

The Law Of Christ

Bible Studies, Volume 29

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Introduction

Why should we study the bible? Isn't it enough to go to church once a week and listen to the Pastor?

Most Pastors who belong to one of the modern day churches have to follow what the church leaders tell them. They all have their own "statement of beliefs" to adhere too, and these doctrines vary from church to church in what they see as the truth. So since they cannot all be right, then some must be wrong. What if that refers to the church you are attending, if indeed you attend any church at all? How can you know what God sees as the truth? Well, it is up to the individual to sort the wheat from the chaff. How do we do that? Only by seeking the truth that God has concealed in his book, the bible.

Consider the following passage of scripture in the book of Proverbs.

Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

This is what God expects from us. We are to look constantly into the holy scriptures and find the truth that he has concealed there for us to discover. Please notice that God has not concealed them from us to keep it all a secret. No, he wants us to look for the truth. This is further emphasized in the following verses from the book of Isaiah.

Isa 28:9 To whom will he teach knowledge, and to whom will he explain the message? Those who are weaned from the milk, those taken from the breast?

Isa 28:10 For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.

This backs up what we read in Proverbs 25:2: that we must search out a matter that God has concealed. This is a real treasure hunt. If we can seek the will of God in our lives, we are not rejecting him, but we are embracing him and his way of

life. There is a glorious reward for those who are prepared to seek God with their whole hearts. Read the following verse and see what this reward is.

Rom 2:7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

Therefore, we must spend time in searching the scriptures. Looking for precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little. Looking for the things God has concealed. We must search for these pearls of wisdom.

Matthew 5:17-18

Those who believe the “Law of Moses” must be kept by Christians today use the scriptures of Mat 5:17-18 to prove their point. But to interpret these verses as meaning the “Laws of Moses” are to be kept perpetually, is to miss the point in verse 18.

Mat 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

Mat 5:18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

What does verse 18 actually say? No part of the law will disappear. UNTIL EVERYTHING IS ACCOMPLISHED. And exactly what was going to be accomplished? We can find the answer in verse 17. Jesus came to fulfil the law and the prophets, not to abolish them. When he fulfilled them by dying on the cross, these laws and prophets had fulfilled their purpose. How can we be certain of this? Look at Hebrews 8:6-8.

In fact, the ministry that Jesus has received is superior to theirs, just as the covenant of which he is the mediator is superior to the old one, because the new covenant is established on better promises.

Heb 8:7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.

Heb 8:8 But God found fault with the people and said: “The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.”

Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant, which is far superior to the Old Covenant, because the new is based on better promises. Faith in Jesus Christ is what the New Covenant requires, and this is possible to achieve because of the indwelling Holy Spirit given to Christians since the “Day of Pentecost”. The old

Covenant was impossible for anyone to keep because of the complexities of the Old Covenant.

This is the key we must understand. Everything in the Old Testament has always pointed to the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. What has God recorded for us in Luk 24:44 that is so important to understand?

Luk 24:44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Jesus Christ must fulfill everything written in the "Law of Moses", "The Prophets", and "The Psalms". What does the word "until" mean in Mat 5:18? It means that once Jesus Christ fulfills everything written in the "Law of Moses," "The Prophets," and "The Psalms," the Old Covenant can be replaced with the New Covenant. What is the purpose of the New Covenant if it is not to replace the Old Covenant? We cannot have both covenants in force at the same time. One must give way to the other, and it is obviously the old that must go.

The Old Covenant demanded a life of perfection in every law to be acceptable to God. Something every Israelite failed to accomplish, because it was impossible to keep these laws perfectly. To fail in the least of these laws was to fail in them all.

Forgiveness of sins is through Jesus Christ. Under the Old Covenant, or the "Law of Moses" as stated in Act 13:38-39, forgiveness of sins was unattainable.

Act 13:38 "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you."

Act 13:39 Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

If it is impossible to justify oneself through the Old Covenant, but Jesus Christ forgives our sins, then why would you want to attempt to keep the law of Moses? There is actually a penalty for doing this, as we see in Gal 5:3-6.

Gal 5:3 Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.

Gal 5:4 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

Gal 5:5 For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

To keep the law of Moses, instead of accepting Jesus Christ as your King of kings and Lord of lords, is to alienate yourself from Christ as verse 4 above clearly explains. If you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, then you must let go of the “Law of Moses” and have faith in Jesus Christ. What was the purpose of the “Old Covenant”? It was to lead us to Christ, as we see in Gal 3:4.

