romans 7, Paul illustrates the legal basis by which this marriage to law is terminated. He shows, that we are delivered from the tyranny of law by death – our death in Christ. Therefore, even though the Law is not dead, we are dead to the Law!

This means three things:

(1) We are not UNDER law but under grace

*Romans 6:14 “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are **not under the law**, but under grace.”*

(2) We are DELIVERED from law

*Romans 7:6 “But now we are **delivered from the law**, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”*

(3) We are DEAD to the Law

*Romans 7:4 “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become **dead to the law** by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”*

*Galatians 2:19 “For **I** through the law am **dead to the law**, that I might live unto God.”*

How did we die to its demands? Through the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

*Galatians 2:20 “**I** am crucified with Christ: nevertheless **I** live; yet not **I**, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which **I** now live in the flesh **I** live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

The Law and all of its demands therefore, was removed and nailed to the cross of Jesus:

*Colossians 2:14 “Blotting out the **handwriting of ordinances that was against us**, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”*

Jesus completed the Law

Jesus though, was the only human being qualified to do this because he came under law (Galatians 4:4) and perfectly fulfilled it by living a perfect life. When he died at

the cross, he completed every requirement of the Law and not only that, every shadow and type and detail of the law that alluded to him.

Matt 5:17 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Jesus completed and fulfilled every requirement of the Law and not only that, every shadow, type and detail of the Law that alluded to him

Ah, some will say, Jesus said that as long as heaven and earth exist the Law applies. Consequently, it must apply to us today? Please read carefully! Jesus said that he didn't come to destroy the Law but to fulfil or complete it. So, at the point Jesus was speaking (before the cross), the Law hadn't as yet been fulfilled or completed. However, at the cross it was perfectly fulfilled.

Hebrews 7:12 “For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.”

Moreover, at the cross there was a change of covenant and priesthood. Jesus is now the high priest of our confession. We are under a New Covenant and so indeed, there has been a change of law.

Dead to the Ten Commandments

Now of course, some legalistic believers wriggle here and divide the law up into three parts: the **ceremonial law**, the **judicial law** and the **moral law** claiming that only the first two parts have been done away with and that the moral law or Ten Commandments still apply.

Firstly, there are no grounds in scripture to dissect the Law in such a way, as the Law is always viewed as one complete whole and system of 613 commandments.

For example James 2:10 says:

*“For whosoever shall **keep the whole law**, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou*

commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”

Secondly, Paul blows this theory wide open in 2 Corinthians 3 because he refers to the centre-piece of the Law: the Ten Commandments (clearly referred to as the ministration of death engraven in stones) – as done away!

*2 Cor 3:7 “But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be **done away:**”*

And again:

*2 Cor 3:11 “For if **that which is done away** was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.”*

And yet again further down, he makes clear the Ten Commandments have been abolished.

Not only that, in Colossians Chapter 2 Paul, shows that the **whole law** including the Ten Commandments is blotted out:

*Colossians 2:13 “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; **Blotting out** the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*

Further down in verse 15, Paul gives further details of this freedom from the Law and all its various ordinances:

Col 2:15 “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:”

If you still not convinced, Paul says it a different way in Ephesians 2:14-15:

*“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having **abolished** in his flesh the enmity, even the **law of commandments contained in ordinances**; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;”*

Gentiles were never under the Law

So what separated Jew and Gentile? It was the Law. Gentiles were never under the Law even though they “instinctively do the things of the Law” (Romans 2:14) . However the cross has removed that difference and both Jew and Gentile are made righteous by faith apart from law.

That is why, the early church came to the decision in Acts 16 that Gentiles believers did not have to be circumcised - they didn't have to keep the Law. In fact, as a Christian if you think you have to keep the Law then you should get circumcised and keep the Sabbath (Saturday).

We are not children of Moses; we're the children of Abraham. Abraham the man of faith was never under law!

