

*What is the Purpose of the Law?*



**ROMANS**

GOSPEL~ROOTED LIVING



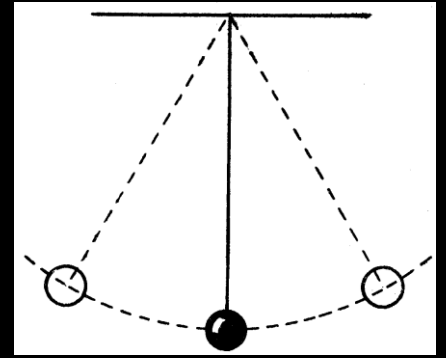
Where have we been so far?

- Greeting and Introduction
  - Received God's grace and peace by faith?
- Indictment
  - We are all guilty, but Jesus saves

Romans 3:20

*20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin*

# Definitions



- Legalism

- Blind adherence to law / rules

- License

- Freedom to behave as one wishes, in a way that results in unacceptable behavior

- Liberty – freedom to do right

Mosaic Law - Pick a number from 1 to 613

- Ritual – Beasts, priests and feasts
- Moral – Lying, stealing, sexual immorality
- Civil – Trespassing, assessing damages

# Mosaic Law

- Ritual – Relate to God
- Moral – Relate to one another
- Civil – Live in community

## Mistaken conclusions

- Law as a means of justification? Never!
- All of the Law is set aside – License
  - Corinthians
- None of the Law is set aside – Legalism
  - Galatians

Matt 5:17

*17 “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.*

- He did not come to do X...
- He came to do Y...



Matthew Henry's Complete Commentary - 1702

*No, he came to fulfill them. That is, to obey  
the commands of the law, ...not the repeal  
of the law...*

# HORÆ HOMILETICÆ - Charles Simeon - 1832

*...our Lord has not destroyed the law and the prophets, or in the slightest degree weakened our obligations to obey them.*

*There are some professors of religion...who think that Christ has set aside the law as a rule of life. But they labour under a dangerous, yea, a fatal error.*

The New Bible Commentary - 1994

*To fulfill is to bring about that to which Scripture pointed, and that is what Jesus has now done. But the fulfilment of the law does not mean its abolition; it remains wholly authoritative and demands the fullest respect of the disciple (18–19)*

New International Greek NT Commentary - 2005

*'Fulfill' must be taken in a manner that allows it to be an appropriate counterpart to 'annul'.*

- Fulfill is not a synonym to annul (abolish)

# Status of the Law today

- Modified
- Set aside
- Still in effect

Modified – Matt 5:21-48

- External to internal / “fruit” to “root”
  - Reveal the underlying truth
- For example
  - Hatred is the root of Murder
  - Lust is the root of Adultery

Set aside – Hebrews 10:1-18 & Rom 14

- Ritual no longer needed
  - Relate to God through Christ

Still in effect?

- Thanksgiving for a meal – Dt 8:10
- Not to move a boundary marker – Dt 19:14



## Dressage, Reining and the Runaway

- Modified – many of the moral laws
- Set aside – most of the ritual laws
- Still in effect – many of the civil laws

Galatians 3:23-24

Guardian

*23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed...the law was our guardian until Christ came...*

- Limited wickedness – kept you “in bounds”

Romans 3:20

Revelatory

*20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin*

- Rom 7:7

Romans 4:15

Definitional

*15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.*

- Shows you are a transgressor (law breaker)

Romans 5:20

Causative

*20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass...*

- Influence of “forbidden fruit”
  - Cheating on your diet

In Romans...

- Paul is presenting the justification by faith alone, not a comprehensive overview of the Law

Do we have to obey commandments / law?

*Whoever has my commands and obeys them,  
he is the one who loves me (John 14:21)*

- Love God, Neighbors and One Another  
(Matt 22:34-40)                      (Jn 13:34-35)

How can we obey?

*<sup>12</sup> ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phil 2:13)*

- Our part / His part



What would it look like if we did obey?

*...how good and pleasant it is when  
brothers dwell in unity (Psalm 133:1)*

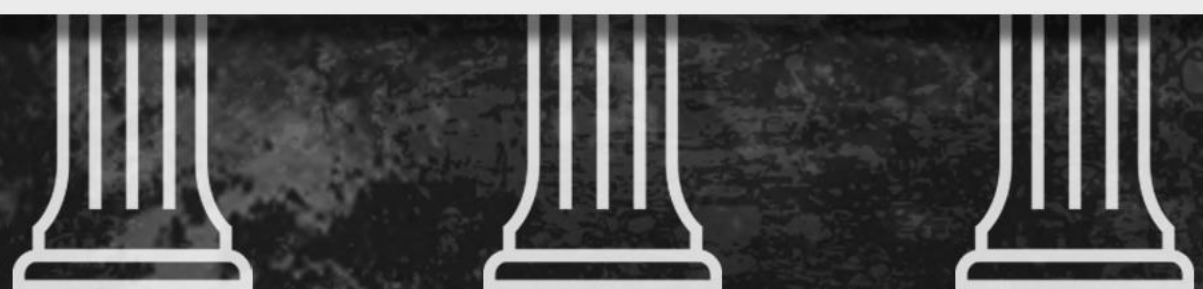
Love God, Love Neighbor, Love One Another...

This is what the Lord Jesus did...for us



# ROMANS

GOSPEL~ROOTED LIVING



Why do we get this so confused?

- Old Covenant = Mosaic Covenant
- Old & New Covenant  $\neq$  OT and NT
- Abrahamic Covenant
  - Land – Israel / New Heavens & New Earth
  - Seed – David / Jesus Christ
  - Blessings – Salvation by Works / Faith

Matt 5:18

*18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.*

- What “all” must be accomplished?

Matt 5:19

*19 ...relaxes one of the least of these commandments...called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does ...called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

- What commandments must we obey?

Matt 5:20

*<sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

- To what degree / level must we obey?

Rom 10:4

*<sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

- It was thought the Law was the way one could attain salvation (justification)
- The Gospel - Faith alone, in Christ alone