

## LAW AND GRACE

### “Are They Opposed to Each Other? Are We Saved by Law, by Grace or by Both?”

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Rom 10:3, “For I bear them record that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”

The above charge is a serious one indeed! The Israelites, who had followed after the Law of righteousness, had not been able to keep the Law. Therefore, they had no righteousness. Not only did they not have righteousness of their own (As neither does any man), but they were not SUBMITTING themselves and receiving the GIFT of Righteousness that was being offered.

They had not realized that they were totally and thoroughly depraved creatures by nature. Man is in such a condition that he cannot be saved through his struggles to keep the Holy Standard of God’s Law. But, before man will submit to, and trust in, the righteousness of God it has to be proven to him that his life in the flesh is a demonstrated failure!

We in the message are not at all exempt from needing this proof. For this reason we are at this time experiencing some of the hardest trials we have ever encountered. For some of us it seems that we have more defeat and less victory now than in earlier years. Discouragement seems to have come back upon us with a vengeance. The things that are producing this discouragement center around our flesh life. The righteousness that we have clothed ourselves in is being stripped away. We are being

shown our failures along every avenue of our works.

The thoughts are sure to come, “Am I really born-again as I have been supposing? Has the Lord grown weary of my sins and turned away from me? Am I really God’s Elect Bride as I have believed?”

If in our hearts we KNOW that we have been called, and can take the enemy back to the time and place. And, if we KNOW that we answered the call and did one day receive His Spirit, and that our number one desire is to serve Him and love Him more, then it is certain that God has not turned from us. John 6:37, “**Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.**” He is only proving to us that there is no good thing in our flesh. (Rom. 8:17) For years we have read this scripture and agreed with it intellectually, but now, through many actual and very painful experiences, we are receiving this revelation into our hearts, “There is truly no good thing in our outer flesh man.”

Why is it so drastically important that we have this revelation driven into us? Because it is the one thing that will turn us to Christ and keep us from trusting in ourselves. To trust in self, and what we can do in the way of keeping the law, is to fall from Grace. Gal.5:4, “**Christ is become of no**

**effect unto you, whosoever of you (Who think you) are justified by the Law, ye are fallen from Grace.**” Our faith will not, and can not, rest fully in Grace until we are caused to lose all confidence in the flesh. (Philp. 3:3)

But, what does this turning from the Law to Grace consist of? Is it a turning from the Law to the extent that we are no longer concerned about keeping it? No! We must apply all our strength toward keeping it, but, when we fail we are not to suppose we have fallen from Grace. We do not fall from Grace by failing in part of the Law. We fall from Grace when we suppose that our efforts to keep it justifies us. Faith in Christ having kept the law is our Justification.

Turning from Law to Grace means that we refuse to trust in our ability to keep the Law as a way to Salvation. Truth is, that Law and Grace work together to bring about our Salvation. They are not opposed to each other, but rather do they compliment each other. The Law sets forth God’s standard of holiness and shows forth His Righteousness and Perfection. It cannot be turned away from its perfection, and for that reason it cannot forgive its violators. The Law convicts and Grace forgives.

If the Law did not hold its subjects to strict obedience to every

jot and tittle of itself, then it would have become weak and less than perfect. But, how did the Law fail if it has remained perfect? (Rom. 8:3) It failed, not through any flaw in it, but through the weakness of our flesh. Strive as we may, we cannot keep it perfectly, and the Law itself declares that if we **“Offend in only one point we are as guilty as if we had broken the whole law.”** (James 2:10)

From this we can clearly see that law had to have a helpmate, and why Grace was assigned the job. Since the Law cannot forgive without stepping down from its absolute, Grace, which by its very nature forgives, moved alongside the law and stated **“Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.”** (Rom. 4:7) These are words of life, without which we are lost.

God came down in Christ Jesus, not to destroy the Law, but to fulfill it. (Mat. 5:17) He fulfilled His Law by living every jot and tittle of it in a flesh body like unto ours. Although the Law was fulfilled by the Law Giver Himself, it was never set aside as our rule and guide. Only we are to understand that it was not given as a WAY OF SALVATION.

His great mysterious plan was to **“Subject us to vanity”** (Rom. 8:20) Our Prophet said, “He had to let them get lost.” The fall provided a way for the demonstration of His overwhelming love, which before had no proper outlet.

