
Law and Grace

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? (Romans 6:1 NASB) May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? (Romans 6:2 NASB)

My Testimony to you today is:

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His Blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod.
For I'm part of the Family, the Family of God.

~Today is the Day~

Hopefully, everyone in here today has this [The family of God] as their testimony. If not, then today is the day of salvation. In Luke, chapter 19, Zaccheus the chief tax collector, climbed up a sycamore tree, because he was



small in stature, so he could get a glimpse of Jesus. Jesus spotted him and asked him to come down and He would go to his house today.

Zaccheus began to repent of his way. *And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. (Luke 19:9 NASB) "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10 NASB)* Zaccheus made it right with Jesus, that day, not another day, but that day, because today is the day of salvation.

~Three Wonders in Heaven~

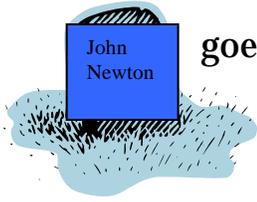
John Newton said, "When I get to heaven I shall see three
3 wonders there. The first wonder will be, to see many people there whom I did not expect to see – the second wonder will be, to miss many people whom I did expect to see - and the third and greatest wonder of all, will be to find myself there."

Newton's Gravestone; Grace

In his lifetime, John Newton authored more than 280 hymns, and when he died, these words, at his own request, were graven on his tombstone:

"John Newton, clerk/Once an Infidel and Libertine/ A servant of slaves in Africa/ was, by the rich mercy of our Lord/ and Savior, Jesus Christ,

preserved/Restored and pardoned and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy.”



Of all his hymns, perhaps one of the dearest of all is the one which goes, “Amazing grace how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!/I once was lost, but now am found/ Was blind but now I see.”

John Newton understood how amazing, how marvelous God’s grace is!

~Only Grace Only Law~

Some Christians believe that there is only Grace. Some Christians believe there is only Law. Some Christians believe that the Old Testament is done away with and not anything in it is reverent for us today. Some church denominations have on their signs, literature and door steps; “We are a New Testament Church.” But, what is a “New Testament Church.”? I surmise to you that we, as



“True Christians, cannot be only an Old Testament Church or only a New Testament Church; because we are to submit to the FULL Word of God; Which are the complete writings of the Old and New Testaments. You see, Scripture cannot be broken; Jesus Christ himself said that and as recorded in the book of John, *If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;* (John 10:35 KJV) This means that if broken, there will be contradictions in God’s Word.

Remember, the New Testament was not written when Jesus walked this earth, it was being written. Jesus had to fulfill His time here on earth before we would have the New Testament. Jesus himself even said; when being temped by the devil and recorded in several books of the Bible, but we pick it up in



Matthew 4:4; *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"* (Matthew 4:4 NASB) Does this sound like you can pick the Old or the New Testament only?

Jesus even said that the law would not pass away. Matthew 5:18; *"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.* (Matthew 5:18 NASB)

To be honest with everyone, I can see where, if you read certain verses in the Bible, and listen to certain teachers, you could come to the conclusion that the law is done away with, especially if you read the New Testament out of context in relation to the Old Testament.

~What the law cannot do~

Some people will be shocked by the assertion that there are some things the law cannot do. The law can only reveal sin, but it is powerless to save from sin. It can show us our weakness, but it cannot provide strength. It can only condemn, but cannot justify. The law commands, but does not enable; the law slays, but grace alone can make alive. Grace disposes and gives the needed power. Law is outward; grace is inward.

~Objecting to the Law~

Some non-believers and even believers may object to the laws imposed by God on man. But, remember that God has every right to do what He wants to with His creation. He created it, all of it, out of nothing. He created you and me, if it wasn't for God we would not exist. But, He does give us the freedom to break or to adhere to His law. In simple language, we are either living for Satan or Jesus Christ. Paul sheds a little light on the subject in Romans 9; *On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? (Romans 9:20 NASB) Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? (Romans 9:21 NASB)*



Some unbelievers even say that, “sin exists only because God has imposed the Law, and if He had not done so, we would be without sin”. *The LORD has*  *made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.* (Proverbs 16:4 NASB) Grace is defined by the Law, for without the Law there would not be knowledge of sin and thus, without sin, there would not be the need of Grace. God does not answer to man! Man answers to God, the creator of the universal and of you and me.

