

THE LAW A YOKE OF BONDAGE



LESLIE RENDELL

Title Page

The Law - A Yoke of Bondage

Leslie Rendell

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To God Be The Glory

Dedication

To our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ

The Light in the darkness, the Rock of our salvation, and the Author of our faith. May the words in this book bring glory to Your name and draw hearts ever closer to You.

"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen." — Romans 11:36

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leslie.rendell@bigpond.com

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All Scripture references are from the **King James Bible**, unless otherwise noted.

This book is a work of biblical study and personal research. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, readers are encouraged to study the Scriptures for themselves and seek God's wisdom in all matters of faith.

What is the Yoke of Bondage?

The concepts of law and grace are not always understood by New Testament believers. It's true that when law and grace "merge," they end in a sterile legalism. Since the beginning of the church, debates concerning the function and goal of the Law of Moses in the Christian community have arisen because of man's innate tendency toward either legalism, following the law of Moses, or liberty, from following Jesus the Christ.

Throughout history, there have been individuals who have consistently tried to reinstate the Christian under the Law of Moses, or to make the Law a prerequisite for both salvation and sanctification. This is why Paul devoted a lot of time opposing this legalistic interpretation of the law that promotes works of the law in order to gain favour with God. This is in contrast to a life that is influenced by the Holy Spirit's strength and leadership. This is made evident in Gal 2:4.

Gal 2:4, And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into

bondage:

For Paul, this wasn't just an issue between the false brethren and Gentiles. Paul realised that if the message of the gospel was compromised, it wasn't just bondage for the Gentiles, but bondage for everyone who called on the name of Jesus. This is precisely what Paul was warning us about in Galatians. So what does Galatians 5:1 mean.

Galatians 5:1. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

As both Moses and God our Heavenly Father have instructed Christians to do, we must listen to Jesus Christ, and not Moses. Please listen to what Moses had to say on this matter and then what our Heavenly Father had to say as well. First listen to Deu 18:15.

Deu 18:15, ¶ The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

This is Moses telling us we must listen to this prophet that God would raise up from among the people, and we must listen to him. Then when Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, God spoke these words for us.

Mat 17:5, While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Therefore, who should we listen to, Moses or Jesus? Please consider the following points.

Jesus is the only one who can forgive us of our sins, Moses cannot.

Jesus can give us eternal life. Moses cannot.

Jesus can hear and answer our prayers. Moses cannot.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. Moses cannot mediate for us.

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Moses cannot give us this spirit.

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: Notice the spirit comes from Jesus, not from Moses.

Do not get me wrong, Moses was a great man who served God in a mighty way, but even he knew there was one greater than him yet to come, and it is to him we must listen and obey.

The apostle Paul makes it abundantly clear that to be circumcised is not required anymore, even though it was essential in the old covenant. But now to be circumcised to be justified by keeping the law will result in you being fallen from grace, and Christ will profit you nothing. Please read the following passage of scripture very carefully and understand what Paul is saying about keeping the law as a way to be justified.

Gal 5:1, Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Gal 5:2, Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

Gal 5:3, For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

Gal 5:4, Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Gal 5:5, For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Gal 5:6, For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor

uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Gal 5:7, Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Gal 5:8, This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.

So what is this yoke of bondage that we are cautioned not to return to, or become entangled with again? It is the law of Moses.

The truth is not based on the traditions of man, the teachings of the Pharisees, or the assertions of the majority of traditional churches in the present day. One of the biggest traps people fall into today is believing what traditional churches are saying, or what they read on the internet without checking it against what God says in His holy scriptures. It is wise for Christians to remember that the internet is Satan's playground, and is where he can freely distribute false teachings to the unwary. Many websites make claims that sound good, but they may actually be teaching you lies, misinformation, or heresy.

If you want to know the truth, which, let's face it not everyone does, then the Bible is the only place you can get it. You must determine whether you will accept the Bible or reject it in favour of the fables, lies, and disinformation that contradict the word of God. One verse in the bible that I particularly like in regards to this problem is 2Timothy 4:3.