Gal 3:24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.

Here we see the word “until” used again. The Law of Moses was to be our guardian until Christ comes. Once Christ had come and had completed the work he came to do, this guardian, the old covenant, had served its purpose and is no longer needed. The new covenant is now in force.

Righteousness cannot be obtained through the law. If it could be, then why did Jesus come to die so painfully for us? What did he achieve if we can make ourselves acceptable to God by keeping “The Law of Moses”? What are we told in Gal 2:21?

Gal 2:21 “I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

Jesus Christ is the all sufficient sacrifice for our sins. Faith is needed and not the "Law of Moses" that cannot justify anyone. The first covenant is now obsolete, and the new has come into force from the moment Jesus died on the cross.

Heb 8:13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

The transition from the old to the new covenant was not intended to destroy the old. Rather, it was to fulfil the old. Jesus, the God who gave the law to Moses, and the prophecies to the Prophets, had no desire to eliminate what he had set in motion, instead he came to fulfil the law and the Prophets.

Faith and love replace all the sacrifices the Israelites had to keep.

Rom 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

Rom 13:9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

The "Ten Commandments" are a moral law and are still in force today and always will be. A lawyer challenged Jesus when he asked Jesus what was the greatest command in the law. Read this encounter below.

Mat 22:36 'Teacher, which is the great command in the Law?'

Mat 22:37 And Jesus said to him, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thine understanding —

Mat 22:38 this is a first and great command;

Mat 22:39 and the second is like to it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself;

Mat 22:40 on these—the two commands—all the law and the prophets do hang.'

You show your love for God by keeping the first four of the ten commandments, and show your love for your neighbours by keeping the last six of the ten commandments. Therefore, they will always be in force.

Did Jesus Keep the Law of Moses?

Did Jesus Christ keep the law of Moses? And if he did, then is this law still binding on Christians today? Many believe that all Christians must either partially or completely adhere to the “Law of Moses” even in this modern day. The only way we can come to the truth of the matter is to search the scriptures and come to the right conclusion.

As with anything you are learning from God’s holy scriptures, you need to read with an open mind and heart. If you allow your previous beliefs to influence your understanding, then you will never arrive at the truth of any matter. You must allow God’s words, the words of Jesus Christ, to be your guide, and believe what God has presented to you.

We are told the handwriting in ordinances, or the “Law of Moses”, was nailed to the cross, as is clear from.

Col 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Col 2:13 You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.

Col 2:14 wiping out the handwriting in ordinances which was against us; and he has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross;

The first question we may have here is this. Is the entire law of Moses, or only a portion of it nailed to the cross? This book reveals the truth to you from God’s own words, the holy bible. The following scripture is one I like to use in any book I write, as a reminder of the importance of both the old and the new testaments in the bible.

2Ti 3:16 Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

2Ti 3:17 that each person who belongs to God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Augustine described the relationship between the Old and New Testaments this way: “The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed.” These two testaments are of equal value when studying the word of God. We must not separate them from one another. Many in the church neglect the old testament, while the Jews ignore the new testament. They are all one book and the written word of God, so we must read and learn from both.

With that thought in mind, let us examine the entire bible for what God has revealed in his sacred writings.

The law of Moses, with its ordinances, was still in force until the day Jesus was crucified. Because this is when the law was nailed to the cross. Since there was no “cross of Jesus” before this time, there was nowhere to nail these laws. Therefore, they continued to be in force until the day Jesus was crucified on the cross.

Before this time, the church did not exist. The day of Pentecost was still just over 50 days away, and this is when the church first came into being. Therefore, the only law that existed before Jesus was crucified was the “Law of Moses”.

We understand that the “Law of Moses” is the “Law of God”. There is only one “law”, not two. We can plainly see this by comparing the following verses. First, in the book of Ezra, we are told that God gave the “Law of Moses”.

Ezr 7:6 this Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.

Now compare this to what the book of Nehemiah, chapter 10 verse 29, teaches us. Here we are told the “law of God” was given by Moses.

Neh 10:29 all these now join their fellow Israelites the nobles, and bind themselves with a curse and an oath to follow the Law of God given

through Moses the servant of God and to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the LORD our Lord.

These terms are used interchangeably. Again, this is because the “Law of Moses” and the “Law of God” are the same law, there is only one “law”.

Now let us turn our attention to the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to Galatians chapter four and verse four, Jesus was “born under the law”, and as we have just seen, this is the “Law of God”, or the “law of Moses”.

