

Lesson # 2 -- Deliverance From The Law.

Introduction

- A. Most people, if not all, will acknowledge some degree of personal responsibility.
 - 1. Right, wrong, truth and error are written upon the human heart. (Romans 2:14,15)
 - 2. Even the secular anthropologists have stated that no group of people have ever been found that did not possess or live by a moral code.
- B. The Christian understands the source of this moral obligation and responsibility. We trace it back to God's creation and revelation.
- C. It is vitally important for the believer to understand his relationship to God through His law. If we do not know the truth we cannot live in the assurance and liberty God has planned for us.
- D. The theme of this lesson:

But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held, that we should serve in newness of spirit and not in the oldness of the letter. Romans 7:6

I. The Biblical Meaning and Basis of the Law of God.

A. The Biblical meaning of the law of God.

- 1. The term is often used in the Scripture to refer to the revelation of God.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law doth he meditate day and night. Psalm 1:1,2

O how love I Thy law, it is my meditation all the day. Psalm 119:97

Neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. Daniel 9:10

And He said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. . . Making the Word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered, and many such like things do ye. Mark 7:9,13

2. The term also refers in the Bible to the commandments of God which are related to righteousness. The primary reference is found in God's commandment to Adam in the Garden. This was the basis for the Mosaic Law and therefore the expression of those demands which had to be met by Jesus Christ in His work of the atonement.

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
Romans 3:20

Because the law worketh wrath, for where no law is, there is no transgression. Romans 4:15

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse, for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.
Galatians 3:10

B. The Biblical description of the law of God.

Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness and Thy law is the truth. Psalm 119:142

And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. Romans 7:10

Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just and good. Romans 7:12

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. Romans 7:14

C. The relationship of the law of God to God's person.

For I am the Lord your God, ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy, for I am holy . . . For I am the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. Ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy. Leviticus 11:44,45

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance, but as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (daily life). Because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy. I Peter 1:14,15

Summary:

A. There is a twofold use to the "law of God". It refers to God's revelation of Himself and it also refers to the commandments of God which pertain to righteousness.

B. God's law, in all its forms, is an expression to us of Who God is. The commandments of the Bible are all rooted, in some way, in the very nature of God Himself.

II. The Law of God as Related to Unfallen Mankind.

- A. The law of God was written on the heart of all mankind in the act of creation.

For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves, which shew the work of the law written on their hearts, the conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another. Romans 2:14,15

- B. The law of God was given to Adam and Eve in the Garden. It defined how they were to live and maintain their fellowship with God. While the commandment of God demanded perfect obedience this was not an external constraint on Adam and Eve nor was it in any way contradictory to their love for God.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die. Genesis 2:16,17

- C. This expression of the law of God "obey Me perfectly and you will never die" is found repeatedly in the Scripture. However, this in no way is a basis for how a sinner can live or work to be accepted by God. This statement is simply the basis for all of man's responsibility to God in perfect obedience.

Ye shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man do, he shall live in them. I am the Lord. Leviticus 18:5

Nehemiah 9:29 -- (same statement)

Ezekiel 20:11,13,21 -- "

Ezekiel 33:15 -- "

Luke 10:28 -- "

Romans 10:5 -- "

Galatians 3:12 -- "

Summary:

- A. Adam and Eve did disobey the commandment of God and were thereby alienated from God bringing upon themselves every form of death.
- B. By this act all mankind was plunged into a state of separation from God. Since man's relationship to God was on the basis of perfect obedience - there could be no way that sinful man could retrace his steps to God. By his sin man placed himself in a state of hopelessness.

III. The Law of God as Related to Fallen Mankind.

- A. Every member of the human race is described as unrighteous in that we have failed to obey God's law.

But we are all as an unclean thing and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags and we all do fade as a leaf and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. Isaiah 64:6

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. Romans 3:10

- B. Every member of the human race is described as guilty in that we have transgressed the law of God.

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God. Romans 3:19

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

- C. Every member of the human race is under the sentence of death in that we have failed to obey God and have transgressed His law.

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Romans 5:12

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

- D. Every member of the human race is in the state of hopelessness before God in that there is no way back to God within ourselves.

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20

And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. Romans 7:10

Summary: It is vitally important that we understand two things -

- A. The serious nature of our sin. We have sinned against the infinite God and have brought upon ourselves the state of death and hopelessness.

- B. We are totally dependent upon God to rescue us. We stand condemned.

IV. The Law of God as Related to Jesus Christ our Representative.

- A. The Lord Jesus was born into our human race in order to fulfill the law of God for us.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets, I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. Matthew 5:17

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Galatians 4:4,5

- B. The Lord Jesus fulfilled all the demands of the law of God in His life, death and Resurrection.

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested being witnessed by the law and the prophets, even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe, for there is no difference . . . Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God, to declare, I say, at this time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Romans 3:21,22,24-26

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:3,4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Romans 10:4

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us, for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree. Galatians 3:13

Summary:

- A. Jesus Christ obeyed the demands of the law of God which we could not obey and paid the penalty of the law of God which we could not pay.
- B. The Lord Jesus did this as our Representative.

IV. The Law of God as Related to the Believer.

- A. In regard to salvation the Scripture reminds us that the righteousness of the life and death of Jesus Christ is imputed to all believers. We are declared righteous before God (justified) and forgiven.

Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins. And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. Acts 13:38,39

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:4

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross. Colossians 2:13,14

- B. In regard to sanctification (the believer's daily life), the work of Jesus Christ in fulfilling the law of God for us leads us to accept and practice three great truths.

1. We have been set free from all the demands of the law of God in regard to salvation. God wants us to have this assurance in our daily life.

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Galatians 4:4-6

2. All believers, in the new birth, have been given the inner spiritual ability to live in fellowship with God, to please God, and to keep His commandments.

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Romans 6:14,15

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ, that ye should be married to another, even to Him Who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. Romans 7:4

But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held, that we should serve in newness of spirit and not in the oldness of the letter. Romans 7:6

3. All believers, through the work of Jesus Christ, are now able to live and serve so that the very purpose and exhortation of the law of God may be fulfilled in our lives.

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another, for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law . . . Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13:8,10

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Galatians 5:13,14

Bear ye one another burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2.

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matthew 22:36-40

Summary:

- A. The believer is described as "married" to Jesus Christ, the Lawgiver.
- B. Through this union with Jesus Christ the believer is free from the demands of the law, due to sin, and is now able to obey God and live a fruitful life.
- C. It is particularly important to see that the believer is now related to the law of God in an entirely new way. The law still stands as the blueprint for our life. We must obey God through His Word. However, due to the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf we are related to the law in liberty and love.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. James 1:25

If ye fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well . . . So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. James 2:8,12

Conclusion: In times of trial it is helpful to make an affirmation regarding our relationship with God.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and on the basis of the Bible, I affirm that I am righteous before God, completely forgiven, and accepted by God because of the work of Jesus Christ my Savior and Lord.