

# The Law & the Christian

## 1. The purpose of the law;

- Through the Law we become conscious of sin [Romans 3:18, 4:13]
- To testify of a Righteousness that comes apart from the law; Jesus [Romans 3:21-26]
- Show transgression, bring God's wrath, brings death [Romans 4:13-15; 5:20; 2 Corinthians 3:9]
- The Law does not set aside the covenant God made with Abraham (blessing, blessing all people), It was added because of sin until the Seed [Jesus] to whom the promise referred to had come. It locked us up as prisoners, and led us to Christ so that we could be justified by faith. We are no longer under the supervision of the law. Galatians 3:15-25
- Caused an intentional barrier between the Jews and the gentiles. Ephesians 2
- Not to bring perfection. Hebrews 7:11

Without Christ (before or after Christ came)	For the Christian
Through the law, conscious of sin.	Penalty of Sin dealt with through Christ. Holy Spirit's task to reveal sin, along with the Word and the Body of Christ.
Testify of a righteousness that comes apart from law.	Received the righteousness that comes apart from the Law.
Show Transgression, bring wrath & death.	Wrath and death swallowed up by Christ.
To lock people up and lead them to Christ.	In Christ we are freed.
Barrier between Jews and Gentiles	Barrier destroyed, Jews & Gentiles together form the Church.
Cannot bring perfection	Made perfect in Christ.

## 2. Slaves or free men?

- **Slaves** / under the basic principles of this world (UNDER THE LAW) Gal 3-4 Redeemed / no longer under the basic principles of this world (Heir)
- FREEDOM and SLAVERY are pictured as two alternatives, if we sell people the gospel as OT + NT = righteousness we are doing them a disservice
- Christ was the fulfillment of the OT in its entirety. He was the reality, it was the shadow, the shadow pointed to Christ but once the reality is here, the shadow loses its importance. Christ is a more complete picture of what God is like, much more than the law. Hebrews 1:1, 10:1
- We are slaves to Christ, not to the law.

## 3. Words used to describe the law after Christ;

- **Fulfill**, through Jesus [Matthew 5:17]
- Christ is the **end** of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. [Rom 10:1-4]
- **Fulfilled**, through the love of Christians [Romans 13:8, Gal 5:24]
- **destroyed** (Christ destroyed the dividing wall of hostility, the Law) Ephesians 2:
- **canceled** (Colossians 2:14)
- **took away** (Colossians 2:14)
- **nailed to the cross** (Colossians 2:14)
- **abolishing** in Christ's flesh (Pauline word means to make ineffective, put out of action, or make powerless, different work than the one used in Matthew 5:17)
- The law was a **shadow** of the things that were coming. [Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 10:1] The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. See also Hebrews 1:1-3
- **Obsolete** and **aging**. Soon will disappear. (Hebrews 8:13)

### 3. Passages that show a different purpose for different people.

- For all the Prophets and the Law prophesized until John. Matthew 11:13
- Peter's Vision on the rooftop "do not call anything impure that God has made clean. Acts 10:15 (see also Acts 10:27-29)
- Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke (the Law of Moses) that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are. Acts 15:10-11 (Jerusalem Council, God made no distinction between law abiders and the ones who were not keeping the law)
- For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. [Romans 6:14] *This passage deals with the "danger" of saying we are freed from our sin through faith not obedience or legalism.*
- You also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. For when we were controlled by the sinful nature (under the law without Christ) the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. Romans 7:1-6
- To those under the law I become like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law). 1 Corinthians 9:19
- The law painted as if it was something that was "fading away" like the glow on Moses' face. 2 Cor 3:7-18 This passage makes it clear that he is speaking about the whole of the law (not just ceremonial or cultural aspects, but the law as a whole, "which was engraved in letters on stone" Exodus 31:18)
- Until the seed, also after Justification by faith, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. Galatians 3:19, 25
- But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. No longer slave but a son and heir. Galatians 4:1-7
- If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Galatians 5:18
- "the law is made not for the righteous, but for sinners" 1 Timothy 1:8-9
- the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. but thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 15:56-57
- Through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. Galatians 2:19
- Belief or obedience to the Law? Which makes us right before God?
- Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Galatians 3:10-14
- Avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the **law**, because these are unprofitable and useless. Titus 3:9
- Hebrew 8:13 The law has, by the coming of a new covenant, become obsolete and is aging and will disappear.
- For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Galatians 5:2-6. Circumcision is very important to the Jew, it is the sign of obedience to the whole of the law. It is not just an observance of the law, it is the sign that they will be about DOING THE LAW. Genesis 17:9-14