It took 33 years of life on earth, and suffering every trial and temptation that the world could bring against Him, while he yet remained without sin and still there was love in the heart of God

that had not been expressed. And, so He hung suspended on a cross, by nails through His hands and feet for six, long terrible hours. Only then was He satisfied that He had shown that love to its fullest degree. Do we dare not submit to His righteousness after the price he paid to make it available? This would be to frustrate His Grace. (Gal. 2:21)

Let us look further at the truth that the Law was not given as a way of salvation. The Law was not given to Israel so that they might be redeemed. It was given because they had already been redeemed, and needed to know the ways of God. They had been brought out of Egypt by their faith in the power of God, through the slain Lamb and its blood on the door post. The Law was added at Sinai as the necessary Standard of Life set before a ransomed people.

The Law was not meant as a covenant of works, in that Israel’s salvation depended on obedience to it. The devout and honest hearted Israelite was saved by the promise of God, even as we are today. He looked forward to the true Blood Sacrifice being made, of which the slain animal was a type. We look back on the fact that it has now been accomplished through the Cross.

Therefore, the Old Testament saints and the New Testament saints are saved in the same way, and that is, by the sending of the LAW AND GRACE. Working together, they bring us to the place of SAVING FAITH in the Lord Jesus Christ. **“Wherefore the Law was our Schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by Faith.”** (Gal. 3:24)

The Law brought sin to light and proved that righteousness could not come by the keeping of it. The Law made it all the more evident that there was a desperate need for GRACE. But, we always remember that Christ came not to put the Law aside, not to relieve us of our responsibility toward it, but to make good the failures we make in our striving to keep it. This is the office work of Grace.

It is said that this is the dispensation of Grace, and surely this is so. But, this is not to imply that Grace was not to be found in other ages. Grace was in Eden when the Law said, **“Of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden. God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”** Grace watched as God’s children disobeyed this Law.

When the Law was about to carry out its sentence, Grace intervened and slew a Lamb instead. Where would the Law have been without Grace? It would have ended with no subjects to be guided by its Standards. On the other hand, where would Grace have been without the Law? There would have been no subjects in need had there not been violated Law. Grace without the Law, or Law without Grace is as a bird with one wing. Law drives us to the Grace that fulfilled the Law.

In this dispensation of Grace, the Law is not excluded. No more than in Eden, under the dispensation of Law, was Grace excluded. The teaching of Grace today must never leave out our responsibility to the Law, and the teaching of the “Do” of the Law must never leave out Grace. Never did our all wise

God intend for them to be opposed to each other. They are a team, which without either one salvation becomes impossible.

In His sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus preached the Law in all its searching sweep, and even expanded the true meaning of it. The Law was taught to His Disciples as the kind of life he expected them, and us, to work toward. Of course He understood that they, and we, would make many failures in the flesh, but He also knew that He was HIMSELF going to make it possible for the door of Grace to be opened.

Our purpose in this sermon is to encourage those, including the writer, who are going through the terrible pain and anguish of transferring from Law to Grace. There is not one soul that can escape these birth pains. Each one must travel down the trail of tears that will produce the change over.

QUOTE: BIRTH PAINS, PAGE 7, "Now I want to speak this afternoon upon a subject that I announced. Birth pains. Now that sounds very bad but it's in the Bible. I believe that Jesus here (John 16:20-22) was speaking of, as He said, 'You will have sorrow but your sorrow shall be turned to joy.' ...Speaking of His Disciples here, knowing that the birth of Christianity was coming into existence.

And now the old has to die in order that the new is born. Anything that gives birth has to have pains of distress, and they certainly was going to go through the pain of distress and anguish to get from Law unto Grace." (End quote)

From our anguish of soul and through the distress of our many

failures, we are slowly but surely turned to the Grace and Mercy that endureth forever. (Ps.138:8) We lay hold of the statement our Lord made in answer to Peter's question "**Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Till seven times? (Mat. 18:21-22)**" "**Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times, but, until seventy times seven.**" We know from His answer that the 490 times that we should forgive each other are only indicative of His forgiving us as often as our repentant hearts make request.