Questions for discussion

- 1) Is the Law able to bring us perfection? - Hebrews 7:19
- 2) What is the Law good at? - Romans 3:20
- 3) What sort of people is the Law made for - 1 Timothy 1:9
- 4) Where should the Law lead us? - Galatians 3:24
- 5) How are we delivered from the Law? - Romans 7:6
- 6) Where did God blot out the Law? - Colossians 2:14
- 7) When did Jesus fulfil the Law? - Matt 5:17
- 8) Why are we free from the whole Law: ceremonial, judicial and moral - James 2:10
- 9) How does Paul describe the 10 Commandments - 2 Corinthians 3:7
- 10) What 3 different terms are used to describe the end of the Law? - 2 Corinthians 3:11, Colossians 2:13 and Ephesians 2:14-15
- 11) As a Gentile were you ever under Law?
- 12) What makes a child of Abraham?

Chapter 3

Jesus and the Mosaic Law

In the last chapter, I showed how the death of Jesus abolished the Law and completely freed us from it in every aspect. In this chapter, I want to continue looking in a little more depth how Jesus actually fulfilled the Law and what his relationship to the Law was.

Bible teacher Derek Prince says this:

“Jesus was foretold by the prophets and foreshadowed by the law.”

Therefore, everything in the law and prophets points to Jesus: whether its the Passover, the offerings, or the tabernacle system. Hence, if you don't read the Old Testament through the lens of Jesus you will completely misunderstand it. That is why, as Christians, we don't keep the Law because we have the substance not the shadow. The Law was given by Moses but grace and truth CAME by Jesus Christ. In other words, Jesus was the embodiment of truth and grace. What would you rather have? The shadow of a Rolls Royce or the real thing? Try driving a shadow!

Shadows:

The tabernacle:

*Hebrews 8:5 “Who serve unto the example and **shadow** of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to **the pattern** shewed to thee in the mount.”*

The sacrifices:

*Hebrews 10:1 For the **law having a shadow** of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.*

We don't disregard the Old Covenant we just look at it through unveiled eyes!

2 Cor 3:15 "But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ."

As a result, after the resurrection Jesus begins to reveal and open the eyes of his disciples to the amazing truth that ALL scripture (including the law and prophets) was about himself:

Luke 24:44 "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."

Jesus came under law

In order though, that we might be freed from the demands of the Law, Jesus had to come under law because there was nothing wrong with the Law itself - it is holy:

Romans 7:12 "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good."

Consequently, Jesus wouldn't and couldn't bypass it. Legally, he had to fulfil the contract in order for that contract to be terminated for us.

As a result, Jesus came under the Law: he was circumcised according to the Law; he went to synagogue and he obeyed his parents as the Law commanded.

*Galatians 4:4 "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made **under the law**, To redeem them that were **under the law**, that we might receive the adoption of sons."*

Amazingly, it says that Jesus learned obedience through the things he suffered. In other words, he submitted to authority.

Hebrews 5:8 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;"

Jesus was tempted

Not only that, Jesus was tempted in all things as we are but without sin.

Hebrews 4:15 *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”*

Indeed, the devil tried his best at tempting Jesus but with spectacular failure. Like waves pounding against an immovable cliff, Jesus remained the sinless son of God.

John 14:30 *“Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.”*

Furthermore, throughout the Gospels, others try to tempt, test and trip Jesus up with questions regards the Law but every time Jesus turns their verbal attacks on their own heads.

Even at his public trial in Luke 23, the Roman governor makes this assessment as to the holiness of Jesus: *“I find no fault in this man”*. Indeed, later on in the chapter, even a criminal crucified beside Jesus, publicly testifies to the fact that Jesus has done nothing wrong at all and is completely innocent.

Jesus was sinless

Lastly, all three main writers of the New Testament make a point of witnessing to the perfection of Jesus life:

Apostle Paul wrote – Jesus KNEW no sin

2 Cor 5:21 *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who **knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*

The Greek word for ‘know’ here is ‘gnosis’. Jesus therefore had no knowledge of sin. In other words, he never experienced it first hand; he never had a sinful thought! On the contrary, Adam received the knowledge of good and evil and experienced it first-hand.

