

Why Christians Should Keep the Law (Part 11)—The New Covenant

January 17, 2024

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/fz6bzzx/pt-11-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 11 of the series *Why Christians Should Keep the Law*.

Today, we will continue to discover exactly how God in his own Word describes the Law. The further we get into this, the more majestic you see the Lord is. Our God is not one-dimensional in His approach in describing the Law, but rather He has this beautiful array, if you will, of expressions He utilizes much like a painter utilizes colors. A painter brings all these beautiful colors together and puts them on a canvas, and it presents a gorgeous and wonderful picture. This is what I think of when I think of our God and how He talks about the Law. He takes all these beautiful expressions, brings them together, and puts them on a canvas of what we call the Bible.

Today, we will focus on one particular description: God describes His Law as light. Let's jump into Proverbs and read the following:

Proverbs 6:23a—^{23a} **For the commandment is a lamp, and the Law a light;** (Emphasis added.)

This is scriptural testimony of the Law likened to light. It is light. And what is the benefit of light? Light gives you clarity; you can see where you are going. When people walk in darkness, they stumble and get hurt. When I have light, I can foresee certain things that I would not have otherwise seen in the darkness. I can bring myself to safety. I have clarity and understanding. This is the beautiful benefit of light. Look at what is said next:

Proverbs 6:23b—^{23b} **Reproofs**—In Hebrew it's *towkechah*, which means to rebuke or correct—**of instruction are the way of life**, (Emphasis added.)

Where do I get this reproof, *towkechah*? Where does instruction come from? It comes from the Law. We need the Law for correction, wisdom, understanding, and clarity. The Law is our eyesight. It is total light. Let's build on this by reading:

Psalms 119:105—¹⁰⁵ **Your word**—In other words, Your Law—**is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path**. (Emphasis added.)

There have been studies done on the effects of light deprivation on human beings. One thing they discovered is when you take light away from us, we lose all sense of time. I found that fascinating because on a spiritual level if you take away light (which is the Word, the Law) from Christians, they won't know what time it is. This is the very thing Jesus accused the Pharisees and Sadducees of.

Matthew 16:3b—Jesus said—^{3b} **Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.**

Discerning of the signs and the times comes from the light. No pun intended, but we are to be enlightened by the Law. It comes from the mind, the heart, and the knowledge of God. It tells us where we are at and how close we are to the return of Jesus.

What's even more fascinating as you look at these studies, people that were light deprived started to hallucinate and a suffocating fear started to creep in. This is how important light is to us. Remember, this was an actual tangible physical reaction to the deprivation of light.

When you take light away from Christians, they spiritually enter into a state of delusion and begin to hallucinate. They have a boatload of fear, and things appear to be reality when, in fact, they are not reality. This is what happens to Christians when they get away from God's Word. They are sucked into delusion and begin to hallucinate, and oh my goodness! Christians need the light.

The devil wants to take away the light, so you are in darkness. Then he can control your steps and lead you off a cliff, and you'll never know it until it's too late.

What we are about to look at in Isaiah is awesome. Check this out:

Isaiah 8:20—²⁰ **To the Law—Torah—and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word—guess what—it is because there is no light in them.** (Emphasis added.)

If Christians are not speaking according to the Law, according to the Word of the Lord, according to truth, and according to light, it's because they don't have light within them. This is extremely significant for us to consider. In fact, this verse is significant to the totality of this discussion. This verse will reverberate throughout the rest of this series in some form or fashion.

I want to explain what I mean. Notice, the writer didn't just say, **"to the Law,"** he also said, **"to the testimony."** In Hebrew, "to the testimony" is *wəliṭ'ūdāh*. What is *wəliṭ'ūdāh*? To paint the picture of what this refers to, we need to go back a few verses. We will see that this entire passage is a Messianic prophecy about Jesus. What is expressed is incredibly enlightening, so let's jump back to verse 14:

Isaiah 8:14—¹⁴ **He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.**

For the Messiah to be the true Jewish Messiah, He had to be rejected by His own. This is one of the most prominent aspects of identifying the authentic Messiah from a pseudo-Messiah: He had to be rejected by His own.

Now, that said, Psalm 118 is a parallel to this statement, which will be much more relevant in a moment, but Psalm 118 says:

Psalms 118:22—²² The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³ This was the LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:22 is a parallel passage to Isaiah 8:14. Both passages convey that the Messiah would be rejected by His own.

When you read Psalm 118:22, and it says, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone” (there will be rejection), the next thing it says is “God is the LORD, And He has given us light; Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar” (Psalm 118:27). (Emphasis added.)

When you read Isaiah 8:14, and it says, “He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel” (there will be rejection), the next thing it says is “Bind up the testimony” (Isaiah 8:16b). (Emphasis added.)

This is referring to the testimony of God's love for the world. In other words, Jesus. Jesus is the testimony. So, bind up the testimony. The very next thing we read is:

Isaiah 8:16b—^{16b} seal the law—Torah—among My disciples. (Emphasis added.)

This is talking about the implementation of God's New Covenant, a New Covenant that He would make with His people. The New Covenant is ushered in by the binding of the testimony, the sacrifice of Jesus.

Jeremiah 31:33—³³ “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (Emphasis added.)

As you will notice, the New Covenant isn't about doing away with the Law at all. Actually, it's just the opposite. The New Covenant is about bringing the Law closer to God's people than it's ever been before. Now, God puts the Law in my own heart, and because we are now called the temple of God, in a very real sense, it goes into the holy of holies, which is exactly where the Law was. It was at the throne of God. This was foreshadowed in the way God constructed the temple, and in what He had commanded in the Law itself under the Old Covenant.

How did God implement His New Covenant? He implemented it by the giving of the Spirit of God. Now, listen to the words of Paul because this all ties in:

Ephesians 1:13—¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, (Emphasis added).

Notice, the terminology that the Apostle Paul used. He said you were sealed with the Holy Spirit. Isn't that interesting because going back to Isaiah, it says:

Isaiah 8:16 —¹⁶ Bind up the testimony—meaning Jesus, *Yeshua*, would be sacrificed—seal the law among my disciples—the anointing of the Holy Spirit. (Emphasis added.)

Jesus commanded His disciples to go out and make disciples of all nations. So, there would be disciples coming to Jesus, and they would be sealed. What is the Holy Spirit doing? He is doing exactly what He said He would do in the New Covenant. He is sealing the Law in our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33).

So, coming full circle on this discussion. Let's read Isaiah 8:20 again, in light (no pun intended) of the information we have now:

Isaiah 8:20—²⁰ **To the Law**—but not just to the Law—**and to the testimony!**—meaning the name of Jesus. **If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.** (Emphasis added.)

In other words, if men do not have the testimony of two, specifically the testimony of Jesus (He is the Messiah, and He is Lord and Savior) and the Law, they don't have light within them.

I want to close with the following, and I want you to think about this:

Revelation 12:17—¹⁷ **And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.** (Emphasis added.)

They have the testimony. This is why the war exists. This is why the war has erupted. The enemy has come after those who have the testimony of two: they confess Jesus and believe in Him, and they will not let go of the Law. They don't just know the Law intellectually in their mind, they walk it out. They do the Law.

That's all the time we have. Bless you in the name of *Yeshua*.