### **3. Summing Up the Law and the Prophets;**

- in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12
  - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. Matthew 22:37-40
  - Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.<sup>1</sup> Romans 13:8
  - The entire law is summed up in a single command; "love your neighbor as yourself" Galatians 5:14
  - Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 5:24
  - love your neighbor as yourself described as the royal law. James 2:8
  - We can, as Spirit Controlled Christians "fully meet" the righteous requirements of the law through the grace of Christ. [Romans 8:1-4]
  - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Galatians 5:2-6
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## What is the Difference?

1. Every Biblical Truth is important, even though it does not seem like it. A little error goes a long way. We must be careful to be as accurate as possible with doctrine.

### EXAMPLE

#### The Abrahamic Covenant was for the Jews, and all people –

<sup>2</sup>“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:2-3

#### The Mosaic Covenant was between God and the Jews –

<sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup> ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

<sup>7</sup> So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. <sup>8</sup> The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. <sup>7</sup> Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.”

<sup>8</sup> Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

#### If you obey... Then...

- <sup>3</sup>”If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, <sup>4</sup> I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit. <sup>5</sup> Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land. **Leviticus 26:3-5**
- <sup>5</sup> if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today. <sup>6</sup> For the LORD your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you. **Deut 15:5f**
- If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. <sup>2</sup> All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: <sup>3</sup> You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. <sup>4</sup> The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. <sup>5</sup> Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. <sup>6</sup> You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. **Deut 28:1-6**

These promises are not for us, or for our nation, they are for Israel. Just because you obey does not mean you will be blessed monetarily, or through these ways. God may choose to bless, but God is not under contractual agreement with you. You are not under the law.

2. **The Law is to point us to Christ; it is not the means by which we are saved. It expresses our need and not the requirements for being saved or continuing our salvation.**

Acts 15 / Circumcision is the “ceremony” that states that you will accept and do the Law of Moses.

Requirements of Salvation / hearing the gospel – believing – results (Holy Spirit).

How about for continued living? Must the Gentiles do anything about obedience to the OT Law? No mention of that. The council gave them four things to avoid...

“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.<sup>20</sup> Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.<sup>21</sup> For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.” Acts 15:19-21

These were things that were culturally “hot topics” for the Jewish Christians, and the gentiles were told to avoid these things—not as requirements of being right with God—but rather as the means of helping keep peace with their Jewish Christian brothers and sisters. The inclusion of “sexual immorality” (which is a MORAL law) should give us a clue that they recognized that these Gentile believers were accepted (or made righteous) by God not by what they did, but rather on what Christ did.

3. **And so, when we think of “justification,” or how a person goes from spiritual death, to spiritual life it is through faith not obedience. No actions are required for salvation, biblically the changing of the mind (repentance) and the acceptance of what Christ has done to rescue us. Works are not required for salvation. Salvation breeds works.**
4. **The process by which we go through as Christians of becoming saved (*the changing of our behavior and lifestyle*) from godlessness to Christ-likeness is real and interactive. It involves us learning to submit to God using the tools God has given us; The indwelling Holy Spirit, the illumined Word, the Body of Christ. This process is not the realm of the Law of Moses either. Rather we focus on the Law of Christ.**
- a. **In one sense it is much simpler (not complicated or difficult)** <sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30
- b. **In another sense they are much deeper** (consider Jesus’ amplification of the Law in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7))
5. **The main point of the book of Hebrews is that the OT (*both historically and scripturally*) is superseded by the revelation of Jesus Christ. *Old Testament is very valuable but it is not a binding document on us.***