

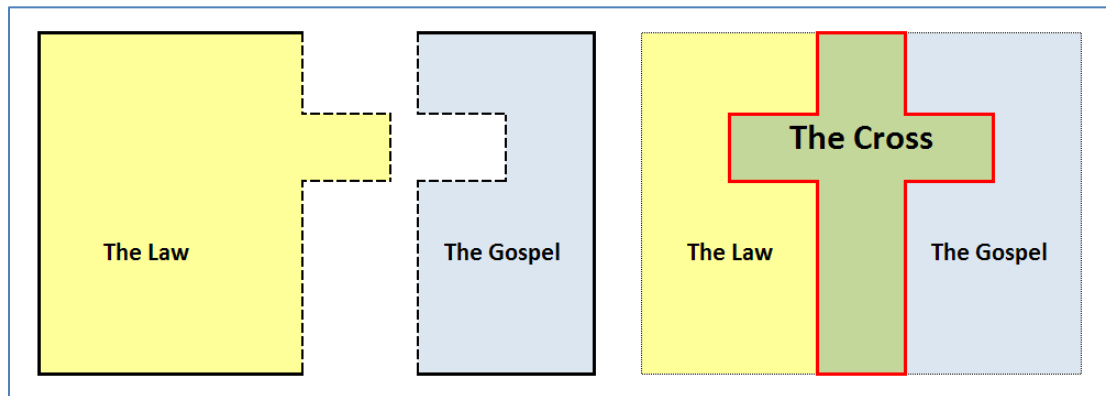
Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quote from *Church History*: "It is a great mistake to give a man who has not been convicted of sin certain passages that were never meant for him. The Law is what he needs ... Do not offer the consolation of the gospel until he sees and knows he is guilty before God. We must give enough of the Law to take away all self-righteousness. I pity the man who preaches only one side of the truth, always the gospel and never the Law." - D.L. Moody

"But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; "

- Paul (1 Timothy 1:8)



Scriptures for Today: Galatians 3:19-28 The *doctrine* of the Law (Part 3) – it is good if used properly!

PRINCIPLES

1. "Wherefore then serveth the law?" There is a two-fold **PURPOSE** of the Law.
2. "It was added because of transgressions," It **DEFINES** what sin is – breaking God's Law.
3. "Till the seed should come to whom the promise was made." The Law has an **END**.
4. "Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid." The Law supplies a **NEED**.
5. "But before faith came..." Paul explains the **SERVICE** which the Law is to render.
6. "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ." This is the **KEY** for us.

✓ The Law is **not** just another schoolmaster – it is a **specialist** to bring us unto Christ.

KEY The Law was designed by God as an evangelistic tool – ten cannons strong – to lead sinners to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! If you aim it at the conscience in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, you will be guaranteed that it will hit the mark every time.

KEY The Law means to enlarge my sins, to make me small, so that I may be justified by faith in Christ. Faith is neither law nor word; but confidence in Christ "who is the end of the law." How so is Christ the end of the Law? Not in this way that He replaced the old Law with new laws. Nor is Christ the end of the Law in a way that makes Him a hard judge who has to be bribed by works as taught by the Roman Catholic church. Christ is the end or finish of the Law to all who believe in Him. The Law can no longer accuse or condemn them.

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

- ✓ What does the Law accomplish for those who have been justified by Christ?

NOTE The Apostle Paul declares that we are free from the Law. Christ fulfilled the Law for us. We may live in joy and safety under Christ. The trouble is, our flesh will not let us believe in Christ with all our heart. The fault lies not with Christ, but with us. Sin clings to us as long as we live and spoils our happiness in Christ. Hence, we are only partly free from the Law. "With the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." (Rom 7:25)

KEY As far as the conscience is concerned it may cheerfully ignore the Law. But because sin continues to dwell in the flesh, the Law waits around to molest our conscience. More and more, however, Christ increases our faith and in the measure in which our faith is increased, sin, Law and flesh subside.

- ✓ The Law cannot beget children of God.

NOTE The Law cannot regenerate us. Faith in Christ alone regenerates us into the children of God. John bears witness to this in his Gospel, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:12)

KEY What tongue of man can adequately extol the mercy of God toward us miserable sinners in that He adopted us for His own children and fellow-heirs with His Son by the simple means of faith in Christ Jesus!!

8. *"There is neither Jew nor Greek...for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."*

- ✓ In the matter of salvation, rank, learning, righteousness, influence count for nothing.

