

THE HOLY LAW OF GOD

Tonight, we'll consider some important things to know about God's law

- Why it was given
- What it does for us
- What we're to do with it

The Purpose for the Law

What purpose did God's law serve?

Gal 3:19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added **because of transgressions**, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

God's law will make every guilty sinner **shut up**:

Rom 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that **every mouth may be stopped**, and **all the world may become guilty before God**.

God's law makes sin **show up**:

Rom 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**.

God's law always proves us all to be guilty sinners because we break it:

Rom 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath:
for where no law is, there is no transgression.

Although it would still be 'unsafe' to drive extremely fast if there was no speed limit, then you wouldn't be breaking the law:

Rom 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world:
but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

God made known to mankind what is right and wrong. His law **identified sin**:

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law:
for **sin is the transgression of the law**.

God's law wasn't a BAD thing it was a GOOD thing:

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

The law simply revealed our sinful condition to us. It let us know how 'bad off' we were:

Rom 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid.
 But sin, that it might appear sin, (so we could see it for what it is)
 working death in me by that which is good; (the 'good' law judged me worthy of
 death because of my sin)
 that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. (the law showed
 sin to be extremely bad)

Rom 6:23-a For the wages of sin is death;

The problem was not with the law --- it was with US who break it:

Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Actually, the nation Israel (to whom God particularly gave His holy law) had the same problem with it that we do. God gave Israel great promises IF they obeyed Him:

Exo 19:5-8 Now therefore, **IF** ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant,
THEN ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people:
 for all the earth is mine:

6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

(But they were overly self-confident when they heard it.)

8 And all the people answered together, and said, **All that the LORD hath spoken we will do.** And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

They had good intentions, all right, but just couldn't carry through with them. Thousands of years later, when Jesus was on earth agonizing as He faced death on the cross, His disciples fell asleep after He had asked them to pray:

Matt 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation:
the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

The apostle Paul had the same basic problem with his flesh, and we all experience it also:

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:
 for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

God recognized man's helpless situation, and rescued us from our own selves.
Jesus paid the ultimate penalty of sin (which is death) for us:

Rom 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:

When God gave His holy law to the nation Israel, He not only required them to
keep it, but He also demanded that they not CHANGE it:

Deut 4:1-2 Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judg-
ments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the
land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.

2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought
from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command
you.

Deut 12:32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it:
thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Prov 30:5-6 Every word of God is pure:
he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.
6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Rev 22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of
this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues
that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God
shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the
things which are written in this book.

God's law was written in a book, that is now called the Holy Bible:

Exo 17:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and
rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek
from under heaven.

Isa 30:8 Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book,
that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

Jer 30:2 Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying,
Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.

God's law in His book was copied:

Deut 17:18-19 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

Prov 25:1 These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

Yes, Israel understood the importance of keeping God's law:

Deut 6:25 And it shall be our righteousness, IF we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

It was their righteousness. It was also their means of success or failure:

Josh 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth;
but thou shalt meditate therein day and night,
that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:
for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Throughout Israel's history, they toggled between God's blessings and curses.

When they were disobedient to His law and went a-whoring on God, He cursed them.

When they repented and returned to His law, He blessed them.

Isa 55:6-7 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Jer 3:22 Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.
Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.

Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return unto the LORD:
for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

The law that God gave Israel through Moses was still being preached in Jesus' day:

Mark 12:24-26 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.

26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: **have ye not read in the book of Moses**, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

It was also being read during the time of the apostles. James said:

Acts 15:21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

The covenant of God's law was sealed by blood sacrifice:

Exo 24:7-8 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

8 And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.

This old principle is also explained in the letter to the Hebrews:

Heb 9:18-22 Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Israel had God's law. They are who He gave it to:

Rom 3:1-2 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?
2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

But they never could get the victory over their flesh. Therefore, God came to their rescue. He had a solution for them:

Jer 31:31-33 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD,
that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; **which my covenant they brake**, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel;
After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts,
and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

God reminded the Hebrews of this promise, when He wrote an epistle to them:

Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Heb 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

Israel's New Covenant could only have begun AFTER the death of Christ. It could NOT have been the 'New Testament BEFORE (or at the time of) His birth, according to:

Heb 9:14-17 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 And for this cause **(the cause is from verse 14 the blood of Christ)**
he is the mediator of the new testament,

that **by means of death**,

for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament,
they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

16 **For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.**

17 **For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.**

When God puts His law in their hearts, they will be able to live without sinning.