Apostle Peter wrote – Jesus DID no sin

1 Peter 2:22 *“Who **did no sin**, neither was guile found in his mouth:”*

Apostle John wrote – In him WAS no sin

1 John 3:5 . *“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.”*

Jesus himself claimed to be without sin

The greatest and most audacious and public claim, was from Jesus himself: who claimed to be without sin!

John 8:46 “Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?”

Moreover, that is why Jesus cannot be treated as just a good teacher. He was either a complete liar and a fraud; mentally deranged, or he was the sinless and miracle working son of God come into the world to take away sins!

Jesus was the only sinless man that not only kept the letter of the Law – he went further than that - he fulfilled the spirit of it.

The highest accolade as to the perfection of Jesus came from his own Father: *“this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased”*.

Questions for discussion

- 1) Who do the law and the prophets point to? - Luke 23:44
- 2) What are the law and the prophets likened to? - Hebrews 10:1
- 3) Is the Law bad? - Romans 7:12
- 4) Why did Jesus come under the Law? - Galatians 4:4
- 5) Give some examples of how we know that Jesus was sinless.

Chapter 4

Do not steal!

You read the law: “do not steal”. Is this law good? Absolutely. The law: “do not steal” is necessary in a society to restrain evil. Stealing will never be ok with God. Often people try and justify stealing: For example, they might justify stealing from their workplace because according to them, the employer owes it them and it’s not hurting anyone else.

The point is, does the law: “do not steal”, help you stop stealing? Well, if you are a thief, say a kleptomaniac, the fear of the penalty of the law: “do not steal” may indeed restrain you for a while. However, it will not change your desire or compulsion to steal. It will not change your behaviour. Consequently, the Law has no power in itself to help you become holy. Not even 0.00001%. It is very good however at identifying your failure.

That is why the Gospel is not a system of behavioural or moral change. We are not trying to emulate the life of Jesus or keep the Ten Commandments.

The Gospel of Grace is a message of transformation; it has power to change both our nature and our identity.

Thus, by its power, a thief can be transformed through new birth into a hard-working and generous individual.

Does it matter if I sin?

What happens though if a former thief does revert back to the former life-style? Does that matter? Does it matter if we continue to steal – say download a couple of pirate videos or music tracks because we are under grace not law? I believe it matters tremendously because when we continue to sin we are enslaved to that sin. We are not free. Of course, where sin abounds grace even more abounds but sin always harms others and ourselves. There is always a price to pay (the wages of sin is death), it continues to be deadly and dangerous and we are giving it a license to destroy us!

Don't give the devil an opportunity

For example, if I go out and steal a car I most likely will end up in jail just like anybody else. Do I lose my salvation or relationship with God because I stole a car? No, because as a believer I'm under grace. However, I am giving the devil a big opportunity to mess up my life and the lives of others!

Ephesians 5: 27 “and do not give the devil an opportunity. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”

Get a job!

Consequently, if you read Paul's Epistles you will find many apostolic commands like the above but this is not Paul preaching law and laying down a load of rules. He's not some holiness preacher thundering condemnation from the pulpit at all the miserable sinners of Ephesus! No, he is speaking like a wise father entreating his children – this is who you are, therefore live like it! This is the behaviour fitting a king's son, a saint.

Ephesians 4:1 “I therefore the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk (live) in manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called”.

Look at the pattern of teaching in many of Paul's Epistles. He first starts with laying out what God has done for us and our standing in Christ. Then, when he has established the believers identity in Christ, he tells us how we should behave in very practical ways.

For example: “husbands love your wives”. “Children obey your parents”.

Are some of these commands similar to what we find in the Law? Of course, but the difference is the covenant.

Under law we work to produce good behaviour. Under grace we produce good works as a fruit!

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

As a result, Paul commands former thieves: get jobs, earn an honest living and give to the needy because they are no longer thieves they are saints!