2 Timothy 4:3, For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

The term itching ears describes exactly what is happening here. These people are not interested in the truth, they only want their teachers to tell them what sounds good, regardless if it is the truth or not.

I stated earlier that the “law of Moses” was the yoke of bondage, how can we prove this statement is the truth. There are many scriptures that inform us we are no longer under the law, but are under grace. Let us start with Gal 5:18.

Galatians 5:18. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

This is the clearest explanation that God could have given. You are not bound by the law if the Spirit leads you. It is impossible to be both under the law and under grace. One passage of scripture that makes it very clear we are not under the law of Moses is in Romans 6:14.

Romans 6:14. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Sin shall not have dominion over you if you are under grace, but it will have dominion over you if you are trying to get

salvation by keeping the law of Moses. This was made evident in Gal 5:1-8 that we read earlier.

It is impossible for any man to keep the law of Moses perfectly. To break even the least of these laws is to be guilty of breaking them all. This means if you steal a piece of fruit from the supermarket, then you are guilty of murder, of coveting, or adultery, and indeed of every law. No man can live even one day without an evil thought or word, therefore, he is found guilty on a daily basis of breaking every law.

Some people will claim to be under grace is to be free to live however we want. To sin and disobey God with no penalty. But listen to what the Apostle Paul had to say on this matter in Rom 3:31.

Romans 3:31. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

This thought is carried forward in Romans 6:15.

Romans 6:15. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

This raise the question, is the law good or should we completely abandon it?

Being under grace is definitely not a license to sin. In fact the law of Christ, which we are under if we are under grace, is the

spiritual law where to even think evil of your brother is to be guilty of murder. To look lustfully at another persons spouse, is being guilty of adultery. The law of Christ reflects the full spiritual meaning of the law, but the law of Moses is concerned with the physical act of breaking the law, and not the much more demanding and difficult spiritual intent of the law of Christ.

The law of Moses was never intended to endure indefinitely; rather, it was intended to be implemented until a superior alternative was introduced. Jesus is the one who makes a better covenant with better promises, according to Hebrews 8:6.

Hebrews 8:6. But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

This idea that the law was only temporary is backed up in Galatians 3:23.

Galatians 3:23. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

Before the arrival of Jesus Christ everyone was subject to the law, and we remained so until faith in Jesus Christ was revealed as the above verse explains. The law was never a

permanent fix to man's troubles because it is impossible for any man to live by the law of Moses perfectly. God recognised this, so He sent His only Son to become a curse for us and die on the cross in our place, thereby freeing us from sin.

One fascinating scripture is 1 Timothy 1:9.

1 Timothy 1:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers.

This is a very powerful verse that explains to us exactly who the law was designed for, and it is not for a righteous man, because he has the law of Christ in his heart, and therefore the law of Moses has been replaced with the new covenant that has been written on the heart of believers.

That being said, Jesus Christ was born under the law. He maintained the law flawlessly, something that no one else has ever managed to do. This is what made Him eligible to carry our sins on His cross. As evidenced in Galatians 4:1-7, this liberated us from the law of Moses, enabling us to be referred to as the sons of God.

Gal 4:1, Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

Gal 4:2, But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

Gal 4:3, Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

Gal 4:4, But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Gal 4:5, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Gal 4:6, And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Gal 4:7, Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

A servant is obligated to obey orders and is subject to the law. Nevertheless, a son is an heir of God by virtue of Christ. God sent Jesus when the fullness of time was come to redeem us from under the law that we might become the sons and daughters of God. We have the spirit of His Son, Jesus Christ in our hearts, and we are also heirs of God through Christ. This is what verse 7 tells us. We are God's children, not angels, slaves, or servants, but children of God, we are much

more than merely followers of Jesus Christ as is evident from 1Pe 2:9.

1Pe 2:9, But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

We have been called out of darkness, from under the law, into his marvellous light, into His grace. The fact that we are sons and daughters of God is reinforced in Romans 8:14.

Romans 8:14. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

God has made it abundantly evident that the law of Moses does not justify us. God tells us this in Acts 13:37-39.

