



## God's Law Lesson #9: Christ, the Law and the Gospel

For May 31, 2014

Memory Text: "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17, NKJV)

Grace

- Your definition of grace will depend upon your perspective of what has gone wrong.
- If the object of salvation is doing away with records of sinful acts: you need a magic solution

Grace is Magic - Applied

- If you understand salvation as a destruction of a relationship and infection of character: then you need to know the characteristics of the people involved

Grace is an individual's characteristic

Grace is a description of what God is like

Would it bother you if you lost the word "grace" from your favorite texts?

When you read John 1:14, what do you hear?

John 1:14 KJV And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Would it bother you to read it from a more contemporary translation.

John 1:14 GW The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth.

John 1:14 CEV The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us.

John 1:14 - 17 NLT14 So the Word became human[d] and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.[e] And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.15 John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'"16 From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.[f] 17 For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God,[g] is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

How you understand what the problem is, what your's and my problem is, will determine what you or I hear is good news.



#### Discussion about Bible translations

- No heritage of dominating translation and it's misuse
- Translators in my office
- Family members as translators
- Four professional

We need to be aware of where our wording and terminology of theology comes from.

Songs alter our perception. The translator's paradigm modifies the words they choose for translation.

### **SABBATH**

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Read first two paragraphs

The second says: "And two manifestations of that passionate interest in humanity are found in His law (which is to guide how we live) and His grace (His means of saving us even though we have violated that law)."

We have often compared the law to an MRI scanner. Both are diagnostic instruments. Paul says he would not have known what sin was without the law.

Consider the MRI scanner:

- It does not tell me how to form my parts.
- It doesn't tell me how to get well.
- It tells me when my parts are not formed correctly.

How is the law different?

Can we truly mend our ways by seeing the perfect law or are we not brought to Christ by the law: Christ is the perfecter of our faith and healer of our lives. (Hebrews 12:2) "the founder and perfecter of our faith"

completer, finisher, bringing to maturity

The law does not have the power

We do not have the power

Law and grace are not external forces that are sprinkled on our exterior to make us look good.

They are inherent in the Christian that the Holy Spirit uses in our transformation from within to become like God.

"Now, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel in the days to come, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 11 None of them will have to teach their friends or tell their neighbors, 'Know the Lord.' For they will all know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 I



will forgive their sins and will no longer remember their wrongs.”

## SUNDAY

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### Sin and the Law

As a result of the discussion in the first six chapters of Romans, Paul is discussing the law and sin. The implication is that there may be something wrong with the law.

Is the law sin or sinful? Is the law bad or at fault?

Read the first three paragraphs. Is the second paragraph describing God's law? Could it apply to one location, time, place and not another?

Which law?

- God's Law of Love: no
- The Ten Commandments: yes
- Angels do not need guidelines for parents, etc
- But as a distillation of God's Law of Love for humans, they always apply. It cannot be changed to something else.
- They were not enacted

Read the third paragraph. Would a good law be good if it was enforced incorrectly? That is why the issue of who God is and what he is like is so crucial to the basis of the Great Controversy.

## MONDAY

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### The Law and Israel (Deut 30:15 - 18)

The point of the first paragraph is that the Law was the distinguishing thing for the Children of Israel. Why is it not the distinguishing thing that Christ said would identify His followers? It is!!!

God's law of love is to be our distinguishing mark. Hint: What have we made the law into?

How do people see it? If we see it as an enacted entity, to control us, then it is external and coercive. If it truly is an internal design protocol that is inherent in how we are made, then it is a divine blessing.

Have we been part of changing "times and laws"?

Read Deuteronomy 30:15 - 20 from GNB/TEV.

"Today I am giving you a choice between good and evil, between life and death. (16) If you obey the commands of the LORD your God, which I give you today, if you love him, obey him, and keep all his laws, then you will prosper and become a nation of many people. The LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are about to occupy. (17) But if you disobey and refuse to listen, and are led away to worship other gods, (18) you will be



destroyed---I warn you here and now. You will not live long in that land across the Jordan that you are about to occupy. (19) I am now giving you the choice between life and death, between God's blessing and God's curse, and I call heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. **Choose life.** (20) Love the LORD your God, obey him and be faithful to him, and then you and your descendants will live long in the land that he promised to give your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

"Choose Life" -- The Study Guide links to Matthew 7:24-27. The Wise Man and the Foolish Man each build a house. God did not intervene to knock down the Foolish Man's house. If we do not listen to what Christ says, we are being foolish and no one will have to destroy us.