This sort of radical change is often seen when sinners encounter Jesus Christ. Why? Do they need the Law? Do they need to be told they are sinners? No, not really. What they need to encounter is grace and kindness - that is what Jesus embodies. Self-righteous men and woman need the Law. Sinners need the kindness of God leading them to repentance.

A short story (based on Luke 19)

What possessed a wealthy chief tax-gather, like myself, to scramble up a sycamore tree, tearing expensive clothes and looking like a complete idiot in the bargain? I mean, what lunacy had driven me to perch precariously from this overhanging branch, straining just to get a glimpse of this travelling so-called miracle worker from Galilee called - Jesus of Nazareth.

Well for one thing, I was a little curious of all the fuss and attention and unbelievable stories of miraculous cures. In addition, friends had recently told me, that, Matthew- a colleague and friend of mine in the Jerusalem tax-office, had quit his job just to follow this man full-time! Then, just this afternoon, a blind beggar - had been completely healed!

This tree then, was a great spot to see this healer from afar and keep a low profile at the same time. Indeed, it was probably the safest place for a man of my short height. For one thing, people hated me; in their eyes I was a traitor and a thief - and, I suppose they were right. Of course, there was also the very real danger of being trampled to death by the milling and jostling crowds! No, this was the safest place; I had a front seat view!

As I thought about it though, I wasn't sure I would want to meet him face-to-face anyway. I'd heard that he wasn't only a healer but a prophet who reads minds. And, to be honest, I didn't want my mind read; I wasn't very proud of the way I intimidated people - in Jericho everyone feared a knock on the door from Zacchaeus the tax-collector! Of course, that was maybe my way of compensating for my lack of height but then again - that hardly justified stealing!

At that moment though, Jesus and his entourage drew close to where I was and I could see him plainly. He wasn't what I imagined. He looked pretty ordinary and a bit tired. He stopped right under my tree and looked up to where I was hiding. I kept still, hoping that he wouldn't see me. His eyes locked on to mine and he said:

"Zacchaeus, come down from that tree. I'd like to come to supper at your house today".

For a moment, I froze. How did he know my name? Why did he want to come to my house? As I looked at the crowd, I could see a few people I knew. They certainly didn't look very happy at my 'good fortune' - that's probably because they knew who I was and how much I cheated them in their last tax-return!

After a few short moments though, I scrambled down the tree - fortunately without breaking my neck - and stood right in front of him. I looked up at him. He was tall with a commanding presence and piercing blue eyes. I felt a little intimidated - it's as if I knew that he knew everything I've ever done; everyone I had cheated. He didn't look angry though and I didn't any feel condemnation. No, strangely I felt acceptance and love.

At that moment, I heard the murmuring of a few more disapproving voices around me saying: "he's going to have supper with this sinner!" Quickly, I came to me senses. I knew what I must do. I said: "Lord I give half my goods to the poor and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation I will restore him four times over!" Around me there was a few shocked intakes of breath but a grin crossed the face of Jesus. He said: *"This day salvation has come to this house this man is a son of Abraham".*

What a supper we had that day. I wish it could have gone on forever. Half of Jericho were there, along with a few making sure I kept my promises of course! I was happy though. A burden of guilt had lifted off my life. I was free. Like the former blind beggar sitting at the top table next to Jesus, I was blind but now I could see!

The thief on the cross

Let's fast forward to the end of Luke's Gospel. On the cross Jesus is crucified between two criminals (Matthew's Gospel tells us that they were thieves.) Both have completely different reactions to Jesus. One, insults him; the other publicly confesses his guilt. Now, this repentant thief has no opportunity to change his ways or right any wrongs. He has no works, even those of repentance to offer Jesus. Somehow though, he glimpses the grace of God and his request for Jesus to remember him when he

comes in his Kingdom (the resurrection of the just), is a statement of faith! Jesus

The first person to enter heaven under the New Covenant is a thief!

responds by: “today you will be with me in paradise (heaven).

What can we learn from that? I think it’s important to realise that even repentance can become a dead work if it is not mixed with faith. What do I mean? Well, if you repentance is sorry - I won't do it again, then this is a dead work because you are saying: "God I can do it; I can change; I can beat this habit or sin". No, when Jesus died, like the thief on the cross who died literally with Jesus, we died.