Gal 4:4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Therefore, if Jesus was born “under the law”, then he must have kept all of God’s laws perfectly. Otherwise, he would have been guilty of sin, but as we know, he lived a sinless life. Let us see some laws Jesus kept.

(1) His parents had him circumcised under the law (Luke 2:21);

Luk 2:21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

(2) They offered sacrifices for him under the law. To reinforce what I said earlier, the “law of Moses” and the “Law of God” are the same law. This passage of scripture emphasizes this truth by using both terms.

Luk 2:22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

Luk 2:23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"),

Luk 2:24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

(3) When Jesus performed miracles, he commanded those he had cured to offer sacrifices under the law, as we see in the following 2 verses.

Mar 1:44 "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

Luk 5:14 Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

(4) Jesus always kept the Sabbath. Indeed, he claims to be the Lord of the Sabbath.

Luk 4:16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

One thing to keep in mind about the Sabbath is this. It was established, or set aside, as holy time on the seventh day of creation, when the only people on the earth were Adam and Eve. Therefore, it has nothing to do with the "law of Moses" or any other law. It is a sacred time allotted for humanity to have a day of rest and a time to worship God. God has ever revoked or substituted this command with another day. Saturday, the seventh day of the week, always has been, and always will be, the Sabbath day of rest.

(5) Jesus kept all of God's holy days and the Passover.

Mat 26:17 On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

Mat 26:18 He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'"

Mat 26:19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

(6) Jesus instructed his disciples to follow all the commandments of the law of Moses.

Mat 23:2 "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat."

Mat 23:3 So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

There should be absolutely no doubt that Jesus Christ kept all the "laws of Moses", also known as the "laws of God". So now we must ask the all importance questions. Are Christians expected to follow the example of Jesus Christ? And are Christians required, in this modern day and age, to keep the full "law of Moses"?

These are very interesting questions. Carefully searching the scriptures and allowing the word of God to direct your understanding is needed to find the truth in these matters. As with all knowledge from the bible, you will not find it all in one place, neatly packaged. God expects us to search the scriptures to find the truth he has placed in his holy bible.

Please try to read with an open mind and allow God to influence your mind. Remember Proverbs 25:2. God has concealed things in his bible and he wants us to search for them.

Everything Changes

In the last chapter, we established Jesus definitely kept the “law of Moses” perfectly. There should be no doubt about this. But upon his death, everything changed. The new covenant then became a reality, but only after Jesus died on the cross. This truth is revealed to us in.

Heb 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Heb 9:15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Heb 9:16 In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it,

Heb 9:17 because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.

Here in Hebrews 9 verse 15, we see that Jesus Christ is the mediator of a new covenant. But notice what else this verse reveals. That those called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, followed by the all important words, “Now that he has died.”

This new covenant that Christ has set up did not come into force until the very moment he died upon the cross. The establishment of the new covenant and the opportunity to inherit eternal life came after Jesus’ death. Therefore, without this new covenant, of which Jesus Christ is the mediator, there can be no eternal inheritance.

With the death of Jesus Christ, we now have the new covenant. So now we must ask what was the purpose of the law given to us by Moses? We can find the answer to this question in Galatians 3 and verse 24.

Gal 3:24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.

In the above verse, we see that the law was our guardian until Christ came. Please also notice that only when the new covenant came into force are we justified by faith. Before Christ came, people were only cleansed from their sins by the sacrifice of animals on the altar. These sacrifices had to be repeated constantly for people to be forgiven. If we are still under the “Law of Moses,” then we still need animal sacrifices to take away our sins. We need to observe the “Day of Atonement” and have a priest sacrifice an animal to cleanse us of our sins for the year.

But we understand it is only by Christ’s sacrifice we are justified before God by our faith in him. So what happened to the law now that Jesus has arrived? Read Romans 10 and verse 4.

Rom 10:4 Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

What does the word culmination mean in this verse? It signifies the completion, finish, reaching of the limit, and having a finale of the law.

Now in Galatians 2 verse 21, we see it is impossible for us to be righteous by keeping the law. If it is possible to be righteous by keeping the “Law of Moses,” then why was another law required? But if it is impossible, then we obviously need another law if we are to attain righteousness in the eyes of God.

Plus, if we can be righteous by keeping the law of Moses, then Jesus Christ died on the cross for nothing. His first coming would have achieved no benefits for anyone as we can understand from.

