

WHAT IS THE LAW OF GOD? Pt.1

The Lord's Day 10th April 2022.

Scripture readings: Exodus 20:1-17, 2 Timothy 3:16, Exodus 24:12, 31:18, Romans 7:14-16, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Romans 1:16-32, Jeremiah 6:27-30, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 3:21-29, Romans 7:18-25, Romans 4:13-16, James 1:12-27, Romans 10:4, Jeremiah 23:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21.

1. THE LAW IS "SPIRITUAL": IT IS OF GOD & GIVEN BY GOD'S SPIRIT.

The Bible is called "God's Word" for good reason: 2 Timothy 3:16,

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

If all scripture is given by the inspiration of God, then how much more are the Ten Commandments given by the inspiration of the same Spirit of God, when we are told that God Himself wrote them on tables of stone! Exodus 24:12,

*And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee **tables of stone**, and a **law**, and commandments **which I have written**; that thou mayest teach them.*

Exodus 31:18,

*And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, **written with the finger of God.***

The Scriptures are clear – God Himself wrote the Commandments!

The apostle Paul comments on the spirituality of the law: Romans 7,

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

15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

*16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is good.**

Don't let any man tell you that the Law of God (the Moral Law, that is, the Ten Commandments) has been discarded. It was a New Testament apostle who said that "all scripture" is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction & instruction, and the same apostle said that the Law is "spiritual"!

There are different opinions about what the term "spiritual" means: Some think clairvoyance, or Eastern methods of healing, or even witchcraft & sorcery are spiritual, but the Biblical definition is that, if a person or thing is spiritual, it is of God and connected to the Spirit of Christ – all else is ungodly and unspiritual.

2. THE LAW IS GOD'S RULE OR STANDARD (THEREFORE, IT IS MORAL):

What is a standard? – A standard is a measure: Take for example, the "Australian Standards", which are applied to all sorts of industries and manufacturing. We have strict controls over what kinds of materials are allowed for construction of houses, motor cars, and so on. They are called 'Standards', and they must be adhered to.

What is a rule? – A rule is a measure: *In carpentry, you measure the piece of wood, and cut it to size. If it is cut short of the measure or rule, it is discarded, because it is useless. When we went to school and learned the basics of woodwork and metalwork, we had a ‘steel rule’ and a carpenter’s ‘folding rule’ to measure everything by – everything had to be measured by the ‘rule’. Nobody was foolish enough to say, “I don’t need the rule that everybody else measures with; I’ve made a rule of my own.” There is no such thing as a rule of my own, a rule is an established standard, it is unchanging, just like the Commandments written in stone by the finger of God.*

So, when we talk about ‘discarding’ something that isn’t according to the rule, what does ‘discard’ mean? – The Bible uses mainly two words for this:

- **“castaway” – 1 Corinthians 9,**
 27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: **lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**
Paul didn’t want to be a castaway, something that is useless to God, something that cannot be used in the construction of God’s building. If he preaches to others, then it is imperative that he practises what he preaches, or he is useless, “a castaway”. This is sadly the case of Brian Houston – because of serious moral failure, he has become a castaway, he is useless in the ministry, he cannot continue. This is a fearful thing – one episode of drunkenness, a bit of loose talk or loose behaviour, and a man can cross a line which ruins his reputation, and makes him useless in a leadership role (whether it be an elder in the Church, or an elder in the State), and while one error or one sin is not always sufficient to wreak such permanent destruction of a man’s reputation and position, if he lies about it, and then is exposed later on, and is forced to admit his error, this is disastrous. God help us all to be always honest, and not make shipwreck of our faith or of our testimony before others!
- **“reprobate” – unapproved, worthless, castaway, rejected (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance).**
Romans 1, (A “reprobate mind” describes a person who has a dishonest heart and is not a believer, but has rejected the true God and Christ):
 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind,** to do those things which are not convenient;
 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,
 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Paul is saying to the Romans what he has also said to the Corinthians, but here, he goes into greater detail, to show the awful downward spiral of men who reject God and His Rule, and being forsaken of God, their moral degeneration is catastrophic and without remedy.

In short, he is saying that if you reject God and His Rule, God rejects you, and the consequences are so terrible, that no man in his right mind would want to follow that path. However, the awful thing about it, is that a man who follows that path, is a man God has already rejected, and God has given him over to a reprobate mind, (an unapproved, worthless, castaway, rejected mind) – this man is not in his right mind; he doesn't have a right mind to think with; he has gone beyond 'free will' to having no will of his own, so that his will is in bondage to the Devil's will; he is possessed by the Devil, and there is therefore, no remedy for those God has rejected.

