



God's Law Lesson 6: Christ's Death and the Law

For May 10, 2014

2 Peter 3:15-16 GNB "Look on our Lord's patience as the opportunity he is giving you to be saved, just as our dear friend Paul wrote to you, using the wisdom that God gave him. (16) This is what he says in all his letters when he writes on the subject. There are some difficult things in his letters which ignorant and unstable people explain falsely, as they do with other passages of the Scriptures. So they bring on their own destruction."

Memory Text:

Romans 7:4 GNB "That is how it is with you, my friends. As far as the Law is concerned, you also have died because you are part of the body of Christ; and now you belong to him who was raised from death in order that we might be useful in the service of God."

SABBATH

Christ's Death and the Law

Read the first three paragraphs. What is the difference between the speed limit and the law of God?

- One is enacted
- One is inherent

If the law was an enacted law, the law could be done away with to suit a change in circumstances. Why can't the law of God be changed?

- It is inherent in who God is and thus in how things are constructed.
- To do away with / change the law of God would end life / universe as it truly is.

This week's lesson assumes that the Law of God **is** an enacted law and therefore confuses two laws

- The Law of God (the law of love) of God's kingdom
- The Law of sin and death of Satan's kingdom.
- The law of selfishness and survival of self at the expense of all others.

At the cross, the epitome of both of these laws was demonstrated. Christ's death demonstrated the Law of God's kingdom (love) and Satan demonstrated the law of his kingdom (the law of sin and death).

"At the cross of Calvary, love and selfishness stood face to face. Here was their crowning manifestation. Christ had lived only to comfort and bless, and in putting Him to death, Satan manifested the malignity of his hatred against God. He made it evident that the real purpose of his rebellion was to dethrone God, and to destroy Him through whom the love of God was shown." {DA 57.2}

It is impossible to explain the origin of sin so as to give a reason for its existence. Yet enough may be understood concerning both the origin and the final disposition of sin, to make fully manifest the justice and benevolence of God in all His dealings with evil. Nothing is more



plainly taught in Scripture than that God was in no wise responsible for the entrance of sin.... Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it, is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be sin. Our only definition of sin is that given in the word of God; it is “the transgression of the law;” (1 John 3:4) it is the outworking of a principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government.¹⁹{TMK 15.2}

“The Bible is its own expositor. Scripture is to be compared with scripture. The student should learn to view the word as a whole, and to see the relation of its parts. He should gain a knowledge of its grand central theme, of God’s original purpose for the world, of the rise of the great controversy, and of the work of redemption. He should understand the nature of the two principles that are contending for supremacy, and should learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation. He should see how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found.” {Ed 190.2}

SUNDAY

Read the Text of the day: Romans 7:1-6

The Lesson Study Guide has it right in the first paragraph, “The emphasis is not on the dead but on the living”

Just a side note: Why are the dead no longer under the law? They are no longer in the universe?

If they were not sleeping; if they had gone immediately to some other of God’s realm: the law would still apply because they would still be part of God’s universe that was constructed on God’s principles.

Second paragraph: The old self is under the law of this world.

In the fourth paragraph the guide says: “the believer is now married to Christ means that the law is no longer an instrument of condemnation; the believer in Jesus is free from the condemnation of the law because he or she is **covered** in the righteousness of Jesus.”

He is not just covered. He is Christ through and through.

Romans 12:2 GNB “Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God---what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.”

The next paragraph ends by saying: “the law no longer hold him or her in the grip of condemnation because the person now “belongs to Jesus.”



Just as an MRI no longer “condemns” a person whose tumor has disappeared and been healed into a healthy person. The MRI scanner now no longer holds you in fear because you have been made whole.

MONDAY

The first paragraph states there is one law. I believe, as stated earlier, there are two. Read Romans 7:7-13

How does the law “cause sin to stir up all kinds of selfish desires”? It also says that Paul was “alive apart from the law.” Really? Or in perception

Second paragraph talks about a purse thief and purse owner. How does an enacted law protect the purse owner? Fear, risk of punishment, etc

How does an inherent law protect the purse holder? The Golden Rule as part of the DNA of all concerned.

The will of God is expressed in the precepts of His holy law, and the principles of this law are the principles of heaven. The angels of heaven attain unto no higher knowledge than to know the will of God, and to do His will is the highest service that can engage their powers. {MB 109.1}

But in heaven, service is not rendered in the spirit of legality. When Satan rebelled against the law of Jehovah, the thought that there was a law came to the angels almost as an awakening to something unthought of. In their ministry the angels are not as servants, but as sons. There is perfect unity between them and their Creator. Obedience is to them no drudgery. Love for God makes their service a joy. So in every soul wherein Christ, the hope of glory, dwells, His words are re-echoed, “I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.” Psalm 40:8. {MB 109.2}

“However, in the same way that God’s retributive vengeance does not stop Him from being a God of love, the law’s function as an agent of sin and death does not make it sinful.”

Wrong, wrong, wrong.

If God is truly a God of vengeance, then he is using force to coerce beings into law obedience, and he has destroyed his universe of love. It does make a difference!

Bottom pink question: “How do you relate to the law when you violate it?”

How do you relate to the MRI scanner when you have a tumor? When you go into the scanner is there any concern? Is because the scanner is going to hurt you?

I have often wanted to go in the scanner just to look at my innards. What I call a healthy curiosity. But



if I was sick, I would really like them to find what was wrong.

Psalms 139:23 - 24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Psalms 139:23-24 GNB “Examine me, O God, and know my mind; test me, and discover my thoughts. (24) Find out if there is any evil in me and guide me in the everlasting way.”

TUESDAY:

The Power of the Law

First question: What is the function of the Law?