Gal 2:21 “I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

This thought becomes even more clear and reinforced in.

Gal 2:16 know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

What is the point in keeping the law of Moses, if, as we see in the above verse, no one will be justified by keeping the law? Our justification is only by our faith in Jesus Christ as the only son of God. This is further explained in Rom 8:3-4.

Rom 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom 8:4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The law was powerless to do what Jesus Christ came to do, to offer himself as a sacrifice to condemn sin in the flesh. A one time sacrifice that would cover all the sins of humanity. Now read and understand what Gal 5:4 records for us.

Gal 5:4 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

We fulfil the law of Jesus by carrying each other's burdens. By loving and caring for each other and keeping the commandment to love our fellow man. To be justified by keeping the law, you are actually alienating yourself from Christ. The exact opposite of what you may think you are achieving. We must live by what we hear from Jesus Christ. Please remember what Moses told us. "Listen to him", and if you do, then you are keeping the "Law of Jesus" as we see in.

Gal 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.

We cannot have righteousness of our own, but only through faith in Jesus Christ. This righteousness comes from God based on faith, not of keeping the “law of Moses”.

Php 3:9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Now see the difference between keeping these laws. What can we learn from the book of Hebrews about trampling on the Son of God and treating Christ’s death, the blood of the covenant, as an unholy thing? Those who do these things are insulting the Spirit of grace. Read this in.

Heb 10:28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Heb 10:29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Those who trample the Son of God underfoot are those who reject the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. They are saying Christ’s blood is insufficient for our sins to be forgiven and the blood of Jesus has no power to cleanse us from our sins. And the expression “insulted the Spirit of grace” is powerful. The Greek term used here means to insult, outrage and involves the manifestation of vanity, which refers to “insolence” or “arrogance.” This term stands in stark contrast to the description of the Holy Spirit as “the Spirit of grace.” It implies that they responded to God’s offer of grace with an insult. They are now in an untenable position because they reject Jesus, His sacrifice, and the Holy Spirit.

You Must Listen To Him

Who is the greatest prophet that ever walked this earth? There are two prime contenders for this title. The first is Moses, the number 1 for the Jews, and the second is Jesus Christ. Who should be number one for all Christians, so which of these is the greatest? To whom must we listen? Again, let us find the answer to this question in the scriptures. We can find the answer to this question in Hebrews three and verse three.

Heb 3:3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.

Moses may have given the law, but Jesus Christ brought grace and truth. And since we have found Jesus Christ to be of greater worth than Moses, then he is the one that we must listen to. This becomes even more obvious when you read the words that Moses himself wrote in the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy 18:15.

Deu 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.

Here, Moses has told the people that they must listen to this prophet that God will raise up. And as we are well aware, this prophet that was raised up was Jesus Christ himself. In Matthew, we find the ultimate proof that Jesus Christ is the one we must listen to. This is when Jesus Christ was being baptised by John in the river. When Jesus came up out of the water, there was a voice from heaven, so now listen to what that voice, the voice of God, had to say in Mat 17:5.

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

So exactly what can we learn from the three scriptures that we have seen above? First, we can see that Jesus is greater than Moses. Second, we see from the very words of Moses himself that it is Jesus that we must listen to. And then third,

and finally, we have the very words of God the Father telling us to “listen to him”. Listen to Jesus.

In the above scriptures, we have seen that it is Jesus Christ that we must listen to. And then in Acts 4:12, we see that there is no other name under heaven that has been given to humankind by which we may be saved. No other name, and this obviously must include Moses.

Act 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

From this verse, we can see that there is only one name under the entire heavens given to humankind that may save us. Add to that the three verses preceding this one, and we can see that it is Jesus Christ that we must listen to, and no one else.

So now let us listen to the words of Jesus in Luk 24:44.

Luk 24:44 He said to them, “This is what I told you, while I was still with you, that all things which are written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me must be fulfilled.”

Everything that was written in the “old testament” found its fulfilment in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are many prophecies in the old testament that point to Jesus, and these have found their fulfilment in Jesus. The Pharisees challenged his authority, and he answered them in Joh 5:39-47.

Joh 5:39 “You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and these are they which testify about me.”

Joh 5:40 Yet you will not come to me, that you may have life.

Joh 5:41 I don’t receive glory from men.

Joh 5:42 But I know you, that you don’t have God’s love in yourselves.

