

ADVANCED BIBLICAL COURSE



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Law and Grace

I BACKGROUND

EXODUS 20:1-17

Ten Commandments – Ordinances and Statutes, also in Deuteronomy and Leviticus.

PSALMS 19:7; ROMANS 7:12 & 1 TIMOTHY 1:8

Law was good.

LEVITICUS 1

- ◆ Offerings.
- ◆ If a soul sins. (Leviticus 6:1-30)

Old laws were given to govern men's lives, but Pharisees made a burden of it. (613 laws governing the Sabbath alone!)

ROMANS 3:23

The Law demands your death and separation at the end of your life on the earth.

ROMANS 3:10 & 23

In today's life, people demand: -

- ◆ civil rights
- ◆ equal rights
- ◆ moral rights

Give me what I deserve!

II IN THE SIGHT OF GOD

YOU DESERVE DEATH AND EVERLASTING SEPARATION!

Important note: everything outside of hell is grace.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:7

Everything you have, you received – God is the Giver of all good gifts.

GALATIANS 2:16-20

Not justified by works (legalism) but by faith – (grace).

GALATIANS 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law.

GALATIANS 3:21-29

- ◆ Law was our “school-master” (verse 24).
- ◆ Children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (verse 26).

GALATIANS 3:3

“Begun in the Spirit are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

EPHESIANS 2:8

“By grace are ye saved... not of yourself, it is a gift of God.”

III REIGNING IN LIFE

ROMANS 5:12-17

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned – for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man’s sin: the judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.”

- ◆ God wants us to reign in life and be free from condemnation. God wants us to do new things – restoration. He wants to make us ministers of the new covenant. (No longer the old commandments).
 - We should reign in life. (Romans 5:17)
 - More than conquerors.
 - He always leads us in triumph.
 This is God’s offer and promise.

ROMANS 5:18-20

“Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- ◆ We often put ourselves under pressure (because of our human nature). We judge ourselves “under the circumstances.” We live under a cloud of condemnation, that feeling that we’re “not making it.” We have a temporal and human viewpoint and perspective. But God has made us more than conquerors, and has caused us to reign. What do we have to do? Nothing – but receive and be receivers.

IV THE TRAP OF LEGALISM

When you go up a gear (in faith), God is telling you ‘new things!’ You get to understand God’s grace, His forgiveness and your opportunity to reign. You respond – but how do you respond?

As you create new aspirations, when expectations are at their highest there are 2 doors – two directions we could follow. A right one and a wrong one. At that good point where you say “I want to be the best I can be” you could still be going through the wrong door as you fall back into reigning in law rather than reigning in grace. How would you fall back into the law? ‘By doing things’ – imposing things on yourself, putting yourself under certain regulations (expectations) in order that you might reign in life. For example: “I will” read the Bible, turn the alarm clock forward, wake up early etc., or “Get fit as a new year’s resolution.” You are immediately putting yourself under rules and law which will ultimately condemn you.

We need to understand that the way we reign in life, is not through imposing laws on ourselves, it is through receiving the *“abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness.”* (Roman 5:17)
When we have understood this we stand on solid ground. Then we can say with Paul, *“this grace in which we stand.”* (Romans 5:2)

◆ **Legalism**

- Brings judgement of others (dress, quietness in church, reverence to God, etc.).
- Tends to breed rebellion against the Law (tax laws, etc.).
- Operates out of a sense of duty.

V **ABUNDANCE OF GRACE**

ROMANS 6:14

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may have a new life.”

GALATIANS 5:4

“You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”

ROMANS 10:4

“Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.”

It is important to understand our relationship to law and grace. We, as Christians, are not under law, but under grace – (our positional truth). To understand this – let’s look at: Romans 7:1-6 (systematically), *“Do you not know, brothers – for I am speaking to men who know the law – that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress, even though she marries to another man. So, my brothers, 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, 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.”