Romans 4:15 “PhillipsNT “For the Law can produce no promise, only the threat of wrath to come. And, indeed, if there were no Law the question of sin would not arise.” Where is there no law? No where.

Even if we do not know there is a law, that does not mean that it does not exist.

Acts 17:30 GW “God overlooked the times when people didn't know any better. But now he commands everyone everywhere to turn to him and change the way they think and act.”

Were they still dying? If the consequences of the law are inherent. If the consequences of the law are enacted.

Romans 5:12-14 GNB “Sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it. As a result, death has spread to the whole human race because everyone has sinned. (13) There was sin in the world before the Law was given; but where there is no law, no account is kept of sins. (14) But from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, death ruled over all human beings, even over those who did not sin in the same way that Adam did when he disobeyed God's command. Adam was a figure of the one who was to come.”

Romans 7:7 GNB Shall we say, then, that the Law itself is sinful? Of course not! **But it was the Law that made me know what sin is.** If the Law had not said, “Do not desire what belongs to someone else,” I would not have known such a desire.

Read first paragraph: “So the law is used to define sin. Had it not been for God’s law, there would be no absolute method of knowing what actions were acceptable or unacceptable to Him. And though sin cannot exist without the law, Paul makes it clear that the law is not a willing partner with sin:

So what is killing me? The Law? Sin! The wages of sin is death.

What about the angels in heaven? Did they know what they were supposed to do without a written law?



Why? / Why not?

Romans 7:13 GNB But does this mean that what is good caused my death? By no means! It was sin that did it; by using what is good, sin brought death to me, in order that its true nature as sin might be revealed. And so, by means of the commandment sin is shown to be even more terribly sinful.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Second paragraph of Tuesday's Lesson Guide: "Had it not been for the law, there would be no death because it would be impossible to define sin."

No! "Death reigned from Adam to Moses" Romans 5:14

Just because you do not know the danger, doesn't mean danger does not exist. You are able to recognize danger and find a cure (Christ) when you are aware of the danger you are in. We should be thankful when we have guardrails and warning signs.

My experience hiking in Italy with my little children:

- ages 5 & 7
- Rode the cable car up into the mountains and walked out to a large cross.
- My surgery professor: if you need guard rails you don't belong up there.
- You should have enough self control to not need external controls.

WEDNESDAY:

The Impotent Law

Read the first paragraph of Wednesday's Lesson: Though in one sense, as we saw, the law "empowers" sin, in another real way the law is terribly impotent. How can the same object be both powerful and impotent at the same time.

Just like an MRI: it can diagnose but cannot heal. It would be like a physician that was trying to treat your disease with an MRI.

In the second paragraph it speaks about "God's will" What is God's will?

"All come to repentance" and "all to be saved"

Wednesday's texts are some of the most meaningful texts for God's love and restoration for us. Acts 13:38, 39; Romans 8:3; Galatians 3:21

The second paragraph is well said. Read it out loud for the class.



Why is the third paragraph true? Or not.

Romans 8:7 GNB “And so people become enemies of God when they are controlled by their human nature; for they do not obey God's law, and in fact they cannot obey it.”

“The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely—because he is required to do so—will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right—because right doing is pleasing to God.” {COL 97}

THURSDAY:

The Curse of the Law

What is the curse of the law? How do you get the curse of the law? Does the law do it?

Read the Bible texts for the day:

Psalms 51:5 GNB “I have been evil from the day I was born; from the time I was conceived, I have been sinful.”

Isaiah 64:6 GNB “All of us have been sinful; even our best actions are filthy through and through. Because of our sins we are like leaves that wither and are blown away by the wind.”

Romans 3:23 GNB “everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence.”

The first paragraph talks about a “natural person.” Is there such a thing anymore? In God’s universe, what is natural? Only by being infected with the disease of sin, are we what we are today. Some day soon, God will make all things new, and then the natural state of things will be restored.

The illustration of my laptop: I had been working on typing out my study notes when I heard an audio alarm from my laptop. My battery was almost expired. Only by connecting to the power source was healthy computing restored. We need daily and constant connection with our “Power Source” to truly live. We may think we are OK, and it may appear to be so for a short period of time, but we ultimately will cease to live without God.

The last sentence of the first paragraph says: “ The truth is, the law demands total and complete **conformity**, and who has ever always given that, except Jesus?”

Christ goal for us is not conformity... **It is Unity**



John 17:21 GNB “I pray that they may all be one. Father! May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me.”

Why? We have a disease. We need a cure, not a legal pardon.

We need to read the last three paragraphs of Thursday’s lesson with an understanding of where the curse comes from. It is not from God.

Genesis 3: there are only two things that were cursed.

- The serpent
- The ground
- Genesis 3:17 GW Then he said to the man, "You listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree, although I commanded you, 'You must never eat its fruit.' The ground is cursed because of you. Through hard work you will eat food that comes from it every day of your life.

- The ground was cursed “because of you” (Adam)
- It wasn’t from God
- It was the result of what man (Adam) had done and it is played out of the succeeding generations / years.

FRIDAY:

Further Study

Read the first paragraph from EGW

Read the first two sentences of the second paragraph: “In summary, the death of Jesus powerfully demonstrated the permanence of God’s law. When our first parents sinned, God could have abolished His laws and taken away the penalties for violation.”

- This is impossible
- God can change not
- He is and always will be love personified

The last sentence: “This means that any one of us, through faith in Jesus, can have our sins forgiven and stand perfect in God’s sight.

How?

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

God’s graciousness is not a cover for sin, it is a transformation. It is a gift of transformation and restoration to his original ideal. This passage does not say “he will be a new creature” ; It says he is a new creature.