

# ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL WORDS

## LAW

### Introduction

The word translated “law” is torah (תּוֹרָה) in Hebrew and nomos (νόμος) in Greek. In the Hebrew it comes from a root meaning, “to point/to instruct” and the Greek noun is more attuned to the generally realized standard of civilized conduct, not necessarily codified laws. Depending on context it has a range of related meanings, which will explore today.

### Meaning #1:

**Joshua 23:6** “Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left.”

**Luke 24:44** “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

### Meaning #2:

**Exodus 24:12** The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction.”

**Galatians 3:23-25** Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

**Romans 13:9-10** The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

**Matthew 22:35-40** An expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

1.) What is the most precise summary of God’s will as found in the commandments?

### Meaning #3:

**Psalms 1:1-2** Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

**Psalm 119:29, 43, 52, 165** Be gracious to me through your law. ...I have put my hope in your laws. ...I remember your ancient laws, O LORD, and I find comfort in them. ...Great peace have they who love your law.

2.) What gospel blessings and promises did an Israelite receive if he or she followed what was written in the Law of Moses—for ample: the Passover, the laws of cleansing, the Great Day of Atonement, or the laws involving the priesthood?

Meaning #4:

**Galatians 4:4-5** When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law.

**Romans 3:19-21** Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

**Romans 3:28** For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

3.) When the law stands in contrast to the gospel, as it does in much of the New Testament, which meaning (#1-#4) is most appropriate? In what ways does the law differ from the gospel?

**John 1:17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**Romans 10:4** Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

4.) Agree or disagree: since Jesus has put an end to the law, then God's law is no longer something we have to obey.

5.) Thinking back to Luther's *Small Catechism*, what three necessary purposes does the law play in the daily life of the forgiven child of God?

a.)

**Romans 7:7** I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

**Isaiah 64:6** All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;

b.)

**Ezekiel 18:4** "The soul who sins is the one who will die."

**Romans 13:4b** If you do wrong, be afraid, for [the government] does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

**Mark 9:47-48** "If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

c.)

**Psalm 119:32, 105, 127-28** I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free. ...Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. ...Because I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold, and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path.

*Closing Prayer: Savior Jesus, thank you for fulfilling the law on our behalf. Thank you for fulfilling the law of love by dying for us. Increase our love for you that we may be always eager to follow your commands in glad obedience. Amen.*