Act 13:37, But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

Act 13:38, Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

Act 13:39, And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Why would anyone want to be under the law of Moses, and

every time you broke even one of the simplest laws, you are guilty of breaking every law? when you can be under the grace of Jesus Christ and be regarded as a son or a daughter of God.

God has told us we are not justified by keeping the law of Moses. So now we must ask, what was the purpose of the law if we are no longer under it? The answer to that question is found in Galatians 3:24.

Galatians 3:24. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

I have been saying all along that the law of Moses was only for a set time until something better came along. This is evident from Galatians 3:24 above. The law was intended to lead us to Jesus Christ. The law was only until Jesus Christ came and he freed us from the law and we are now under grace.

So why do people still try to find salvation by keeping the law of Moses, a law that is impossible to keep and that has been made obsolete. The law was given to us to make us aware of sin. it is the knowledge of sin. But it never was the way to salvation. This is only possible through the promise that God made to Abraham that all nations of the earth would be blessed through his seed. And that one seed is Jesus Christ.

When Jesus Christ had fulfilled his mission, those who followed him were set free of the law of Moses and came

under his grace and were justified because of their faith in him and not because of anything the law could possibly do for them. That is what John 1:17 is referring to.

John 1:17. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

The law of Moses has been superseded by the new commandment that we should love one another, this is made clear in the following passage of scripture in Galatians 5:1-6.

Gal 5:1, Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Gal 5:2, Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

Gal 5:3, For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

Gal 5:4, Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Gal 5:5, For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Gal 5:6, For in Jesus Christ neither

circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

We can learn from this, that trying to live under the law of Moses will not benefit you in any way at all, and in fact if you do try to be righteous by keeping the law of Moses, then Christ will not be able to help you. You will alienate yourself from your Lord and Saviour if you turn your back on him, and on the amazing sacrifice he made for you. If the law of Moses is more important to you than the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, then you are making Moses more important to you than Jesus Christ. You simply cannot be justified by keeping the law of Moses. We see this in Romans 3:20.

Romans 3:20. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Once again we can see the law is ended in Romans 10:4.

Romans 10:4. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

This verse explains that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness. Now some people only read the first part of this verse and then say that Jesus is the end of the law, full stop. But this is not what it says, we must read the rest of the verse to understand that Jesus is the end of the law FOR

RIGHTEOUSNESS. Righteousness is from faith in Jesus Christ only, there is no other way to be made righteous. The following two verses make it very clear that righteousness is not from keeping the law

Galatians 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Galatians 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

These verses are telling us righteousness is not available by keeping the law of Moses, This backs up every thing we have seen so far. The law of Moses was only until Jesus came, it had then fulfilled its purpose of leading us to Jesus Christ. The law of Moses has been replaced by faith in Jesus Christ as the only way to righteousness and salvation.

So how can we fulfil the law of God? Not the law of Moses but the law of God? The answer is found in Rom 13:10.

Rom 13:10, Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

By upholding the last 6 of the ten commandments we will be

showing love towards our neighbours and will never do any harm to them. And of Course by keeping the first 4 of the ten commandments we are showing love to God. Therefore by keeping all of the ten commandments we are keeping and fulfilling the entire law of God.

This is why the law of Moses is no longer needed, is redundant, and if you try to be righteous by attempting to keep them you will find that the law is a yoke of bondage. Therefore, We must remember the advise we see in God's holy scriptures to remain in the liberty of Christ and not be drawn back into the law of Moses. This is what Galatians 5:1 is warning us about.

Galatians 5:1. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage..

The following is a quote from Martin Luther.

"There is a law, of course, but it does not apply to those who bear these fruits of the Spirit. The Law is not given for the righteous man. A true Christian conducts himself in such a way that he does not need any law to warn or to restrain him, as far as he is concerned there would not have to be any Law."

Martin Luther would have been referring to the following scriptures in 1Ti 1:9-11.

