

## Galatians

### “The True Christian and the Law”

1. For the last two weeks, we have embarked on a three-week series dealing with false doctrines that are currently infiltrating the church.
  - None of them are really new, just recycled for a different generation.
2. Because of this I decided to deal with each of these topics one Sunday at a time.
  - First was the “true Scriptures” because the Bible is being challenged today.
  - Second was the “true Jesus” because that His Divinity is being challenged today.
  - And this week we finish with the “true Christian and the Biblical Law,” because the Biblical view of the law after Christ is being challenged as well.
3. The Biblical Law it is broken up into three parts.
  - The Moral, Ceremonial, and Civil or Judicial.
4. “The moral laws, or *mishpatim*, relate to justice and judgment and are often translated as “ordinances.” *Mishpatim* are said to be based on God’s holy nature. As such, the ordinances are holy, just, and unchanging.”

- The moral law is unchanging because it simply deals with what is right and wrong.
  - Examples of moral law would be those regarding murder, rape, adultery, etc.
5. “The Ceremonial laws are called *hukkim* or *chuqqah* in Hebrew, which literally means “custom of the nation”; the words are often translated as “statutes.” They include instructions on regaining right standing with God through sacrifices and other ceremonies regarding “uncleanness.” They also deal with feasts and festivals as well as dietary restrictions. They also include the Sabbath, circumcision, Passover, and redemption of the firstborn.”
6. The Civil or Judicial laws are the regulations of the Law like our speed limits etc.
- “These laws regulated things such as marriage, divorce, property rights, contracts, negligence resulting in death, property damage, defamation including libel and slander.”
  - And breaking them comes with consequences.
7. So, with that understanding the question is how do we as Christians relate to the Biblical Law?
- First of all, the Bible says the Law is “good,” we simply can’t live by it because we are “bad.”
  - The Law is not the problem WE are!
8. Does this mean we ignore it?
- No. It shows us God’s Holy standards.

9. Well, if we can't live by it then how does it apply to us?

- As a "guide" to righteousness, but not a "means" to righteousness.

10. That is, we can't please God by trying to live by the Biblical Law because we can't do it in these sinful bodies.

- That is why the Bible says Jesus did it FOR us.

11. Matthew 5:17 says, "'Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.'

- Though the Law is good, we can't keep it.
- Hence Jesus fulfilled it FOR us so we don't have to try.

12. This is not to say it is not still a guide of right and wrong for the Christian.

- It simply means since it has been fulfilled by Jesus FOR us that our duty now is simply to walk in the Spirit and love one another and God's Biblical requirements for us are all met.

- Matthew 22:37-40 says, "Jesus said to him, "'*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*'

<sup>38</sup> This is *the* first and great commandment.

<sup>39</sup> And *the* second is like it: '*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*' <sup>40</sup> On these two

commandments hang ALL the Law and the Prophets.”

13. With that foundation, I simply want to read Paul’s letter to the Galatians as he wrote as if it was written to us. We will let it do the talking.
  - I will make comments to clarify as we go along, but this letter stands on its own and clearly lays out the responsibility of the Christian to the Law since Jesus fulfilled” it.
14. What is the setting and context?
  - There were Judaizers, or those following the Law, coming into the church in Galatia and telling them they still had to follow the Old Testament Law even though Jesus fulfilled it through the cross.
15. Paul wrote this letter to warn them to ignore these people because they were teaching a “different gospel” which wasn’t “good news” at all but rather BAD news!
  - That is, Jesus didn’t really fulfill the Law as He said, and they were still to follow it.
  - Which would keep them in bondage under the Law rather than the freedom given in Christ.
16. Look at chapter 1.

END

1. Explain Passover and process of pomegranate poles through the Lamb.

- Used because had 613 seeds just like the 613 Old Testament Laws.
- Paid for on the cross by the lamb on the poles.