



HEAVEN

Week 3: The purpose of rules

Sermon Notes

Romans 9:31-32 CSB

³¹ But Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not achieved the righteousness of the law.

³² Why is that? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone.

Isaiah 1:12-14 CSB

¹² When you come to appear before me, who requires this from you – this trampling of my courts?

¹³ Stop bringing useless offerings. Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons and Sabbaths, and the calling of solemn assemblies – I cannot stand iniquity with a festival.

¹⁴ I hate your New Moons and prescribed festivals. They have become a burden to me; I am tired of putting up with them.

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD)

- a belief system where God is distant, the main goal is personal happiness, and good people go to heaven.

Rules create boundaries, not righteousness.

Exodus 20:1-3 CSB

Then God spoke all these words: 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. Do not have other gods besides me.'

The law's purpose was not to create righteousness but to guide a people already redeemed.

Romans 3:20 CSB

For no one will be justified in his sight by the works of the law, because the knowledge of sin comes through the law.

Self-Righteousness versus True Righteousness

Confusing rule-keeping with righteousness leads to self-righteousness.

Matthew 23:27 CSB

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of the bones of the dead and every kind of impurity.

Isaiah 64:6 CSB

All of us have become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like a polluted garment; all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Apostle Paul's Emphasis on True Righteousness:

Philippians 3:8-9 CSB

More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith.

The Purpose of Rules

1. Rules lead us to the Relationship.

Galatians 3:24 CSB

The law, then, was our guardian until Christ, so that we could be justified by faith.

2. Rules Protect the Relationship.

While rules provide structure, love builds and deepens our relationship with God.

Matthew 22:37-40 CSB

³⁷ He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the

greatest and most important command. ³⁹ The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”