Brother Branham explains the fearful, distraught and discouraging times some of us are now going through in the process of changing from Law to Grace.

QUOTE: BIRTH PAINS, PAGE 10, "Now, we find that rain which brings forth fruit upon the earth is born as the Poet said, in the field of Thunder, in a ragged jagged sky. But, if we didn't have the thunder and the ragged, jagged skies the little distilled drop of rain, that's been lifted from the seas and distilled from the salt, would not be born. It takes that lightning, thunder blasts, ragged, rugged fearful things to bring forth the soft petal drops of water. It takes pain to bring forth birth, it takes dying. And as the clouds die, rain is formed.....one has to cease so the other one can exist." (End quote)

In the above statement, our Prophet makes reference to the circumstances the Lord uses to bring us into this awareness.

Our world will often seem that it has turned upside down, and that we are clinging by our finger nails to the profession of Christianity that we have before times been so

positive about. Not that we do not still love our Lord with all our hearts, but we are made to wonder if our efforts to keep His Law and become like Him are being in vain!

We must see that our struggles to keep the Law are not in vain as far as our Father is concerned. We are right and scriptural to do so. "**The Law of His mouth must be better than gold to us.**" (Pro. 119:72) "**He that keepeth the Law is a wise son.**" (Pro. 28:7) "**He that keepeth the Law, happy is he.**" (Pro. 29:18) Our Father will honor our every effort to keep His Law. At the same, time He wants us to be very aware of His Divine Remedy for our failures.

Grace is ever at our sides, ready to drop every failure into the bleach of the blood of Christ. "**For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**" (Rom. 10:4) As a true Born-Again Child of God struggles with the law, the Lord Jesus stands at the end of our struggle. He is the End, or the ANSWER, for every failure we might make. He has already fulfilled the Law for us, and as we BELIEVE in what He did, it is as if we had not failed.

He has already credited His own righteousness to our account. He has provided a way, and it is the way of faith. Without FAITH in His plan, "**It is impossible to please Him.**" (Heb. 11:6) We may think it a most daring thing to testify, "I am as righteous as God", but the revelation is we DARE NOT to say, and BELIEVE that, "**We have been made the righteousness of God in Him.**" (II Cor. 5:21)

Our only hope is to claim that HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS has been

surely and absolutely made to be our own! Our responsibility to keep the Law was transferred to Christ Jesus. He took on the debts we owed. He answered every demand of the Law that was against us. He was **"MADE TO BE SIN"** (II Cor. 5:21) so literally that **"The curse of God was upon Him."** (Gal. 3:13) Our Christ must actually become GUILTY before the Father so that our punishment could be laid upon Him.

Whoever God punishes for sin must actually be GUILTY of sin! Therefore we read, **"He hath MADE HIM to be sin, who knew no sin."** (II Cor. 5:21) God does not punish the innocent! It was not just a SAYING that Jesus was made to be sin, it was an awful reality. He must take on Himself the REAL GUILT of our transgressions. Divine Justice was not guilty of punishing an innocent person! Jesus became God's guilty Christ.

It is in the scriptures that Jesus actually OWNED our sins as being

His. In Ps. 40:7-11, it is clear that Christ is doing the speaking (Please read in the Bible.) Then in verse 12, **"For innumerable evils have compassed Me about, MINE INIQUITIES have taken hold upon Me, so that I am not able to look up. They are more than the hairs of Mine Head. Therefore, My heart faileth Me."**

What a proof that our sins had been transferred to Him! God had made Him to be LEGALLY guilty while He was PERSONALLY innocent. Whatever we owed was demanded of our Christ. He would pay our debt in full. He would receive the wages of sin that we were due. Because of it, we now read, **"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse FOR US. For it is written cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree."** (Gal. 3:13)

If we can understand that Christ was actually **"Made to be sin,"** that He was GUILTY in God's eyes, then we can understand that we have been **"Made the right-**

**eousness of God."** God inflicted punishment on Jesus as if He had been the personal offender. Now he imputes Righteousness to us as if we had personally earned it.

God is completely SATISFIED that the Law has been kept in our stead.

We conclude then that the Law is Holy and Good, and that it was not meant to be death to us, but that it should lead us to Grace. (Rom. 7:12-13) Amen!

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