This is the ultimate end of the man who claims he has rights and free will – he is reprobate, useless to the kingdom of God, cast away, rejected by God!

Jeremiah 6, (God said to Jeremiah the prophet):

27 I have set thee for a tower and a fortress among my people, that thou mayest know and try their way.

28 They are all grievous revolters, walking with slanders: they are brass and iron; they are all corrupters.

29 The bellows are burned, the lead is consumed of the fire; the founder melteth in vain: for the wicked are not plucked away.

30 Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.

This was God's judgment of Israel. God sent Jeremiah to tell his own people that God had rejected them. God had put them through the fire of testing and purification, but they were "reprobate silver", like fool's gold, they proved to be not the genuine article, so they were cast away, rejected – "reprobate silver".

We see a striking contrast to this in Job, who went through awful trials, but was confident of his standing with God – Job 23:10, But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. Job knew God, and he knew he was not 'reprobate silver', but gold in God's fire, and gold cannot be destroyed by the furnace.

Paul gives specific instruction on what this means for every man: He calls them "the unrighteous", and he explains that,

ALL THE UNRIGHTEOUS SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD – THEY ARE ALL REJECTED: 1 Corinthians 6,

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither **fornicators**, nor **idolaters**, nor **adulterers**, nor **effeminate**, nor **abusers of themselves with mankind** (*i.e. homosexuals*),

10 Nor **thieves**, nor **covetous**, nor **drunkards**, nor **revilers**, nor **extortioners**, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

If any of these descriptive words describe you, you shall NOT inherit the kingdom of God. If you are:

- *A homosexual (**abusers of themselves with mankind**). If you have rejected God's standard for one man and one woman bound in a marriage covenant, you have chosen the path of adultery, you fly in the face of the Commandment: "Thou shalt not commit adultery".*
- *An idolater. If you have rejected God's Law, "Thou shalt have no other Gods.....", and choose to worship other gods, you have rejected Him, and He has rejected you.*
- *A drunkard. If you are in the habit of getting drunk, you shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Drunkenness, or gluttony, or obsession with the accumulation of wealth, are all forms of covetousness, and fly in the face of the Tenth Commandment. They are rejected. They shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*
- *A reviler. If you think you have the right to abuse people whenever it seems good to you, you are a reviler. To call a thief 'a thief', or a liar 'a liar', is not reviling, but if you never cease to maliciously attack a person with verbal abuse, out of hatred, jealousy, or a self-righteous spirit, you are a reviler – you shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

WE COULD GO ON AND ON, BUT THE POINT IS THAT GOD'S LAW IS THE RULE, IT IS THE INFALLIBLE RULE, THE ETERNAL RULE, WHICH WHEN APPLIED TO THE BUILDING STONE, DETERMINES WHETHER THAT STONE BELONGS IN GOD'S BUILDING OR NOT. The Ten Commandments are all put in a negative frame – "Thou shalt not...." Not every Commandment begins with the words, "Thou shalt not", but all Ten have an equally negative application – not only is death the consequence of any breach of any one of the Commandments, but each commandment has its own consequences – hence, Paul's summary of the doctrine of the Law: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?**"**

So, the Law is telling me, that if I dare to disagree with God, and to say that the Law is not spiritual, not of God, not God's eternal moral rule, or to say that I don't care anyway, then according to that law, I am unrighteous, and I am not a Christian, no matter how many good works I do.

But people want to argue for compassion and love (so-called). They say we must love sinners! Jesus loves sinners! Yes, He loves them enough to warn them, that if they are any of the above unrighteous persons, they shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Because, those who SHALL inherit the kingdom of God, are those who are washed, those who agree with God’s Rule, those who have repented of all their sin, those who have resorted to Jesus the Saviour of sinners, and who have been CHANGED by His grace, and are indwelt by the same Spirit of God, Who gave the commandments, and Who gave all these warnings, about God’s Rule, God’s Measure, God’s Standard, to determine which ones He will make a part of His eternal temple. Hence,

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

So, the same Spirit of God and Christ, Who gave the Law, also justifies sinners who come to Christ.

Continued the Lord’s Day, 17th April 2022.

We began last week, in this brief lesson on The Law, to observe:

Firstly, that The Law is Spiritual, which Paul tells us plainly in **Romans 7:14**, and it is spiritual because it is God-given, it is of the Spirit of God, it is inspired by God, and not only inspired by God, but even written by the very finger of God, on tables of stone, according to **Exodus 24:12 & 31:18**.