NOTE With this statement, Paul deals a death blow to the Law. When a person has put on Christ nothing else matters. Whether a person is a Jew, a strict and circumcised observer of the Law of Moses, or whether a person is a noble and wise Greek does not matter. Circumstances, personal worth, character, achievements have no bearing upon justification. Before God they count for nothing. What counts is that we put on Christ.

KEY Whether a servant performs his duties well; whether those who are in authority govern wisely; whether a man marries, provides for his family, and is an honest citizen; whether a woman is chaste, obedient to her husband, and a good mother: all these advantages do not qualify a person for salvation. These virtues are commendable, of course; but they do not count points for justification. All the best laws, ceremonies, religions, and deeds of the world cannot take away sin guilt, cannot dispatch death, cannot purchase life.

KEY There is much disparity among men in the world, but there is no such disparity before God. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom 3:23) Let the Jews, let the Greeks, let the whole world keep silent in the presence of God. Those who are justified are justified by Christ. Without faith in Christ the Jew with his laws, the monk with his holy orders, the Greek with his wisdom, the servant with his obedience, shall perish forever.

The Most Amazing Grace

Now that we have taken the time to explain to people exactly what they have done wrong – that they have offended God and their crimes of treason and anarchy are against Him and Him alone – it is time to reveal the most incredible good news that ever there was.

But first...just to be clear...let's remember their **GRAVE** situation...

- ✓ They are **guilty criminals!**
- ✓ They have **broken** God's Law!
- ✓ They are **idolaters, blasphemers, adulterers, thieves, liars, and covetous!**
- ✓ They are **unrighteous, unholy, and cursed!**
- ✓ They have **offended** a holy God!
- ✓ The **wrath of God** abides on them!
- ✓ They **deserve hell** for their crimes!
- ✓ They are **inexcusable**, and they are **lost** and **without hope!**

Take some time to let that sink in...and such were some of us...

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you:** but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

But wait...**THERE IS GOOD NEWS** from a far county...

Proverbs 25:25 – As cold waters to a thirsty soul, *so is good news from a far country.*

The ultimate question...

“Do you know what God did for you so that you would not have to pay the penalty for your **crimes against Him?”**

Listen to how Paul described it to Timothy...

1 Timothy 3:16 – And **without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:** God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Listen to these verses...

Romans 5:6 – For **when we were yet without strength**, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.**

Romans 5:8 – **But God commendeth his love toward us**, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

Galatians 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:

2 Corinthians 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.**

Listen to Isaiah from 700 years before Jesus came...

Isaiah 53:4-12

We broke God's Law, but **Jesus paid our fine.** That is the best news you could ever hear!

Your sins have been paid for!

According to the Bible, if we as guilty criminals before a holy God will come to the foot of the blood-stained cross and fall on our faces and cry out to God for mercy repenting of our way and confessing our sins and pleading with Him to forgive us and save us from the wrath that we rightfully deserve...the Bible says He will **SAVE** us!!

That is **NOT** complicated! We have made it complicated.

A Legal Transaction

What most people do not understand is that on the cross a **LEGAL** transaction took place:

- ✓ Jesus **paid** your fine – the price for your sins.
- ✓ Jesus' blood was a **satisfactory** payment to **silence the demands of God's justice**.
- ✓ Your court case can be **legally** dismissed on Judgment Day.
- ✓ The penalty for your sins was **met** in Jesus!
- ✓ You must receive the **free gift** before it is too late!

The Great Exchange – Romans 4

So, God makes an astonishing offer to **all** that are **ungodly** who will – **by faith – repent** and **trust** Christ alone for salvation. The Bible word for this incredible transaction is **imputation**.

Jesus gets what **we deserve** (God imputes our sin to Jesus and punishes Him):

- ✓ Made sin and a curse for us
- ✓ Put to grief and carried our sorrows
- ✓ Stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted
- ✓ Wounded for our transgressions
- ✓ Bruised for our iniquities
- ✓ Chastised for us
- ✓ Took our stripes
- ✓ Bare our iniquities
- ✓ Travail of soul
- ✓ Soul made an offering for our sin
- ✓ Poured out his soul unto death
- ✓ Numbered with the transgressors

We do not get what we deserve but instead **we get what we do not deserve** (God imputes His righteousness to us and saves us by His grace):

- ✓ Saved from God's wrath and eternal punishment in hell
- ✓ Peace with God
- ✓ Righteousness and eternal life
- ✓ Jesus as Lord, God as Father, adoption, Heaven and **eternity** with our great God and Savior!!

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience** **right now**.
 - ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
 - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?