Joh 5:43 I have come in my Father's name, and you don't receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

Joh 5:44 How can you believe, who receive glory from one another, and you don't seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Joh 5:45 "Don't think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you, even Moses, on whom you have set your hope."

Joh 5:46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote about me.

Joh 5:47 "But if you don't believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

Some interesting points that come out of this section of scripture. The Pharisees diligently searched the scriptures. This means the law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. The same words that testified about Jesus, yet they refused to recognise the truths they studied. Then, in verse 44, Jesus accuses them of accepting glory from each other, patting each other on the back, and accepting this type of glory rather than the glory from God.

Then Jesus informs them that Moses, the very one they claimed to follow, will accuse them. In verse 46, Jesus informs these religious leaders that Moses wrote about him, as mentioned in Deuteronomy 18:15 earlier. And Moses wrote in the Hebrew scriptures that they must "listen to him", to the prophet that was to come after him. But they refused to do this. The "old testament" reveals to us our only hope of eternal life because it reveals Jesus Christ. These scriptures bear witness to him and now he has fulfilled them.

When Jesus fulfilled the law, this means all the righteousness of the law, every word recorded in the Prophets and every prayer and hope in the Psalms. All fulfilled in Jesus.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, he stated. "It is finished". He was referring to the entire work he had been given to do. He had fulfilled the entire "law of Moses" the "Prophets" and the "Psalms". In doing this, Jesus obtained our eternal

salvation. Priests are no longer needed to offer sacrifices for us or to enter the “Holy Place”. Jesus has done all this once and for all people, as recorded in Col 2:13-14.

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

Col 2:14 having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

The following verse compares the effectiveness of the “Law of Jesus” to the “Law of Moses”. Notice what the “Law of Jesus” could accomplish, our justification from every sin. Something the “Law of Moses” could never do.

Act 13:39 Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

The law of Moses could not set us free from every sin. It still cannot do this today. Our faith in Jesus Christ only accomplished this. We can only obtain our justification through our faith in Jesus Christ and not by observing the “law of Moses”.

The Apostles followed the teaching of Jesus, and they command all Christians to do the same. The doctrines of Jesus and the doctrines of the Apostles are the same as is clear in 1 Corinthians 11:1.

1Co 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Notice what the apostles taught concerning the law of Moses?. Jesus has abolished the “law of ordinances” as is clear from Eph. 2:14-16

Eph 2:14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

Eph 2:15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,

The two groups that Jesus has made as one are the Jews and the Christians. There is no longer a dividing wall between us. We are all one in Jesus. Both Christians and Jews must have faith in Jesus Christ to be regarded as being righteous before God. In order to be righteous before God, the Jews need to acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah.

The law of Moses has “passed away” according to the following verses in 2 Corinthians.

2Co 3:5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

2Co 3:6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2Co 3:7 Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was,

2Co 3:8 will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?

2Co 3:9 If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

2Co 3:10 For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory.

2Co 3:11 And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

If our Lord did not change the “law of Moses” through his birth, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, then he did all of this for absolutely no reason and no benefit. Then he did all of this for absolutely no reason, and for no benefit to

anyone. If we are still under the “law of Moses”, then what has changed? It is very clear from Hebrews 9:16-17 that the new covenant, the law of Jesus, could not come into effect until Jesus actually died on the cross.

Heb 9:16 In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it,

Heb 9:17 For a will is in force where there has been death, for it is never in force while he who made it lives.

Heb 9:18 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood.

This is the reason Jesus was required to keep the “law of Moses”. The new covenant he came to establish could not take effect until the very moment he died on the cross. As verse 17 above states clearly. Because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. Therefore, the new covenant came into effect the moment Jesus died on the cross, not before.

The first covenant required the blood of animals to take away the sins of the nation, as we see in verse 18 above, and these sacrifices had to be done constantly. However, Jesus’ sacrifice was only needed once to take away the sins of the world. The following passages of scripture have declared this to us.

Rom 6:10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

Heb 7:27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

Heb 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Heb 9:26 Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Heb 10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

Heb 10:2 Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins.

Heb 10:10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Jud 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

Joh 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Act 13:39 Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

Rom 10:4 Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Laws by themselves do not change the heart. This has been clear to everyone throughout the history of Israel. They were constantly turning to God when they were in trouble, only to go back to sinning once God had rescued them. The “laws of Moses” were impossible for them to keep, and they kept turning to the ways of

the Pagans. This proves how powerless the law is. Only faith in Jesus Christ can change the heart of a man.