The law is unchangeable and it is good, see what the Psalmist says;
The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (Psalms 19:7 NASB)
The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. (Psalms 19:8 NASB)
The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. (Psalms 19:9 NASB)
They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. (Psalms 19:10 NASB)
Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward. (Psalms 19:11 NASB)

~The Law~

The law was given for the benefit of man to limit sin. As Moses said to man

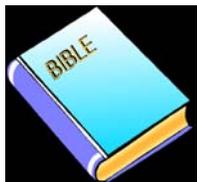


right after he received the Ten Commandments written by the finger of God, he said in Exodus 20:20; *Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin."*

(Exodus 20:20 NASB) You see, God was looking out for His people, but His people continued to rebel and turn from Him. I often think of Moses and if he had not been the mediator between them and God, what would have happened to the Israelites?

~Changes Not~

The statutes of God are rooted into His character. Malachi 3:6 tells us; *"For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not*



consumed. (Malachi 3:6 NASB) This would make the characteristics of God in the Old and the New Testaments the same. The Old and New Testaments complement each other

instead of opposing each other. Look at Hebrews 13:8; *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8 NASB)* This would include both Old and New Testaments. Maybe we should discard those sheets of paper in our Bible that says Old and New Testaments. "It's one Bible."

~God is Holy~

God is the only one that is holy. So if He is the only one that is holy, why would we not trust, honor and keep His commandments? Look at Revelation 15:4; *"Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."* (Revelation 15:4 NASB) And then, how about Mark 10:18; *and Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. (Mark 10:18 NASB)*

~God is Righteous~

For God is a righteous God and He loves righteousness as recorded in Psalm 11:7; *For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face. (Psalms 11:7 NASB)* And then from the mouth of God, as all Holy Scripture; Paul tells us in Romans 7:12; *So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. (Romans 7:12 NASB)*

As one author put it, the reason the law was given was because the law cannot save us, and so then given our wickedness, it's impossible to save our self. The writer of Hebrews said; *Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; (Hebrews 10:11 NASB)* And then the Hebrews author said; *who does not need daily, like those*

high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

(Hebrews 7:27 NASB) Human laws are used to restrain the evil in human nature. Look at all the human laws we have in place, to supposedly protect us from society ills. Human nature is evil ever since Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden. The perfect garden until sin was acknowledged. [Genesis, Chapter three]

~**Function of the Law**~

The main function of the Law is to condemn us of our sin, which is rebellion against what God commands. And to prove to us that we are incapable of good works with our resources. This leads to the need of a Savior, which is Christ and Him crucified, He is our Grace. *Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.* (Galatians 3:24 NASB) Some translations say, “Schoolmaster” instead of tutor.



The law shows us the way to the cross. When you die to sin and grace abounds in your heart, I’m here to tell you that you will need the law to stay away from sin. The Law shows you the way and it’s the Grace that puts the law in your heart. Then, you will not want to sin against God. *Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.* (Psalms 119:11 NASB) As Paul reminds us, the commandments show us our sins, *Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.* (Romans 7:13 NASB)

~**Grace and God**~



Grace demonstrates the enormous love God has for us, even when we were dead in our sins. *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,* (Ephesians 2:4 NASB) *even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),* (Ephesians 2:5 NASB)

Grace is something we cannot work out or gain, nor is it due us, for if this were so, then it would not be of Grace anymore. Romans says; *where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. (Romans 3:27 NASB) For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. (Romans 3:28 NASB)*

We must recognize that Grace is a gift of God, and it is undeserved in every way. God sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins. When we speak of Grace being a free gift from God, it is a free gift to us, but Christ paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross so that we could have eternal life. In short, Jesus gave His life, so that we could have eternal life. Just remember, Jesus paid the price for each of us.

