

For a lot of people, this is where reading the Bible gets confusing.

**Maybe you've started reading through the Bible before.**

Genesis is fascinating.

Exodus is exciting.

**Then you get to Leviticus...**

- And suddenly you're reading about animal sacrifices,
- priests, food laws, skin diseases,
- Sabbath regulations, holy days,
- and instructions for mildew in your house.

**And somewhere along the way you think,  
*"What am I supposed to do with all of this?"***

**We believe the whole Bible is inspired.  
But we don't offer animal sacrifices.**

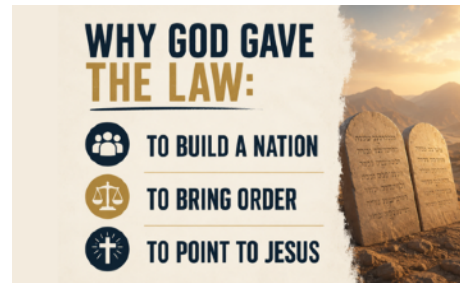
We don't avoid shrimp.

We don't celebrate Israel's festivals.

Most of us don't wear clothing with tassels on the corners.



**The Law was God's gift to a rescued people.**



**It shaped Israel into a nation that would reflect God's heart to the world.**

- It taught them how to worship.
- How to pursue justice.
- How to care for the poor.
- How to live as a community.
- How to deal honestly with sin.

And yes...

- It included sacrifices.
- Priests.
- The tabernacle.
- Festivals.
- Food laws.
- Sabbaths.

**All of those things were part of Israel's life with God.**

But here's what I don't want you to miss.

**Those laws were never the destination.**

**From the very beginning...**

**They were leading somewhere.**

**They were preparing God's people *for Someone.***

**big idea for today:**

**Jesus fulfilled the Law, so we don't read it as a rulebook to keep, but as a story that leads us to him.**

**The Law points. Jesus fulfills.**

**Why We No Longer Keep The Law:**

**1. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law.**

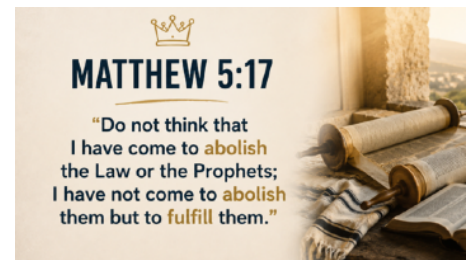
Luke 24:27 "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself."

These disciples were blinded by who Jesus was.

They literally couldn't see him.

Jesus is opening up their spiritual eyes which result in them physically seeing.





"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Matthew 5:17

## Key Word: Fulfill

**Fulfill** (*plēroō*) = to bring to completion, accomplish, bring to its intended goal or full meaning.

### BEACH SIGN ILLUSTRATION

Imagine you're driving to the beach. Along the way you see signs:

**Beach → 100 miles**

**Beach → 50 miles**

**Beach → Next Exit**



Those signs are important. Without them, you might never find the beach.

But once you're standing on the sand with your toes in the ocean, you don't keep staring at the sign.

You don't hug the sign.

**You don't set up your beach chair beside the sign.**

The sign did exactly what it was supposed to do—it brought you to the beach.

**The sign FULFILLS its purpose when it points you to your destination.**

**Jesus says that's what the Law was doing.  
It wasn't the destination. It was pointing people to him.**

Jesus didn't discard the Law.

He completed everything it was designed to accomplish.

What the Law anticipated, Jesus embodied.

## **#2. The Law completed its purpose.**

**Galatians 3:24–25**

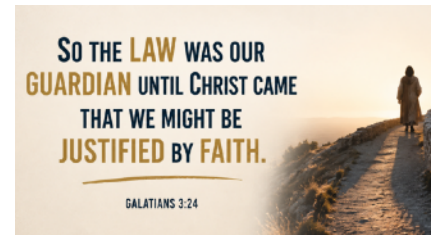
"So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. **Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.**"

### **Key Word: Guardian**

**Guardian** (*paidagōgos*) = a household servant who supervised, disciplined, and escorted a child until adulthood.

The guardian wasn't permanent.

His role ended when the child matured.



"Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, or a Sabbath day.

These are a **shadow** of the things that were to come; the **reality**, however, is **found in Christ**."

**COLOSSIANS 2:16-17**

## THE NEXT ANALOGY...A SHADOW...

**Colossians 2:16–17**

"Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. **These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.**"

### Key Word: Shadow

A **shadow** is real, but it isn't the substance. It points to something greater.

Paul contrasts:

- **Shadow** = the Law's ceremonies and observances.
- **Reality** (*sōma*, literally "body") = Christ himself.



**Hebrews 10:1**

"The law is only a **shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves**. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship."

### HEBREWS 10:1

"THE LAW IS ONLY A **SHADOW** OF THE GOOD THINGS THAT ARE COMING—NOT THE **REALITIES THEMSELVES**."

### Key Word: Realities

The Greek emphasizes the **true form** or **actual substance**. The sacrifices pointed forward, but Jesus accomplished what they could never do.

## Imagine you're driving through a major highway construction zone.

Orange barrels narrow the lanes.

The speed limit drops to 35.

Traffic is redirected.

There are temporary signs everywhere.

Those rules aren't bad. They're necessary.

They exist for a purpose: to safely guide drivers while the road is under construction.

***But eventually the project is finished.***

The barrels are removed.

The detours disappear.

The temporary signs come down.

Traffic flows normally again.

Now imagine someone insisting everyone still drive 35 miles an hour, stay in one lane, and follow the old detour—even though the construction is over.

They wouldn't be honoring the construction zone.

They'd actually be creating confusion and putting people in danger.



**That's Paul's point about the Law.**

**The Law wasn't permanent.**

**It served God's purpose until Christ came.**

Once Christ fulfilled what it was pointing toward,

God's people were no longer meant to live under those temporary regulations.

We now live in the freedom of the Spirit.

**The Law completed the purpose God gave it.**

### **#3 We Died to the Law in Christ**

**Romans 7:4 (NIV)**

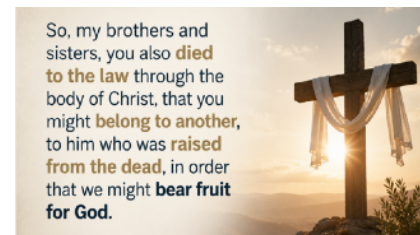
"So, my brothers and sisters, **you also died to the law through the body of Christ**, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God."

#### **Key Word: Died**

**Died** = the old covenant relationship has come to an end. Paul doesn't say the Law died—**we died**.

Through our union with Christ in his death, we are no longer bound to the Mosaic covenant.

That's Paul's point in Romans 7.



Through Christ, we've died to the old covenant so that we might belong to another.

The Christian life isn't about continuing to live under the old covenant's regulations.

It's about living in a new relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit.

**Key Word: Belong**

**Belong** = to be joined or united to another.

Paul uses the imagery of marriage:

death ends one covenant so a new covenant relationship can begin.



## #4. I Now Live by the Spirit

**Romans 7:6** "But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code."

### Key Word: Released

**Released** = set free from a binding obligation. Because we died with Christ, we are no longer under the Law's covenant.

### Key Word: New

**New** (*kainotēs*) = a new kind or quality of life—not merely a different set of rules, but an entirely new way of relating to God.