It is very interesting to note that when Jesus was giving the “great commission” to his disciples, he did not tell them to preach the “law of Moses”. No, they were to teach everything he had commanded them, as we see in Matthew 28:18-20.

Mat 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Mat 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Notice in verse 18, Jesus has been given all authority. Therefore, we must listen to him and to no one else. The law of Jesus has definitely replaced the law of Moses.

The Sacrifice of Jesus is Sufficient.

Heb 10:12-14 teaches that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross perfected those who are sanctified. Surely this means they are right with God and can enter his kingdom. Christ's sacrifice has made them perfect.

Heb 10:12 but he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Heb 10:13 from that time waiting until his enemies are made the footstool of his feet.

Heb 10:14 For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Perfected for ever, surely this means without sin. How can we achieve perfection while still being in our sins? We should examine the record in Gal 2:16.

Gal 2:16 yet knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law, because no flesh will be justified by the works of the law.

This verse makes it very clear how we are justified before God. It is by our own faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Nothing to do with any type of works. Not our own, or the works of others on our behalf and not by keeping the "Old Covenant". The blood of Jesus Christ was good enough to cleanse everyone from every sin.

The bible tells us in many places that when Jesus died for all humanity on the cross, this sacrifice was sufficient. Read Rom 5:18-21 to see the same idea explained again.

Rom 5:18 So then as through one trespass, all men were condemned; even so through one act of righteousness, all men were justified to life.

Rom 5:19 For as through the one man's disobedience many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one, many will be made righteous.

Rom 5:20 The law came in besides, that the trespass might abound; but where sin abounded, grace abounded more exceedingly;

Rom 5:21 that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When we unite with Christ, He completely cleanses us of all sins. As explained in the following verses, Jesus nailed our sins to the cross.

Col 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Col 2:13 You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

Col 2:14 wiping out the handwriting in ordinances which was against us; and he has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross;

Jesus Christ has taken our sins on Himself and has dealt with them on our behalf. How can we possibly be in Jesus, but still sinful? It makes little sense to believe this. More proof follows.

2Co 5:21 For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So, from these few verses above, we learn several things. Hebrews 10:14 teaches us we are made perfect forever. Second, in Romans 5:21, righteousness will reign through Jesus Christ. Third, Colossians 2:13 assures us that God forgives all our

trespasses. Jesus Christ nailed them to the cross. Fourth, in 2 Corinthians 5:21 we become the righteousness of God and then in Romans 6:23 we see where we can have the free gift of God that is eternal life in Jesus Christ.

The last scripture I will use here is powerful. That should have you believe we are completely clean of all sins and unrighteousness thanks to what Jesus did for us by his self sacrifice on the cross.

1Jn 1:7 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.

We must ask ourselves some very serious questions about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Does the sacrifice of Jesus Christ cover our sins or not? (1Jo 1:7 and Heb 10:19)

1Jn 1:7 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.

Heb 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

Does God give us eternal life as a free gift? (Rom 5:15-17, Rom 6:23)

Rom 5:15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

Rom 5:16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.

Rom 5:17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace

and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Does the sacrifice of Jesus Christ make those who are being sanctified perfect? (1Joh 2:5, Heb 10:14)

1Jn 2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

Heb 10:14 For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

When Jesus Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice, was it one sacrifice to cover all sins forever? (Heb 9:24-28, Heb 10:12)

Heb 9:24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

Heb 9:25 Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own,

Heb 9:26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Heb 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

Heb 9:28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Heb 10:12 but he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God.

Is it from our faith in Jesus Christ that we are saved? (Gal 3:22, Col 2:12)

Gal 3:22 But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Col 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Does the word of God have anything to say about being justified by doing anything other than hearing and believing the truth? (Rom 3:28, Rom 5:1, Gal 3:21, Act 13:39, Gal 2:16)

Rom 3:28 We maintain therefore that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gal 3:2 I just want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by hearing of faith?

Act 13:39 and by him everyone who believes is justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Gal 2:16 yet knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law, because no flesh will be justified by the works of the law.

Does the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse us all from all sins? (1Jn 1:7, Joh 1:29, Heb 10:10)

1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Joh 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Heb 10:10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Does our faith in Jesus Christ benefit us in any way? (Gal 3:26)

Gal 3:26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

This short verse tells us so much about our faith and what it does for us. We are, through our faith, sons and daughters of God. Surely, being a son or daughter of God is sufficient proof of the power of the blood of Jesus Christ to remove all sins from us. We could not dwell with God if there was any sign of any sins left in us.