The Pink Section:

"In your own experience, how are obedience and faith related? That is, when you obey, what happens to your faith in contrast to when you disobey? How does obedience strengthen faith?"

## **TUESDAY**

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### **The Law and the Nations**

The third paragraph beginning "Whether God's will is revealed. . ." is a lot of "dark speech".

I remember thinking as a young person: "Don't learn anything more about God, that way you won't be responsible for anything else."

An Ellen White quote squashed that for me, but how sad that someone is tempted to learn less about God.

- He is our source
- Our friend
- Our closest family member
- Our best supporter and confidant.

In the last paragraph, it discusses the Law received in the Bible or Ten Commandments and the law of conscience.

- Is there a difference between these two laws?
- They are the same (if our conscience is healthy).
  - That is the point of a part of the Sermon on the Mount
  - The law of our life is internal, either the law of love or the law of sin and death.
- Is there a benefit from being a Jew and growing up with the Mosaic Law?
- Is there a benefit for the SDA Christian?
- Is there a benefit from living with your spouse as opposed to living 500 miles away?
- If your spouse is lovely to be with and a good person, it is beneficial to live as close as possible.
- God's word in all its forms help us live closer to Him.



## WEDNESDAY

### Grace and Truth

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Are these things different from each other? What about the blind men and the elephant? These are the epitome of how things are revealed about God: Did God reveal grace and truth prior to Christ? What are your examples?

Read the first paragraph. The last sentence is excellent!

Question in middle of page: "What do Philippians 2:8, John 15:10, and Matthew 26:39 tell us about the kind of life that Jesus lived?"

Philippians 2:8 GNB He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death--- his death on the cross.

John 15:10 GNB If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

Matthew 26:39 GNB He went a little farther on, threw himself face downward on the ground, and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me! Yet not what I want, but what you want."

The second paragraph says: "When he disobeyed the express command of God, the first Adam plunged the entire world into disarray and bondage."

When did Adam sin?

When he distrusted God?

The chewing on the apple was a result of his sin and distrust of God.

Read the rest of the paragraph.

Psalms 85:10 GNB "Love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will embrace."

According to Romans 6:23 and Ephesians 2:8, what is the nature of the grace that originates in Jesus? How did Jesus supply grace for humans? In the same way that He provided law; it is inherent in His being.

Romans 6:23 GNB "For sin pays its wage---death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord."

Ephesians 2:8 GNB For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it.

The last sentence of the page says: "Grace not only frees us from the condemnation of the law, but it enables us to keep the law in the way that we are called to do." This is by changing us into His likeness so we will "be like He is." 1 John 3:2



## THURSDAY

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### The Law and the Gospel

Read the first paragraph. Read Revelation 12:10

Romans 7:24-25 GNB What an unhappy man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is taking me to death? (25) Thanks be to God, who does this through our Lord Jesus Christ! This, then, is my condition: on my own I can serve God's law only with my mind, while my human nature serves the law of sin.

Romans 8:37-39 GNB No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us! (38) For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, (39) neither the world above nor the world below---there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Read the second and third paragraph of Thursday's lesson. (We are terminal without salvation. Salvation is the Gospel / Good News)

This is the gospel.

My gospel is not about me.

The Salvation of me and others is not my gospel.

My gospel is that God is love.

Because of His love He has done everything necessary to heal me and return me to being human.

But the real good news is what He is really like.

That makes eternity Heaven.

What was the Gospel in Christ's day? What gospel did Christ preach? The word used 18 times in four books we call the gospels.

Matthew doesn't say what Christ was preaching when He preached the gospel.

Mark 1:14 "preaching the Gospel of God, and saying "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel (good news)."

Luke 16:16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the law to fail."

Why was this good news to those people? Would it be good news for us?

What is the good news we as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians to be giving to those around us?

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