Questions for discussion

- 1) What two things does the Gospel change that the Law cannot?
- 2) Why does it matter if we sin?
- 3) Why should the believer live right? - Ephesians 4:1
- 4) What do we learn from the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19?
- 5) What do we learn from the story of the thief on the cross?

Chapter 5

The law of Christ

As a child, I was brought up in the Exclusive Brethren: a Christian sect birthed in revival but unfortunately, like many denominations, largely ending up legalistic, religious and dead. The Gospel was preached for salvation but unfortunately those “breaking bread”, (church members), were expected to adhere to the unwritten rules of behaviour. Rules like: no television, radio, pop-music and a strict dress code in church. Of course, this sort of legalism isn't ‘exclusive’ to the Brethren (excuse the pun) and many Christian denominations exhibit similar manifestations of joyless religion. However, just to say I do honour my heritage because, for one thing it gave me a love and knowledge of the scriptures and a hunger and a thirst for the truth.

The religious right

Likewise, in Jesus day there were religious groups that started off with a genuine desire and zeal to follow God and arrest the moral decline in the nation. One such were the Pharisees or ‘separate ones’ and their mission was a determination to get back to the Bible, or in their case the Torah or Law. Unfortunately, in their zeal, they elaborated the Law with their own self-righteous additions, to which Jesus often sarcastically refers to as ‘your law’, meaning the extra interpretations, interpolations and additions the Pharisees had introduced.

This meant of course, that Jesus often came head to head with the Pharisees because he revealed their double standards. On one such day, a teacher of the Law or lawyer, was trying to trap Jesus with a clever question:

What is the greatest commandment?

Matthew 22:42 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself” On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets”

What a brilliant answer! The Pharisees had complicated the Law and made it even more difficult for the man on the street to understand let alone keep. In a paragraph, Jesus has reduced the whole of the Law and the Prophets to basically: love God and love man. Who can't understand that! Who needs a lawyer or a pharisee! Its like a complicated quadratic equation being simplified to $x = a + b$!

Jesus reduced the Law and the Prophets to basically: love God and love your fellow man

Paul's teaching on the law of christ

Furthermore, in the Epistles, the Apostle Paul takes the truth that Jesus revealed in the Gospels and further amplifies it. In Galatians he refers to it as the Law of Christ:

Galatians 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

In the Epistle of Romans, Paul shows how that loving God and loving man is the fulfilment of the Law:

Romans 13:8 "Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law " For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

The end is love

The grace of God therefore, through Jesus, has successfully achieved the end that the Law had no power to achieve because of the weakness of the flesh.

Romans 8:3 "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh"

Bible teacher Derek Prince explains this truth in the following manner: *"Both under law and under grace the end to be achieved is love. But under law the means used to that end is an external system of commandments and ordinances, imposed upon man*

from without; and under grace the means is a miraculous and continuing operation of the Holy Spirit within the believers heart”

As a result therefore, the believer is not trying to produce good or loving behaviour by a set of rules that he or she keeps. No, a new law is at work because a new power is at work in our lives – the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. God’s love has been poured into our hearts so that as we experience God’s unconditional love towards us, it causes us to reciprocate and express unconditional love to others.

Romans 5:5 “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

A person full of the Holy Spirit therefore doesn’t need the Law!

*Galatians 5:23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such **there is no law.**”*

For example: A man in love with his wife doesn’t need the law: “do not commit adultery”.

Consequently, under the New Covenant, we walk by the spirit and operate by a different set of rules or laws. There has been a change of covenant; a change of law. Hebrews 7:12.

*Romans 8:2 “For the **law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”*

*Romans 3:27 “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the **law of faith.**”*

The Law of Liberty

Therefore, the believer under grace is called to freedom and liberty. James talks about this freedom as the **Law of Liberty**:

*James 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the **perfect law of liberty**, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”*

*James 2:12 “So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the **law of liberty**.”*

In other words, you are free to do what you like as long as it brings glory to God and blesses those around you.