If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, then how do you conclude that when Jesus Christ died for all people on the cross, he only did half of the job of cleansing us of our sins? Why do we need to add to the sanctifying work of our Lord?

What have we seen from this chapter so far? Justification is by faith in Jesus Christ. We can never be justified by keeping the law, not that we do not need to keep the law, we need to keep it. But our justification is only by faith. If you have this true faith in Jesus, then you will automatically want to keep the law. As you come to know Jesus, you will also come to know the benefits of keeping his laws.

The following passage of scripture plainly states that believing in Jesus is the only way for us to be saved, for those who will listen to the words of God and actually believe them.

Rom 10:9 that if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart, one believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Rom 10:11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed."

Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich to all who call on him.

Rom 10:13 For, "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Rom 10:14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher?

Rom 10:15 And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Rom 10:16 But they didn't all listen to the glad news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"

Rom 10:17 So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Verse 12 tells us there is no distinction between Jew and Greek. The Lord is the Lord of us all, regardless of our nationality. Both Jews and Greeks need the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us all from our sins and to make us all righteous in the eyes of God.

The Catholic Church invented a fictional place called purgatory and claims it is a good thing because it provides a place where we can finally be cleansed from our sins. But surely the best thing possible is that believers in Jesus Christ, and his self-sacrifice for all humanity, are thoroughly cleansed from all sins just by believing. If Jesus has done this for us, then there is absolutely no need for a place where our sins are further scourged from us. By the actions of Jesus, and our faith

in Him, there is no trace of any sin left in us. Therefore, we are at peace with God, and we should also be at peace with ourselves.

Why Does all this matter?

Believing in a place called Purgatory, is to believe the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross only partially cleansed us from our sins. But this is contrary to what we have seen in this chapter. Read 1 John 1:7 again.

1Jn 1:7 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.

If you believe God is the author of the bible, then the many scriptures I have quoted in this chapter must convince you of the real cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ. He sacrificed himself on the cross for all humanity and for all time. He did not do just a part of removing our sins from us. No, he removed every trace of every sin we have ever committed. What does God say about this matter in the book of Isaiah?

Isa 43:25 "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

God does not remember our sins when we accept the sacrifice of Jesus, when we accept his blood has obliterated all our sins forever.

Christ's death on the cross cleanses us from ALL sin. Therefore, there is absolutely no need for us to try to keep the "Law of Moses" because, as we have seen, this is impossible for us to do. No man, except for Jesus Christ, has ever been capable of keeping these laws.

Tearing of the curtain

The temple that stood in Jerusalem in the days Jesus Christ was on the earth was a magnificent building. According to the book of John chapter two verse twenty, it took the Jewish people 46 years to build. When Jesus turned the tables of the money changers over in the temple courts, the Jews demanded to know by what authority Jesus had to do this. Jesus answered them, as we see in John 2:18-21.

Joh 2:18 The Jews therefore answered him, "What sign do you show us, seeing that you do these things?"

Joh 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

Joh 2:20 The Jews therefore said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple! Will you raise it up in three days?"

Joh 2:21 But he spoke of the temple of his body.

The Jewish temple was divided into several parts, each serving a particular purpose in the worshipping of God. The innermost room was called the "Holy of Holies" and was the room where God's presence was in the temple.

Only the High Priest could enter the "Holy of Holies", and then only once a year on the "Day Of Atonement", to atone for the sins of Israel. To enter this part of the temple at any other time of the year, or by any other person, was a sure death sentence.

This room, the holy of holies, was separated from the rest of the temple by a massive curtain or veil. According to Jewish tradition, people estimate that the curtain was about 60 feet high, although the exact size is not known. It was very thick with a thickness of about 4 inches.

So it was a massive curtain. The book of Exodus informs us about the making of the massive curtain. They made it from blue, purple and scarlet materials along with twisted linen.

The veil represents the separation of a Holy God from sinful humanity because our sins have separated us from God, as we see in Isa 59 verses 1 and 2.

Isa 59:1 Behold, Yahweh's hand is not shortened, that it can't save; nor his ear dull, that it can't hear.

Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

As we can see from verse two, our sins have separated us from God. He designed the temple in a way to keep us separated from himself. This was the purpose of the curtain or veil.

It is well worth reading the rest of Isaiah 59 to see why the curtain was in place to make a dividing line between God (holiness) and humanity (sinfulness).

