In Our Prayers…

**Requester's name is in parentheses*

Flood Victims – *Many in the Four Corners area have suffered property damage and loss of homes and vehicles. In a few cases lives have been lost.*

Ongoing Health Concerns *— Andrew Wheeler; Mark Collins; Sarah Willmon; Miriam Nij; Melinda Black; Matt Sims and his mother, Dixie; Lyle Provost; Shirlean Johnson; Jim Beaver; Cailin Porter; David Frederick; Rick Hales; Bill Harrell; Josh Martin; Karen Crowson; Terry Wells.*

Other Ongoing Concerns – *Neil Himes; Antonio & family.*

Door for the Word *– Pray for relationships with the lost that lead to opportunities to talk about Jesus.*

Announcements

Fundamentals of the Faith Bible Study Today there will be a Bible study meeting for all who are interested in reviewing the basic teachings of Christianity. We'll share a light lunch after worship assembly followed by the Bible study.

Men's Business Meeting There is a Men's Business Meeting this Saturday, November 14th at 7:00 am in the education building.

Nizhoni Shondin Birthday Party Yolanda Woody's daughter, Nizhoni, turns 8 soon. You are invited to her birthday party on Saturday, November 14th. Details are posted on the foyer bulletin board.

Children's Home Change Cans Please return your change cans by Sunday, November 29th.

The church of Christ in Durango
2100 West 3rd / P.O. Box 633, Durango, CO 81302
www.churchofchristdurango.org | (970) 247-0865

Service Times

Bible Study
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Worship
Sunday 10:20 a.m.

Twilight Peak, Durango, CO



The Durango Disciple

November 8, 2026 Vol. 9, Issue 45

Instrument of Mercy: The Law of God in the Life of a Disciple*

By M. Todd Hall

Somehow, we're able to travel great distances at high speed without driving each other off the road. What makes that kind of freedom possible? Ironically, it's law. That's not to say that we don't break the law. But we have a general understanding that following the rules of the road makes travel safer and much more effective.

It seems backwards to us, but law is liberating.

And yet we don't like rules. Western society—and American society in particular—is built on a very peculiar idea of "freedom." Freedom is, to us, above all freedom "from"—freedom from rules, freedom to self-determination, to autonomy. We tend to view rules—laws—as limiting human happiness, and we have set about tearing down all of those rules that we think keep us from being and enjoying who we really are.

But what if we're wrong? What if "law" is central to freedom? What if we can never really be free to flourish without rules? What if Law is actually mercy (Ps 119:77)?

Consider the central Laws of the Old Testament: the "Ten

Continued Inside



Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 2:1-12

Instrument of Mercy: The Law of God in the Life of a Disciple

Continued from Front Page

Commandments." They are different from every other "commandment" in the Old Testament. They're written into the fabric of creation, as they are written into the very heart and character of God. They give us a picture of who God is, and who he created us to be.

They are not dependent on a particular human situation. Simply, "You shall not..." or "You Shall...." These laws just are. And they are, at heart, a merciful gift to humans, because they provide the framework for human flourishing.

And this is what Jesus is getting at in his great Sermon on the Mount. The Law, as revealed to Israel, forms the framework that makes the Sermon on the Mount life possible! The Sermon on the Mount life is the life that has internalized the Ten Commandments, made them a part of itself, and has moved beyond the letter of it toward the spirit of it. That doesn't do away with the Law. It makes it fully integrated into the person you are. It fulfills it (Matt 5:17).

Christ-followers want to walk with God, to experience him and draw near to him; in this sense, the law is alive and well. Therefore, Christians should want to internalize these words and make them a part of who we are. When we do that, then real human flourishing, real human community, real human liberty, is available to us.

Consider the way submitting to laws is necessary for a symphony orchestra. The coming together of 50 or 60 musicians, with all of the various instruments, can reach heights of beauty that are almost unimaginable. But they must all be subject to the rules, and to the conductor. They can improvise, like jazz, but even that is within a framework. It's the basic framework that makes the playing possible.

And God has revealed, in his great mercy, the rules that can make a beautiful, symphony-like life possible.

* This article is excerpted from the author's full blog, which may be read at https://www.christian-studies.org/post/instrument-of-mercy-the-law-of-god-in-the-life-of-a-disciple.

The Agony of The Way

Luke 13:22–30

1. **The way to salvation is through _____ .**

2. **Pedigree is not _____ .**

3. **Blessed are all who _____ .**

Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

November 9	Mon	Obadiah 1 – Jonah 3
November 10	Tue	Jonah 4 – Micah 3
November 11	Wed	Micah 4 – Micah 7
November 12	Thur	Nahum 1 – Hab. 1
November 13	Fri	Habakkuk 2 – Zeph 2