



# The Good News

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## *Is there still Law today? (pt.2)*

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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. Last week, we considered two arguments some might make condemning the idea of a New Law in Christ. This morning we are going to analyze two more thoughts of the world regarding law to see if they accord with what the Bible teaches.

***"The very idea of law takes away from God's grace..."*** – Again, many come to this conclusion during a reading of Romans, in which Paul discusses grace and its relationship to God and the Old Law. The general argument is that since the grace of God is a "gift" (Eph. 2:8), then there is nothing we can do, or should do, to "earn" God's favor. God simply bestows it on us when we believe. However, notice what **Eph. 2:8-9** actually says, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."* What exactly is the "gift of God"? Paul says in **Romans 6:23** that *"the gift of God is eternal life in Christ*

*Jesus our Lord."* So then what Paul is referring to in **Eph. 2:8** as being a "gift" is not His grace, but rather salvation. Does this mean we can "earn" God's grace? Certainly not! However, God bestows His grace, of favor, on us when we through faith obey Him. How do we know what to do to obey Him? Law.

***"The Gospel is about relationship, now law..."*** – The New Hermeneutic crowd insist that the Gospel, and in fact the entire Bible, is simply a love letter from God to man, and is a guide to have a closer relationship with God. Any specifics or "commandments" shouldn't be given any major attention, because that would take away from their idea of a "relationship". While we could go all sorts of ways to discuss this argument, consider the simplicity of John's words in **1 John 1:5-7**, *"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."* John describes how that God is light. If we are to have fellowship with the Father, we must also walk in the light, not darkness. This shows that there is a standard of conduct that God requires for us to be in a relationship with Him. How do we know what that conduct is (or isn't)? Law.

We must help others understand that while God's grace is certainly important, it can only be contacted through belief and obedience to what God says. In doing so, we can have a relationship with God that is based on truth, not just feelings.