

Why Christians Should Keep the Law (Part 5)—The Lawless One

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The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/tth3p3p/pt-5-why-christians-should-keep-the-law>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Welcome, everyone, to Episode 5 of our series *Why Christians Should Keep the Law*.

For the last couple episodes, we've been looking at some pretty awesome teachings by Jesus regarding the Law. Truly, the expectation the Jewish people had that the Messiah would come and teach them His Law was exactly what *Yeshua* did. Look at what prophecy says:

Isaiah 2:3—³ . . . “He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall teach them His ways. “His ways” is specifically mentioned in:

Psalms 103:7—⁷ He made known His ways to Moses. Those are “the ways” that Jesus came and taught.

Today, we will take a pretty sharp turn and talk about another messiah mentioned in Scripture, one we call the anti-Messiah, the false messiah, or better known as the Antichrist. In the New Testament, the Antichrist bears a very specific title, *HaAnomos*. In the English, it translates as “the lawless one.” This is the very title the Apostle Paul used for the Antichrist. Look at this:

2 Thessalonians 2:8-9—⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders. (Emphasis added.)

One of the primary ways the Antichrist is defined is by his title “the lawless one”. His character is to reject the Law of God. The most dangerous part of this is that he does not just reject the Law of God for himself; he convinces others to do the same. This is where the great deception comes in that Jesus talked about in Matthew 24:24. Jesus said that if it were possible even the elect would be deceived. We have to be mindful of this kind of deception.

The book of Daniel records the activity of the Antichrist. Daniel 8:12 says—¹² . . . he—Antichrist—cast truth to the ground. He destroys it. The Antichrist will present truth as antiquated, oppressive, and something we must rid ourselves of. This will be the mantra of the devil himself.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:9—Paul said—⁹ **The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan.** His whole goal is to convince people to walk away from the Law. Is it any wonder why we find parts of the church grabbing hold of this Antichrist teaching and believing the true Jesus of the Bible destroyed the Law? They believe if you are a good Christian, you will cast the Law behind your back and move forward in grace. This is truly a great deception.

The writer of the book of Hebrews had something to say about Jesus in the introduction. In chapter one, the writer quoted various scriptures from the Old Testament that he knew specifically referred to Jesus. One of the scriptures he quoted is from Psalm 45:6-7. It says:

Hebrews 1:8-9—⁸ **But to the Son He says**—the writer recognized that the Father was speaking of the Son in the passage in Psalm 45—**“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”** (Emphasis added.)

Do you understand that the authentic Jesus, the one who was crucified, buried, rose the third day, and now sits at the right hand of God, is described as hating lawlessness.

Is it any wonder why we read in Matthew 7, when many Christians profess to Jesus all the amazing things they did in His name, consider themselves His faithful servants, and expect to get into heaven, Jesus hurled them to their death, cast them into the Lake of Fire, totally rejected them, and said **“Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness”**? It is no wonder. Why? Because He hates lawlessness. That's the true Jesus.

In Matthew 27, Jesus was on trial which led to His Crucifixion. Pilate called two men forward. He called Jesus who is called the Christ and another man called Barabbas. He said to the crowd, ¹⁷ **“Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Christ?”**

Things get really interesting when you go to the manuscripts and find variant readings on the name of Barabbas. Some of the manuscripts record a longer form of the name, which in the Greek is *Iēsoun ton Barabban*, which translates as Jesus Barabbas. Isn't that interesting?

So, when Pilate brought out the two men, he introduced the one as Jesus Barabbas and the other as Jesus the Christ. Ultimately, Pilate was asking, “Which Jesus do you want?” Now, here's what I know about Jesus the Christ. Jesus the Christ taught the Law; He was very pro-Law or, as they say, pro-Law. He not only taught it; He kept it. The other Jesus Barabbas was a thief, a murderer, and one who stirred rebellion, which is against the Law. He was the definition of lawlessness. So, these two Jesuses were defined. One was defined as a Law-keeper, who taught and kept the Law perfectly. The other was defined as a law-breaker, who radically rejected the Law.

The question I have for you today is: Which Jesus do you want? Which Jesus are you serving? Are you serving Jesus Barabbas, the lawless Jesus? Have you turned your back on God's Word, on His holy Law? Or are you serving the true and authentic Jesus, Jesus the Messiah, *Yeshua HaMashiach*? That is the Christ; that is the Jesus we are called to follow. **Choose you this day whom you will serve** (Joshua 24:15).

That's all I have for today. May the Lord bless you and keep you in the mighty and holy name of Jesus the Messiah.