

The Christian and the Law of God

Introduction

- A. In the Bible the word "law" or words "law of God" are used many times and in a great variety of ways.

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul Psalm 19:7

And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth* Luke 2:39

- B. As a general summary it would be correct to say that the meaning of the "law of God" would be "the will of God as made known in the Bible."
- C. It is important to recognize that God's law and will is an expression of His Person. He has revealed Himself to us in His Word.
- D. It is helpful to recognize that the law of God may be divided into Civil Law (regulations between persons), Ceremonial Law (the Levitical Priesthood), and the Moral Law (the Ten Commandments).

I. The First and Primary Statement of the Law of God.

- A. When God created man He gave him explicit instructions for obedience, Genesis 2:16,17

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.

Observation: If man had simply continue to live as he was - in obedience to God - he would not have fallen into sin. Adam, however, did sin and by his violation of God's law brought death into the world.

- B. This fundamental principle of God's law - "perfectly obey Me and you will live" is stated many times in the Bible.

Ye shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man do, he shall live in them Leviticus 18:5 (Ezra 20:11,13,21; Neh. 9:29; Luke 10:28; Romans 10:5; Galatians 3:12).

Observation: This statement is repeatedly made in the Bible to remind us that we are sinful by our own choice and that God's person and law does not change. No man can now keep God's law in that all of us are sinful through the Fall of Adam (Romans 5:12).

II. The Fallen State of Man Before the Law of God.

- A. Since we failed to obey God's law we are now unrighteous, Romans 3:10.

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.

- B. Since we disobeyed God's law we are now sinful, Romans 3:23.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

C. In that we have failed to obey God but have transgressed His law, we have brought upon ourselves the judgment pronounced in Eden, namely – death, Romans 6:23.

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

Observation: All men stand condemned before the law of God. No man can now obey God perfectly. But God demands perfect obedience if we are to be accepted by Him.

III. The Provision of God for Man in Regard to His Law.

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

Observation: Jesus Christ came as our Representative to keep the law for us (Romans 5:19) and to die under its curse (Gal. 3:13). What we could not do Jesus Christ the Son of God did for us.

IV. The Benefits for the Believer in the Light of the Work of Jesus Christ.

A. One unrighteous the believer is now perfectly righteous before God, Rom. 5:1.

Therefore being justified (declared righteous) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

B. Once sinful the believer is now perfectly forgiven before God, Colossians 2:13.

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

C. Once under the sentence of death the believer is now the possessor of life, John 10:28.

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.

Observation: Before receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord we had everything against us and nothing for us. But now, in Christ, we have everything for us and nothing against us. We are accepted by God through Christ.

V. The Present Relationship of the Law of God to the Believer

A. In regard to salvation – all the demands have been met by Jesus Christ, Rom. 8:3,4

B. In regard to sanctification – the Law of God (the Ten Commandments) serves as a blueprint for our daily life. We are to love God and to express our love in keeping His commandments. Romans 13:8-10; I John 2:3-5; 5:3.

Conclusion: We must thank God for His provision and obey Him in love.

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