1Ti 1:9, Knowing this, that the law is not

made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 1Ti 1:10, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; 1Ti 1:11, According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

Martin Luther recognised that if a person was to live by what is known as the fruits of the spirit when God writes His laws in our hearts we will not have any need for laws.

I would like to emphasise one very important point. The “ten commandments” are still in force today and always will be. I'm talking about the law of Moses in this message. The ten commandments that God engraved on the stone tablets were deposited in the "Ark of the Covenant." Eventually, the "Ark" will be rediscovered at the appropriate time, and we will once again possess the original stone tablets that were engraved with the ten commandments by the very finger of God.

The "Law of God" refers to the moral, eternal Ten

Commandments, while the "Law of Moses" encompasses the wider civil and ceremonial regulations such as animal sacrifices written by Moses in the Torah. This is the law that is no longer required. No more animal sacrifices or the need to obey the other 613 laws added to the ten commandments due to sinfulness.

Please remember that Jesus Christ has fulfilled the law, he has taken the place of animal sacrifices by his own self sacrifice on the cross. If it is necessary for us to keep the law of Moses, then we must keep all of them, including animal sacrifices. But what are we told in Heb 10:4, Heb 10:11 and 1Jo 3:5.

Heb 10:4, For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Heb 10:11, And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

1Jo 3:5, And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

If someone does not own and depend on Christ as their sole Saviour, he will not be their Saviour. We should be attentive to the apostle's cautions and inducements to remain steadfast in the doctrine and freedom of the gospel. As taught by the Holy

Spirit, all true Christians wait for eternal life as a gift from God because they believe in Christ, not because of what they have done. God will not accept anyone who does not have a sincere faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. If you seek redemption, sanctification and a place in God's kingdom, you will not find it in the law of Moses, but you will find it if you are no longer living under the bondage of the law of Moses and are now living under the grace of Jesus Christ.

OK, so now you may ask the question. "What about those from before the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, If only the blood of Jesus can make us righteous, what is their future?"

That is a very good question and one I have pondered over for many years, so in the next chapter I will endeavour to answer that question.

Old Covenant

update

Bibliography

All scriptures quoted in this book are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

The King James Version (KJV) occupies a unique and revered position in the history of Christian scripture, often regarded by its advocates as the most accurate and faithful English translation available. Commissioned by King James I of England and first published in 1611, the KJV was the result of the collaborative effort of 47 distinguished biblical scholars, all highly proficient in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. These scholars approached their task with deep reverence, striving to preserve the integrity of God's Word while rendering it in a majestic and poetic style that has profoundly shaped both Christianity and English literature.

One of the reasons many consider the KJV superior is its reliance on the Textus Receptus manuscripts for the New Testament, which were widely regarded as reliable by scholars of that era. Advocates of the KJV often argue that modern translations deviate from these ancient texts and incorporate contemporary interpretations that risk diminishing the Bible's original meaning. Additionally, the language of the KJV, though more complex than that of modern translations, is praised for its precision, reverence, and reflection of the

sacred nature of Scripture.

The historical impact of the KJV on English-speaking Christian communities further underscores its importance as a foundational text. For those who value both doctrinal fidelity and linguistic beauty, the King James Bible continues to be a cherished and authoritative version of Scripture.

About The Author

Leslie Rendell is a devoted believer in God, whose faith is the foundation of his life and work. He holds the firm conviction that the Bible is the ultimate source of truth, surpassing all human wisdom, opinions, and teachings. For Leslie, no doctrine or interpretation from any man—regardless of status or influence—can ever take precedence over the inspired Word of God.

His writings are the product of his own diligent research and personal study, undertaken not to conform to popular thought, but to deepen his own understanding of biblical truths. Leslie does not rely on external sources or human interpretations; instead, he turns solely to the Scriptures for guidance, allowing God's Word to speak for itself. Every topic he explores is examined through the lens of the Bible, ensuring that his work remains free from the influence of human tradition or denominational bias.

Leslie's desire is not to impose his own views but to encourage others to seek the truth within the pages of the Bible. His hope is that his writings will inspire readers to engage in their own scriptural study, leading them to a deeper, more personal relationship with God.

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