I like how Bible teacher Derek Prince puts it: “*as a christian you are free to do anything that you can do with perfect love in your heart towards God and man. You are not free to do anything that cannot be done in love*”.

How though is this worked out practically?

There are three ways practically this is outworked:

Firstly - does it bring glory to God?

Firstly, loving God means bringing glory to God. This means, rather than follow complicated dietary laws as per the Law its as simple as:

1 Cor 10:31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God”

Secondly - is it beneficial?

Secondly, what I do or do not allow or participate in, is governed very simply by the principal that nothing is unlawful as long as it is beneficial and doesn't control me:

*1 Cor 6:12 “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: **all things are lawful to me but I will not be brought under the power of any**”*

For Example: I believe a Christian is free to drink or not to drink alcohol but if we become addicted or drunk, then we are under the power of alcohol and we are behaving foolishly and are indulging the flesh.

Ephesians 5:18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

In addition, we must take the truth of Romans chapter 14 into account, whereby if my “freedom” affects the conscience of my brother or sister and causes them to stumble, then love for my brother overrides my freedom!

Romans 14:21 “It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.”

Furthermore, the Apostle Paul gives a helpful guide for the believer as to personal choice in Philippians 4:8:

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Thirdly - are you using your freedom to serve others?

Thirdly, I don't use this liberty to indulge the flesh. No, I use it to serve others. So, by all this we are establishing and fulfilling the law: love your neighbour as yourself.

Galatians 5:13 “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

The Royal law

James calls loving your neighbour the Royal or Noble Law:

James 2:8 “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:”

Consequently as believers, we are called to behave and act like nobility or kings! God wants us to reign in life!

Revelation 5:10 “And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

Romans 5:17 “For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”

Hence, because we are under grace this doesn’t mean we are lawless or spiritual anarchists. In fact, the whole of the New Testament is full of many commands: don’t get drunk on wine; do not love the world; husbands love your wives; keep yourselves from idols and so on. Paul refers to these as the commandments of God some of which he gives under apostolic authority. These are the commands of the Royal Law articulating the behaviour or etiquette of royalty. In other words, this is who you are so live like it!

The commandments of Jesus

Thankfully, Jesus didn’t leave us another 613 commandments (as in the Law) to keep. No, he said: “if you love me keep my commandments”. One such was: ‘love one another’.

Love one another

John 15:12 “This is my commandment that you love one another just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

John in his Epistle further reiterates this commandment:

*1 John 4:21 “And this is the **commandment** we have from him that the one who loves God should love his brother also. Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of*

God and whoever loves the Father love the child born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not burdensome.”

Love God

Another commandment found in the Epistle of John, is simply to believe in the name of his son Jesus Christ. In other words, love God with all your heart.

1 John 3:22 *“and whatever we ask we receive from him because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight. **And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another just as he commanded us. And the one who keeps his commandments abides in him and He in him.”***

Paul neatly wraps up the way a Christian is to live with a simple rule or canon.

*Galatians 6:15 “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according **to this rule**, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.”*

Questions for discussion

- 1) What did the Pharisees do to the Law?
- 2) How did Jesus define the Law? - Matthew 22:42
- 3) How are to we fulfil the Law - Galatians 6:2
- 4) How does Paul define fulfilling the Law? - Romans 13:8
- 5) Does a man walking in the spirit need the Law? - Galatians 5:23
- 6) What is the law of liberty? - James 2:12
- 7) Give three ways this is worked out practically.
- 8) What is the Royal law? - James 2:8
- 9) How do we reign in life? - Romans 5:17
- 10) Give some examples of commandments that Jesus gave.
- 11) Give some examples of commandments by the apostles.

Chapter 6

Prophecy Law or Grace?

As we come to the end of the book, I want change tack a bit as we have done all of in-depth Bible study. Now it's time to ask the practical question: "am I living by law or grace?" Why not read the following prophecy out loud and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight any areas of your life where maybe you are living by law rather than grace.