The analogy of marriage is what Paul uses as an example in our relationship with the law. We are wives of the law (naturally) – we have no choice, we were born with this husband. As we get convicted (God speaking to us), law imposes more and more on us. We are married to the law; he rules over us. But he is a most awful husband. He is always telling us where we are wrong and never lifts a finger to help. A dreadful plight to be in! Moreover, he is never wrong. Not only that, it is a binding relationship. We cannot get out of it. You might hear Jesus say come unto me and rest. But you can't, because you can't be married to two husbands - law and Jesus. That would be spiritual adultery. What is worse is that Jesus says the law can never pass away.

Then Paul gives us a glorious answer to our dilemma. Romans 7:4, *“But you, died to the law, through the body of Christ.”* This is the wonder that Christians are united to Christ, therefore dead to the law/letter. We have been released – discharged – chain gone (not an adulteress). This is the good news – released, delivered from captivity. Free from bondage – what joy! Romans 7:4, *“died to the law – so that you may be joined to another (Christ). To Him that was raised from the dead that we might bear fruit to God.”* We are released from the old husband – *“the law”* and now married to our new husband – *“Jesus.”* In order that you might *“obey His laws”*? No, but to *“bear fruit.”* How does a wife bear fruit? By expressing love to your husband. And he places within her womb his living seed.

JOHN 15:5

“He who abides in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit.”

Enjoy getting to know me.

GALATIANS 3:21

“If law could impart life, then righteousness would have been based on law.”

VI WHAT IS THE LAW FOR?

◆ To reveal

- **God's standard**

To expose us to the magnitude of our shortfall – to God's holiness. The great chasm that lies between us.

- **Sin**

Romans 7:7, *“What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what it was to covet if the law had not said, ‘Do not covet.’”* We would not know about coveting without law (or any other sin). You see, we can’t recognise sin, because we are born in it. But the law exposes sin to us. Romans 3:20, *“Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”* Every man has a conscience and the law heightens our awareness of our own sin. But society numbs our conscience as the fallen world drags you down to lower norms. Our normal edges become fuzzy. We don’t know when we are going over the line.

◆ To provoke

Romans 7:8, *“But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.”* ‘Provoked sin,’ example: when we see a sign saying, “Keep off the grass,” we are tempted to go and stand on the grass. If you tell a child, “Don’t touch!” they instinctively reply, “Why not?”

◆ To condemn

The law condemns. Why? It condemns sin, “shows us how sinful sin is.” Romans 7:13, *“...so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.”*

◆ To lead

Galatians 3:23-24, *“Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.”* The law is our schoolmaster to lead us to Christ. Why did Paul write the letter to Galatians? Christianity is something new, apart from Judaism. He highlighted that God forgives and that the Gospel was one of grace and love. Men were trying to pervert the Gospel and set up another Jewish Sect. It is not the messenger that validates the message. Only if the messenger is loyal to Christ and His teachings will works follow, not by works before conversion!

VII COMMENTS

When you don’t come by faith, you have to rely on something other than a relationship. The more laws you have, the less love you have. If you want to kill (stifle) a Christian, give him religion with its “ritual” trimmings. Law brings self-righteousness... (sinner’s prayer, as opposed to Pharisee’s prayer.)

HEBREWS 10:1

“For the law is but a shadow of good things to come.”

Results of: -

LAW

Harsh

Judgemental

Death

Self-Righteous

Unloving

Immature

Bondage

10 Commandments/Ordinances

2 Laws – love the Lord

(See example in Matthew 23:1-7)

GRACE

Compassionate

Forgiving

Life

Humble

Loving

Mature

Liberty

Love your neighbour as yourself

Cannot do until “Born again”

Our hearts have been won by Jesus, therefore we love God because of unconditional love!

EPHESIANS 2:8

“By grace are ye saved... not of yourself, it is a gift of God.”

Witnessing, prayer, good works, attending church, tithes and offerings are all part of the Christian’s life, but do not “give you favour with God.” We take these aspects and make laws, rituals and procedures for them. When we fall short, then we feel condemned; but when we keep the laws we have made, then we feel we have pleased God.

JOHN 13:34-35

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this all shall know that you are My disciples, if you have love toward one another.”

New commandment – love one another!