Secondly, that the Law is God’s Rule or Standard – it is the rule by which everything in creation is measured. Therefore, the Law of God is moral – it shows up every alternative as either immoral or amoral. That which disagrees with the Law or opposes the Law, such as adultery, lying, idolatry etc., is immoral; that which is completely lawless and rejects any moral code, and reserves the right of every man to do as he pleases, is amoral. Both the immoral and the amoral prevail in our society today all over the world, in the courts and the governments and even the churches, while God’s Law is publicly and openly abused, ridiculed, and rejected. We saw that the Bible calls “unrighteous” those who reject God’s Law or systematically and habitually break it, and those who do so, become what is called “reprobate” – God gives them over to a reprobate mind, according to **Romans 1**, and this reprobate mind is of God, it is His mark of reprobation on wilful sinners. This is the reason for what the whole world is observing at the present time – that in every nation, men and women are behaving in a completely irrational way, to the point where they show themselves openly to be utterly ridiculous – grown men and women, holding high office in government, in courts, in churches, in business, in fields of science, so corrupted by money and power, bribery and blackmail, that they will say anything at all, except to admit their treachery and lies. **We have a classic case of this reprobation in recent days, where the Queensland Minister for Health has publicly stated that there has suddenly been a 40% increase in ‘code one’s’ (heart attacks and strokes), and nobody can tell why!** She said she can’t tell us why, but I know why she ‘can’t tell us’, it is because if she tells us why, she will be admitting to one of the most heinous crimes of mass-murder ever perpetrated in this country, and she and all her colleagues would be in jail a very long time! That is **WHY!** There are millions of ordinary people who can see her treachery, but equally,

there are millions of others who believe her lies without questioning, whose reprobate minds are as simple as 'ABC'.

Paul declared in 1 Corinthians 6:9, that “the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” This leaves man in a dreadful, impossible, and hopeless state, unless Almighty God mercifully intervenes to save the sinner. Therefore, let us observe another purpose of the Law,

3. THE LAW IS GOD’S SCHOOLMASTER (“TO BRING US TO CHRIST”):

Galatians 3,

21 *Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid:* for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

22 *But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.*

23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL TO READ THIS IN ITS PROPER CONTEXT: THE CONTEXT IS THE SALVATION OR JUSTIFICATION OF SINNERS BEFORE GOD, AND THE MORAL LAW CANNOT DO THAT, ONLY THE GRACE OF GOD CAN – the Law condemns us as sinners, it does not save us – therefore, God has ordained that He will give eternal life, not for good works, not for adherence to the Law, but for simple faith in Christ.

SO, WHAT DOES PAUL MEAN WHEN HE SAYS, THAT ONCE WE HAVE COME TO CHRIST, WE NO LONGER NEED THE “SCHOOLMASTER” (I.E. THE LAW)? It simply means we don’t need the Law to save our souls – God’s sovereign grace has done what the Law could not do, but the Law is still spiritual, still useful, and still remains as God’s unchanging Moral Rule.

We must understand that the Old Covenant (under the Law of Moses), was a massive, centuries-long, real-life, object lesson, to show Israel and the whole world, that the Law cannot save a single soul, because the Law condemns us all as sinners, so that only the intervening grace of God can save us. We are all like the prisoner on death row, guilty as charged, awaiting death, and our only hope is a pardon by the Governor of King. A pardon is free and without any strings attached. A prisoner on death row knows that, from the moment he is sentenced, no good behaviour can save him – it’s too late; he is already judged guilty. Likewise, only sovereign free grace can save a guilty sinner.

THERE ARE MANY VARIETIES OF THE ‘WORKS’ HERESY, WHICH SAY THAT GRACE ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH – YOU NEED WORKS AS WELL TO SAVE YOUR SOUL: *Cult groups that say you are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus, but then you must strive to keep your salvation, you must maintain a level of holiness or obedience which is sufficient to get you into heaven at the end. This is heresy! And it is not only the cults who teach this heresy – it has many forms and shades in all religion except true, Biblical religion, which is called ‘Reformed’ or ‘Calvinistic’.*

This works heresy is taught by most Wesleyan Methodists, Churches of Christ, Pentecostals, and others, including all the so-called ‘cults’, and of course, the Church of Rome is the chief culprit, keeping the people in bondage, so that they are ever-striving to improve themselves, and finding that this false gospel of works cannot help or improve them at all (those who think so are kidding themselves), and those who stick to this false gospel of works fail to face the reality that Paul found (Romans 7):

18 For **I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:** for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Paul does not say that sin is acceptable, but that, although we are saints, set apart for God, we are still sinners until the day the resurrection makes us perfect.

