

deeper

word faith life

Module 2

The Doctrine of Christ

Prophecy and the Birth of Christ

The Law and the Cross of Christ

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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Session 6 – The Law and the Cross of Christ

John 1:17 - “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” Two world changing events are referenced here; the giving of the law, and the coming of Jesus.

Martin Luther made these remarks concerning this subject:

“Whoever knows how to skilfully distinguish between the Law and the Gospel, by the grace of God he also knows how to be a theologian.”

“Anybody who wishes to be a theologian... must distinguish between the Law and the Gospel.”

“There is no man on earth who knows how to distinguish between the Law and the Gospel.”

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made this statement:

Matthew 5:17-20 - “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Paul the apostle says this:

Ephesians 2:15 “... by setting aside (abolished - KJV) in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,”

These two passages seem to contradict each other, let's examine them little closer.

Matthew uses the word [ABOLISH] in the English translation of a Greek word [KATALUO] which means [to abolish, subvert or overthrow].

Paul uses a different word which the KJV translates as [ABOLISH], but the Greek word used by Paul is actually [KARTARGEO] which means [to set aside, to complete and to render idle]. Here the NIV uses [SETTING ASIDE] which aids in a more accurate understanding. We therefore see that Paul was certainly not contradicting Jesus in any way, but was saying exactly the same thing.

What is the Law?

The Mosaic Law, or the Law of Moses was given by God to Moses for the house of Israel at Mount Sinai after their exodus from Egypt around 1300BC. It is also referred to as the old covenant which God entered into with Israel, and was intended by God as a temporary measure to accomplish a number of things:

To reveal His Holy _____ - to present His standard of perfection, to show His glory. Leviticus 19:2 - “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.”

To set apart the _____ - for them to live as the people of God. Exodus 19:5 - “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations, you will be my treasured possession.”

To reveal the _____ - it is like a mirror reflecting what we truly are, and not what we think we are. Romans 3:20 - “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law, rather, through the law we become



conscious of our sin.”

To provide _____ for sin - through the sacrificial system, or the temple system, thereby allowing true worship and the free flow of God’s blessing. (Exodus 1-7)

The Law of Moses, which is in actual fact 613 laws, contained in over 2000 verses of legislation recorded for us in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, can be broken down into three convenient categories:

- _____ - the ten commandments
- _____ - how God’s people were to be governed
- _____ - how God’s people were to worship Him

These categories are not biblical, in fact the Bible regards all of the law as a single unit. James 2:10 - “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.” We don’t get to pick and choose which category we obey and which we don’t. The reality is that no one in history has ever fulfilled the law, except Christ Himself.

What came before the law?

From the time of Adam until Abraham, God related to certain individuals at certain times, but wickedness on the earth continued to increase. Noah is one such person and we can read the account from Genesis 6-9. Then from Genesis 12 God calls Abram who would later become Abraham and the nation of Israel is miraculously born as a result of God’s promise to Abraham. Genesis 12:2-3 - “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. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

The Book of Genesis then continues with the establishment of the house of Israel. Moses enters the stage in Exodus 2 while the Israelites are enslaved in Egypt. The account continues until God gives Moses the law in Exodus 19 and beyond.

Before the law was given though, God said this about Abraham;

Genesis 15:6 - “Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.”

So before the law, Abraham was justified by faith, by believing God. Sounds familiar doesn’t it?

Why was the law given at all?

Galatians 3:19 - “Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator.”

The law was added, Paul says. It was never meant to replace the gospel. The gospel was first preached to Abraham in 1700 BC, four hundred years before the law was given.

Galatians 3:7-9 - “Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”

So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.”

The gospel did not begin with Moses, but with Abraham, this is why Jesus said;

John 8:56 - “Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”

So the law was added, it came alongside, it was extra, it was never meant to be a permanent fixture. It didn’t come to replace the promise to Abraham, it only came alongside until it was fulfilled; “Until the Seed (Jesus Christ) to whom the promise (to Abraham) referred had come”(Galatians 3:19)

Had it not been for the transgressions of the house of Israel the implication is that the law need never have come at all. God gave the law to Moses knowing that it could never produce the righteousness that it required. Only Jesus Christ could do that for all who



would believe in Him.

What is the New Covenant?

The prophet Jeremiah spoke these words six hundred years before Jesus;

Jeremiah 31:31 - "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah."

Jesus declared His ushering in of this new covenant;

Luke 22:20 - "In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Paul says the following;

2 Corinthians 3:6 - "He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

The new covenant is about a life in the Spirit instead of following the law.

The New Covenant is the new order of righteousness that Jesus initiated by His life, death and resurrection. It is justification by faith and not by works. It is righteousness apart from the law. The New Covenant is a walk by the Spirit where He writes His law on our hearts.

What did the cross of Christ achieve in relation to the law?

The law was temporary from its inception. It in fact pointed beyond itself by its very content. It was always waiting for fulfillment, Jesus said that it will not disappear "until everything is accomplished." (Matthew 5:18) What did He say on the cross with His dying breath? "It is finished." (John 19:30)

Jesus upheld the _____ of the law for us.

He was born under the law and _____ to it for us.

He lived without sin, in total _____ for us.

He became our _____ on the cross.

He suffered our sin's _____ for us.

He fulfilled the _____ of the sacrificial system for us.

He totally satisfied _____ on the cross for us.

He sent _____ to us so that we can live out what He accomplished for us.

Jesus has removed every obstacle in the way of mankind having access to the Father. In fact he said this;

Matthew 22:37-40 - "Jesus replied: '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 neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

This is often referred to as the law of Christ. To love God and to love one another.

Galatians 6:2 - "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

This we can only do if we walk by the Spirit, Paul puts it like this;

Galatians 5:13-18 - "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.



But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

Hebrews 8:6,13 - “But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which He is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

By calling this covenant “new,” He has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.”

Memory Verse

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

