



The Good News

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Is there still Law today?

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If you have had the opportunity to talk to others about the Bible, you have probably been exposed to the belief that the New Law isn't a law at all, but rather guidelines to help man come into a relationship with God. Obviously having a relationship is at the core of our salvation, for if we are not in fellowship with God we cannot be saved. However, the means by which we enter into that relationship, or fellowship, with God is the matter of some debate among those of the religious world, especially when true Christians enter into the discussion. Many, and perhaps the majority, of those in the religious community do not read the New Testament and find the concept of law, but rather find grace and mercy to the extent that these override all else. This means that once I become saved (typically by accepting Jesus into my heart) I cannot fall from grace because God has set me free from sin, and in so doing He has set me free from law. Never mind the fact that the very term "testament" means "covenant, and "covenant" implies law. This morning we want to analyze the thoughts of the world regarding law to see if they accord with what the Bible teaches.

"The New Testament specifically condemns the concept of law..." – Most come to this conclusion during a reading of Romans, in which Paul does not actually condemn the concept of law so much as he condemns the concept that simply obeying law will make one righteous. In context, he is speaking of the Old Law, but this also applies to the New Law. One cannot be justified by Law alone; it must be through faith that one obeys the law. So how can we show that the Bible does not actually condemn law? In **Jeremiah 31:33**, God prophesies that one day He would set His law into the hearts of

those who would be His people, which we can see are Christians. In **Rom. 3:27** Paul compares the Old Law to the "*law of faith*". Even though faith is mentioned, Paul does not include the word "*law*" for fun, but is rather referencing the fact that the New Law is indeed a law of its own. It is clear that Paul does not, nor does any other writer of the New Testament, condemn the concept of law.

"Jesus came to do away with law..." – Many believe this because of what Paul says in **Eph. 2:15** regarding how Christ abolished the "*law of commandments*" when He died on the cross. This is, of course, a reference to the Old Law, but those who believe this think it extends to the entire concept of law. If this is true, why then does Paul refer to the "*law of Christ*" in **Gal. 6:2**? Is this just metaphorical license? Or does Paul really believe that there is a new *law* in Christ? Paul says in **Rom. 10:4** that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness. Note that Paul does *not* say that Jesus *put* an end to law, only that He is the end of law. This, in fact, proves there continues to be law in that Christ, and the law that He established, is the end of the revelation of law. Only by submission and obedience to His law can one obtain righteousness.

We have only looked at two thoughts that the world has regarding law, and there are several others that can also be considered. However, we must understand that the term "law" is used often with connection to, and usually in contrast to, grace and mercy. While grace and mercy are certainly important, they are only seen and contacted through belief and obedience to what God says.