

Who Am I?

Unlocking and Understanding the Mystery of Christ

Week Two

Day One

THE LAW: WORDS TO LIVE BY

Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Matthew 5:17)

Last week you touched on each area of the Old Testament. This week, you will be digging deeper into five areas of the Old Testament that people seem to want to forget about or seem to think aren't important to our New Testament church. You will go a bit deeper into The Law, The Sacrifice, The Tabernacle, The Covenant, and The Kingdom of God, and in each area you will learn of the Old Testament significance, as well as, how it points to Jesus.



Unlocking the Mystery

The Law is mostly associated with the Old Testament. Many view this as just a book of rules that were impossible to keep, but it was actually given as a way to live under the Old Covenant; a way to walk in obedience to what the LORD expected of His people. What do you know about the Law? Do you know where it was given and to whom it was given? Do you know why it was given or what it means for us today? After today's lesson, I hope you will be able to answer these questions with confidence and recognize Jesus' role in our association with the Old Testament Law.



Understanding the Word

The first five books of the Holy Bible are titled “THE LAW.” Last week, days One and Two covered the majority of Genesis and Exodus. Below is a brief description of each book of the Law.

GENESIS is the book in which you will find historical recordings of the beginnings. It will take you from the beginning of time through history until God's people end up in Egypt.

EXODUS is the book that records God raising up the leader, Moses, to bring God's people out of Egypt through to the giving of the Law.

LEVITICUS is the book that gives instructions for access to God and standards for holy living; the laws are written in more detail.

NUMBERS is the book that takes us through the wilderness wanderings. It teaches us about faith toward God and judgment from God for rebellion.

DEUTERONOMY is the book that recaps the law to the people just before Joshua is to lead God's people into the Promised Land.

It would be beneficial to read these first books. I am only going to guide you to a few passages that will help you understand the flow of the Law through to Christ.

DIGGING DEEPER: Exodus 19-24

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Exodus 19:1, 3

V. 1 In the third month after the _____ left _____ ...they came to the _____ of _____.

V. 3 Who went up to God? _____

The Israelites were miraculously brought up out of Egypt and had finally come to a place of rest at the base of this mountain. God had used Moses to lead his people. During this time, Moses was hearing from God to judge the people. Now God says it's time to have his instructions written down. We read in Scripture about the giving of the tablets, known to us as the Ten Commandments. Though many of you may be able to recite some or all, let's take a look at the Scripture where they are given and see them again for the first time.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Exodus 20:3-17

1. You shall have _____ other _____ before Me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an _____.
3. You shall not misuse the _____ of the _____ your _____.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by _____ it _____.
5. Honor your _____ and your _____ so that you may _____ in the land the LORD your God is giving you.
6. You shall not _____.
7. You shall not _____.

- 8. You shall not _____.
- 9. You shall not give _____ against your neighbor.
- 10. You shall not _____.

Remember the two GREATEST COMMANDMENTS from our intro lesson? All the commandments can be summed up in these two: Loving God and Loving Others. Meditate on that for a moment.

YOUR THOUGHTS: _____

What I want you to see for now is that the complete Law that was given to Moses can be broken down into three parts. A) **THE MORAL LAW:** dealings with God’s standards for holy living, B) **THE CIVIL LAW:** dealing with Israel’s legal and social life as a nation, and C) **THE CEREMONIAL LAW:** dealing with the form and ritual of Israel’s worship of the Lord, including the sacrifice system. The Law was given to the children of God (Israelites) not to come into a relationship with Him, but as a way to live for Him and to worship Him. They were already saved by the blood during the night of the Passover, and they were already redeemed from slavery in Egypt. Now they were to live for Him.

So what now? Are we still responsible for the keeping of the Law? No, the only part we as New Testament believers have to adhere to is the MORAL law (The Ten Commandments fall into this category and even higher standards were given by Jesus in the New Testament). Adhering to this portion of the Law gives us a way to measure our integrity for God. The following Scriptures show that the Law was given to teach us what God expects of us and that it is not the way of salvation. The Law came as an instrument of obedience and worship and was a result of people coming to Him. In other words, it can show a non-believer where he/she doesn’t measure up which in turn shows the need for a savior, and it can help a believer to know how to act and behave if love and obedience rule in his/her heart. Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ, and the Law was leading to and still leads to that Savior.

DIGGING DEEPER: Romans 7

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Romans 7:7

V. 7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have _____ what _____ was except through the _____.

DIGGING DEEPER: Galatians 3

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Galatians 3:19

V. 19 What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of _____ until the _____ to whom the promise referred had come.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Galatians 3:23-24

V. 23-24 Before this faith (in Jesus) came, we were held prisoners by the _____, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the Law was put in charge to _____ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the Law.



Okay, I looked at portions of the Law and realized I will never be able to fulfill it. Good, that is exactly what God wants you to realize. He sent Jesus as a way to fulfill the requirements of the Law (we will understand that more in the next lesson). When Jesus went back into heaven, He left us with a powerful gift of the Holy Spirit; the part of God that lives in us. The Holy Spirit wants us to live holy lives for God so He will direct us and teach us and remind us the ways we are supposed to live. Romans 8 and Galatians 5 teach us powerfully what the Holy Spirit's role in our life should be. Gratify the ways of the Spirit and not the ways of our sinful nature. Live wholly for God and His desires rather than for ourselves and the ways that lead to death. Only by the grace of God, faith in Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit can this life of Integrity be lived. Use God's Word to continue to check your attitudes and behaviors and allow the fullness of God to run through your heart.