As we read through a passage in the 1st epistle of John, let's pick up some 'companion' verses that go along with it:

1 John 3:4-9 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: (Look what the gospel of John says about 'abiding:')

John 15:5-7 I am the vine, ye are the branches:

He that abideth in me, and I in him,

the same bringeth forth much fruit:

for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

7 Little children, let no man deceive you:

he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. (Remember the verse we read earlier that Israel had to obey God's law for righteousness?)

Deut 6:25 And it shall be our righteousness,

if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

(Peter said basically the same thing even way after Pentecost:

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

(You had to DO righteousness in order to BE righteous.)

8 **He that committeth sin is of the devil;** (Do you commit sin today? I still do!)

for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; (Do you think you are born of God?) for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

John 1:11-13 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

(Typically, most mainstream denominations teach that 'his own' is the nation Israel. They are right about that. He came unto THEM.)

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

(This is where the denominations mess up. They say this verse is talking about US Gentiles today, but it is not. Jesus came to the whole nation, and 'as a whole')

they did not receive Him. Instead they cried for Him to be crucified. But there was a 'little flock' {a remnant} of believers that were WITHIN the apostate nation. THEY were the few that received Him not US. At THAT time, we were still on the outside of the wall of partition God had erected around Israel.)

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**. (This believing remnant were the ones who were 'born of God.')

In both the gospel of John and his 1st epistle, keeping God's law is an assurance to Israel that they are accepted of God:

John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love;
even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him,
because we keep his commandments,
and DO those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Under the Old Testament, Israel was given a clear CHOICE:

Deut 11:26-28 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;
27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:
28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

Even during Jesus' time on earth, that was God's requirement for eternal life:

Matt 19:16-17 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, **that I may have eternal life?**
17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

But under the New Testament, God will specially empower them to keep His law:

Ezek 36:26-27 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you:
and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.
27 And I will put my spirit within you, and CAUSE you to walk in my statutes, and ye SHALL KEEP my judgments, and DO them.

During that time (in the Ages to Come, living under the NEW Covenant), God will 'cause' His people to obey His law and REST from their fears:

Ps 23:1-2 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He MAKETH me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Ezek 34:15 I will feed my flock, and I will CAUSE them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD.

That will be in the Future, for the people left here on earth, AFTER the Body of Christ has been raptured up into heaven.

Let's look at the issue of the LAW for NOW.

Do we need to post the 10 Commandments up on the walls of our houses or our schools? Should we strive to keep them?

We have already read the verses that show God's law makes us guilty of sin. Even though God did not give His law directly to us Gentiles we, nevertheless, experience the effects of it through our conscience --- that God-given sense inside of each of us --- of right and wrong:

Rom 2:14-15 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Jesus kept the law, while He was living on earth:

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**.

NOW, through the mystery-revelation message God committed to the apostle Paul to write, we learn several very important things about the law:

1. The law -- that condemns us -- points us to Christ, who kept it:

Gal 3:23-25 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore **the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ**, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But **after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.**

2. The law demanded DEATH for sin, but it was 'PAID IN FULL' by the blood of Christ:

1 Cor 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death;
but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Col 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;

3. We no longer need the law -- now that we have the righteousness of Christ:

1 Tim 1:9-11 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,

10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

Rom 3:21-22 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

1 Cor 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

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.

4. We are DEAD to the law:

Rom 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.

Gal 2:19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

5. We are DELIVERED from the law:

Rom 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.

6. We are FREE from the law that condemned us:

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

7. We are REDEEMED from the law:

Gal 3:13 **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law**, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Eph 2:15 **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;

8. We are NOT UNDER the law:

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

9. Christ is the END of the law for us who believe:

Rom 10:4 For **Christ is the end of the law** for righteousness to every one that believeth.

10. Therefore, we should NOT WORRY over the law:

Titus 3:9 But **avoid** foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and **strivings about the law**; for they are unprofitable and vain.

This is David Dowell, saying "Think about it!"