Son/daughter

How do you know whether you are living in grace or by law? If you are constantly stressed, tired, irritable, fearful, worried and anxious then maybe you are living life not to the full but by your own strength!

Those who live after the flesh think they are strong enough to overcome and to win by their own clever design and thinking. They rely on their education, natural talents and abilities. However, they just live by their faith.

Therefore, I am determined to bring you to the end of yourself, not because I hate you but because I love you. I discipline and train those I love. I want you live in the strength of Christ not your own strength. You live by faith and that by the faith of the son of God. Jesus was crucified in weakness but it was at the cross that my power was revealed. I want to show you that rest is not inactivity, it is living by new principles and legislation that are counter-intuitive.

Consequently, walking by the spirit is not anarchy - it is living by a different set of principles that only work in this new environment of grace. Law and grace don't mix. Grace supersedes Law. You know this in the computer world - when you upgrade your operating system you can't go back to the old system. It is obsolete; it has been replaced! Living by law is like riding a bike with training wheels, cast out the slave women and enjoy the freedom of grace!

Gideon learnt this: trim your army down. Increase the odds in the favour of the enemy. Attack with crazy weapons: a lamp and a trumpet - ridiculous but powerful!

Walking by the spirit is obeying my voice and command. Jonah walked in the flesh. I said go to Nineveh he went to Tar-shish! He didn't like my grace towards those people not realising that I didn't choose Israel because they were any better than the nations around them - I chose them by the election

of grace! If Jonah had listened, he would not have had to learn the hard way, that walking in the flesh doesn't pay - well it does, only in pain and suffering and a near death experience in a large fish!

The children of Israel learnt this when they took Jericho. Did they do it by their excellent warfare and engineering skills? Did I tell them to build siege engines and catapults? No, I told them to walk in silence around the city for seven days. That was how that stronghold was taken. Likewise, I am teaching you that the weapons of your warfare are not carnal for the pulling down of strongholds. Take hold of my promises. Take hold of eternal life.

Look at Jesus the author and finisher of your faith. He was a man who came under the law and fulfilled it completely for you so that you didn't have to come under its heavy load. He set you free from the Law and that means that you are not living by rules, methods and great planning but by listening and obeying the voice of the Holy Spirit. Look at how Philip could be directed to start a revival and save hundreds, or just find and save one man in the middle of a desert! If you learn this, you will find that suddenly there will be such divine acceleration, you will arrive at your destination immediately!

Peter had to learn to crucify his flesh and renew his thinking. I offended his cultural norms and years of his education and expertise regards fishing! He learnt that miracles mean that fish can be caught in unexpected places and the money to pay taxes found inside a fish!

Living by the spirit is learning to live a life of miracles. That is because I am a living God; that means I am active; I am working. My word is living and active. I never want it to be dead on the page. I want the miracles you read in the scripture's pages to be active in your life. So, do I perform miracles in your life by you following rules and methods, fighting sin in your own strength and being a perfect christian - or by the hearing of faith? Therefore, all of this flows out of our relationship. When you listen, hear and obey then you will see what is impossible become possible.

Love Father

Chapter 7

Before you go

Well we have reached the end of this short book. I hope you have enjoyed it. If you would like to leave me some feedback; spotted a spelling mistake or grammatical error in the text; have further questions; disagree or just want to find out more about our ministry - contact us at our blog: www.godsgraceworks.com

You can also e mail me at paul.noble@godsgraceworks.com

Before you go though, I must ask one important question. Are you born again? Is Christ in you? If you are not certain then why not make certain! Remember, going to church or any other religious activity in itself does not make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a car!

So, if you want to get born again pray a simple prayer something like the following. Note: It doesn't have to be perfect, if you truly want to be born again then the Holy Spirit is only too willing to oblige and help!

“Lord Jesus. I choose to believe that you are the Son of God and you came into the world to die on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for all the wrong things I have done and said. Please come and live in me and fill me with your Holy Spirit. Amen”