John Wesley preached that perfection could be attained in this life – this is a lie and a false gospel! Not every Methodist today is as extreme as their father, John Wesley, but Wesley’s error has permeated, in some degree, practically all modern churches. The key error is that God’s absolute sovereignty has been rejected, because they all maintain that there is some part for man to play in his own salvation – even some of the most renowned Evangelical and Reformed preachers are on record as saying that we must repent in order to be saved! This is the most Satanically-cunning error of all – because the Bible does teach that we must repent of our sins, but as for salvation, it is purely on the basis of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ! Paul explains this very carefully in Romans 4,

13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was **not** to Abraham, or to his seed, **through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.**

14 For if they which are of the law *be* heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

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

16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all..... *God has deliberately engineered His plan of salvation for all His children, so that it does NOT depend on their own ability or performance, but purely on His grace – you BELIEVE and YOU ARE SAVED! The moment you believe in Jesus, God declares your faith to be RIGHTEOUSNESS! – not through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.*

The Seventh Day Adventists teach that you will be ultimately judged on your works, not solely on your faith in Christ. They say that the living and the dead must go through what they call ‘Investigative Judgments’, to determine who is saved and who isn’t. They say this judgment began in 1844.

From Wikipedia:

The **investigative judgment**, the **pre-Advent Judgment**, (or, more accurately the **pre-Second Advent Judgment**) is a unique [Seventh-day Adventist doctrine](#), which asserts that the divine judgment of professed [Christians](#) has been in progress since 1844. It is intimately related to the [history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church](#) and was described by one of the church's pioneers [Ellen G. White](#) as one of the [pillars of Adventist belief](#). ...

The Judgment will show those who are authentic believers in God from those who are not. "All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life." On the other hand, "**When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God's remembrance.**" "Sins that have not been repented of and forsaken will not be pardoned and blotted out of the books of record, but will stand to witness against the sinner in the day of God."

This also is a false gospel (There is nothing at all in Scripture to support Ellen G. White’s outrageous statement above, about blotting names out of the Book of Life! Ellen G. White is a false teacher and a false prophetess – all who follow her are deceived by a false gospel of works, not grace.), and it is really important that we know this, otherwise we become part of the Devil’s scheme of deception to deceive others, when we fail to expose it.

To say you can be given eternal life and then lose it later on, is a lie, a contradiction, an oxymoron. You either have eternal life or you don’t, and if the life God has given you is “eternal”, then it cannot end! What part of “eternal” and “everlasting” do these false teachers not understand?

BUT ALTHOUGH TRUE BELIEVERS ARE SAVED BY GRACE ALONE, THEY ARE ALSO “DOERS OF THE WORD” – I.E. THEY ARE OBEDIENT TO THE MORAL LAW: James 1, (James describes the man who has come to Christ, and is justified by faith, that such a man is a “doer” of God’s Word, not just a “hearer” – the doing comes after the believing!):

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

We are begotten of God by His grace alone, and from that point on, God deals with us as His own children – we are not on probation, but we are under instruction.

19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren (i.e., “Wherefore” – because we are God’s children...), let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

21 **Wherefore** lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: (in the old language, a ‘looking glass’, a mirror).

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and **straightway forgetteth** what manner of man he was.

25 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.**

If you want God’s blessings, then be a “doer” of His Word! It is one thing (in fact the most important thing) to be a child of God, by faith alone in Christ, and be destined for heaven, but it is far better to be blessed along the way as well. And the degree of blessing does depend on our degree of obedience.

James cites a very useful example of what he has just said about the Law of Liberty:

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, **and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

Sinners love sin; they do not love the Law of God; they find God’s Law an offence to them; they are incensed that God would dare to command them not to do or say what they are determined to do or say.

But saints (believers) are those who keep themselves unspotted from the world, and when they do sin, they are ashamed of it.

But James is also saying, “Now that you are born of God, act like children of God, and you will have His blessings always. Keep your heart! Keep your tongue! Keep yourself unspotted from the world, and you’ll be blessed!”

God’s Law is indeed our Schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, and this is our greatest joy, to be brought to Christ.

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

But then, having been brought to Christ, it follows that we must continue to sit at His feet, under His guidance and instruction.

Christ (God in the flesh) is God’s Rule in the flesh! He is “the Word of God” (Revelation 19), ‘THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS’ (Jeremiah 23:6), He is the righteousness of every believer, because Christ “knew no sin”, and therefore qualified as the Passover lamb, without blemish, as an acceptable sacrifice for us, because God had not only ordained that he who keeps the Law shall live and he who fails to keep the Law shall die, but He also ordained that He would provide the perfect, sinless sacrifice to die the death in our place. God give us grace to love Him always in return for His inestimable love for us!

2 Corinthians 5:21, For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. *Amen!*