

**HERMENEUTICS:**  
A Course for GCBC Bible Institute  
**Lesson 5**

**INTERPRETING LAW LITERATURE**

Which books are we referring to? Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Leviticus, Numbers (also known as the Pentateuch - 1st five books of the Bible)

What is our framework for reading and interpreting the Law? - Context

- I. Who was the Law given to?
  - A. Old Testament
    1. Deuteronomy 4:1 - Hear O Israel!!!!
    2. Leviticus 26:46 - statues between God and Israel
  - B. New Testament - Romans 9:24
- II. Wasn't the Law for all people? No
  - A. Gentiles
    1. Romans 2:14 - Gentiles not given the law
    2. Ephesians 2:11-12 - Gentiles were strangers to the covenants of promise
  - B. The Law is not for the believer in Christ
    1. Romans 6:14 - "...for ye are not under law but under grace"
    2. Galatians 3:25 - "but after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster"
    3. Galatians 5:1 - "stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."
    4. 2 Corinthians 3:6-7 - the law is no more
- III. QUESTION?
  - A. So, what do we do? Neglect reading Law literature? Throw it out?
  - B. Must not forget 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - ALL SCRIPTURE...
    1. All scripture provides a benefit
    2. Pastor Daniel last night - what is primary benefit OT provides the believer in Christ? - teaching for our learning, not practice
- IV. Practical Exercise - Leviticus 11:1-12
  - A. QUESTION - In light of what scripture says about the Law, what benefit can we derive from reading this passage or any passage of Law literature?
  - B. BENEFITS
    1. Provides insight into man's nature and bent to resist any standard established by God
      - a) Man's bent to resist any standard established by God
        - (1) Romans 3:19-20 - "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."
        - (2) This inward disposition is present in all of us - compelled not so much by the act but by the desire to do that which God forbids
      - b) The Law enflames our sin nature
        - (1) Romans 7:5-7
        - (2) The Law reveals our sin nature by igniting it - makes it very obvious
          - (a) California Gold Rush and Transcontinental Railroad contributed to the extinction of the buffalo - killed not to eat but the thrill of the kill
          - (b) Often hate the sin become slave to but can't get away from that desire to do the forbidden

- (3) Nothing wrong with God's law or His standards but something seriously wrong with us
  - (a) Romans 8:3-4 - "...for what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh..."
  - c) The Law points to Christ (past, present, future salvation)
    - (1) Galatians 3:23-24 - "the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ"
- 2. Provide an appreciation for what God has provided us by grace
  - a) Hebrews 7:19 - "the law never made anyone perfect"
    - (1) The Law never made anyone spiritually mature
    - (2) Incapable of doing so because of man's sin nature - never addressed the sin nature
  - b) Hebrews 10:1 - the law was only a shadow of things to come
    - (1) Vaguely pointed to a future reality
  - c) Hebrews 11:40 - God has something better for that Grace believer today than what he provided the nation of Israel under Law
- C. REREAD Leviticus 11:1-12
  - 1. Know that limiting your menu will not make you more spiritual
  - 2. Consider how these limitations may have caused a longing within Israelites
  - 3. Think of all the food you enjoy that was forbidden to Israel in Leviticus 11
  - 4. Like Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:4 - Give thanks to God because everything is on the menu for believer in Christ