~Under Grace Under Law~

We many times hear the phrase, “we are under Grace and not under law.” What does this mean, are we under the Grace of God and the law does not apply? Does this mean that we are free to break God’s Laws since we are under Grace? I think the Romans must have had the same question for Paul responded to it by his writings in the book of Romans, *For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:14 NASB) What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! (Romans 6:15 NASB)*

We must be conscious that having received from God a new heart and a new nature that permits us to be free from the dominion of sin and thus being able to discern what is good from what is evil, we are in a position to choose the good. We must also remember what the Law says, that the Law is good, but we are not saved through or by the Law. We are only saved by God’s Grace and can only receive it because Jesus died on the cross for our sins. We must not seek to be justified by the Law. Grace is our only Hope of Salvation. Only in Christ can appropriate Grace and Law (Truth). *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; (Ephesians 2:8 NASB)*

~Justified~

The Law is applicable to all, but for the believers, His Grace is interposed between their sins and God, thus they are justified in front of God for He sees the justified sinner through the blood of Jesus, which is Grace for them. Furthermore, Jesus continually intercedes for their sins through His Holy Blood shed once for all. *Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

(Hebrews 7:25 NASB)

~The Law~

The Law is written on the hearts of believers; *"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone*



from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26

NASB) "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in

My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

(Ezekiel 36:27 NASB) Also in the New Testament we have the passage directly

from Jesus in the Gospel of John 14:15; *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.* (John 14:15 NASB)

~The Law is not~

Knowing all this, the Law is not for the righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners. We read in I Timothy, starting with verse 8; *But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully,* (1 Timothy 1:8 NASB) *realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers (1 Timothy 1:9 NASB) and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,* (1 Timothy 1:10 NASB) *according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.* (1 Timothy 1:11 NASB) These verses demonstrate clearly that the Law is in full activity, especially for the non-

believers, for they are not covered by the precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The non-believer does not seek God, and the Law is applied directly to them. *"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."* (John 3:36 NASB)

The Law tries to restrain the passions of the flesh. Grace puts to death on the cross what is carnal and says: *"For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God."* (Galatians 2:19 NASB) *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."* (Galatians 2:20 NASB) *"I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."* (Galatians 2:21 NASB)

~Jesus Christ ~Peace, Peace~

Jesus Christ is our Grace and our Peace with God.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1 NASB)



As the people in the times of Jeremiah cried out, "peace, peace," the people today are crying out, "peace, peace," but there is no peace. Recorded in Jeremiah is the verse; *"They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace."* (Jeremiah 6:14 NASB) And then in the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks of that peace; *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."* (John 14:27 NASB)

~The Words of Jesus~

Taking the Words of Jesus in Matthew 5:17; *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill."* (Matthew 5:17 NASB)

Can anyone say that the Law has been taken away? The Law is still valid and applicable to all, from the beginning till the end of time, without the smallest letter or stroke passing away from the Law. The difference in the New Testament is the sacrifice of Christ that God inserts between the believer and the Law and Himself. This way His Law remains intact, perfectly satisfied by Grace through the Holy Blood of Christ Jesus.

Law and Grace in 7 Points – by aymon de albatrus

1. The Law is: Good, Holy and Righteous because God gave it.
2. Due to our wickedness, the Law condemns us of sin. For this reason, the wicked ones say that the Law is done away with.
3. The Law is perfect, but no man can keep it, except for the man Jesus.
4. Jesus Christ is our Grace for He atoned our sins on the cross.
5. Being under Grace does not mean one can sin as much as one wants. If one says he is under Grace and continually sins, he has not understood what the Grace of God is or he is not under Grace.
6. With the coming of Grace, the Law was not put aside, for God changes not. To the non-believer, the Law is satisfied in their condemnation to Hell, while for the believers, the Law is fully quenched in the divine blood of Christ spilled for us, which is Grace.
7. At conversion, God gives a new heart of flesh, removing the heart of stone and placing there His Spirit that allows the converted to walk in His statutes and to observe and to put into practice His Decrees.



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Dewey E. (Obed) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