The Significance.

The very moment Jesus died on the cross, this massive curtain in the Temple was torn in half from the top to the bottom as recorded for us in Matthew 27 verses 50 and 51.

Mat 27:50 Jesus cried again with a loud voice, and yielded up his spirit.

Mat 27:51 Behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth quaked and the rocks were split.

The height and thickness of this veil makes what happened when Jesus died on the cross even more remarkable. From verse 51, we see the curtain was torn from the top to the bottom. This would have required a massive amount of energy to tear such an enormous curtain in two. It is also interesting to note that it was torn from the top to the bottom. Signifying that it was God the Father himself who tore this massive curtain.

This was a very dramatic sign that showed us that this incredible sacrifice of Jesus was sufficient atonement for the sins of all humanity. The shedding of His blood

paid for our sins and freed us from the death penalty. This opened the way into the “Holy of Holies” where the presence of God resided.

Before this amazing sacrifice of Jesus, only the high priest could enter this part of the Temple, and then only on one day of the year. What this did for us was amazing. It gave us the right to come before the “Throne of Grace” without fear. To actually approach Almighty God with our prayers and requests.

Now, the way into the holy of holies is open for all people and for all time, for both the Jews and the Gentiles. God also abandoned the temple and no longer lives in a dwelling made by human hands. God was now finished with the temple in Jerusalem and the Romans finally destroyed it in A.D. 70.

We read in

Act 17:24 The God who made the world and all things in it, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, doesn't dwell in temples made with hands,

The temple needed to be removed because as long as it stood, the old covenant would continue with its sacrifices. As Hebrews 8 verse 13 shows, the old covenant had to make way for the new covenant to be fully established.

Heb 8:13 In that he says, “A new covenant”, he has made the first old. But that which is becoming old and grows aged is near to vanishing away.

Hebrews 9 verses 8 and 9 make this even clearer.

Heb 9:8 The Holy Spirit is indicating this, that the way into the Holy Place wasn't yet revealed while the first tabernacle was still standing;

Heb 9:9 which is a symbol of the present age, where gifts and sacrifices are offered that are incapable, concerning the conscience, of making the worshiper perfect;

The temple is no longer needed. We are now permitted to enter the very presence of God through this torn curtain. The writer of the book of Hebrews describes this beautifully in Hebrews 10 and verses 19 to 23.

Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus,

Heb 10:20 by the way which he dedicated for us, a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Heb 10:21 and having a great priest over God's house,

Heb 10:22 let's draw near with a true heart in fullness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and having our body washed with pure water,

Heb 10:23 let's hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering; for he who promised is faithful.

The veil in the temple was a constant reminder to us that sin has no place in the presence of God. No amount of animal sacrifices could truly atone for the sins of humanity. But Jesus Christ, through his death on the cross, has now removed all barriers between God and man. We may now approach the throne of grace with boldness and confidence as revealed to us in Hebrews 4 and verse 16.

Heb 4:16 Let's therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace for help in time of need.

We no longer need the services of a human high priest or animal sacrifices for our forgiveness. Now we have our Lord Jesus Christ in Heaven. The only one who can intercede for us with our Heavenly Father as recorded in Hebrews 7 verse 25.

Heb 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

The death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ paid for our sins. The tearing of the curtain made it possible for all humankind to approach God. And as we can plainly see in 1Ti 2:5, Jesus is the only mediator between us and God.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Many people today still rely on a priest to confess their sins to. This is no longer necessary. Understand 1Ti 2:5 and see there is only one mediator between God and man, and that is Jesus Christ. No-one else can intercede for us. Absolutely no one else, not Moses, no saint, no angel, no man and definitely no woman has the authority to intercede between God and humanity. Jesus Christ alone has the prerogative reserved for him.

Differing Laws.

Today we must ask the question. Which law should we be keeping? The law of Moses, or the law of Christ?

What about these laws in?

Exo 21:23 But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life,

Exo 21:24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,

Exo 21:25 burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

We have all heard these laws mentioned many times, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Should we still do this as a requirement of keeping the “law of Moses”, or do we “listen to Him”, listen to Jesus Christ?

Mat 5:38 “

You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'”

Mat 5:39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

Now notice how we can keep the entire law.

Gal 5:13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Gal 5:14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

And again we see the entire law hangs on just 2 of the commandments as we see in.

Mat 22:36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Mat 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Mat 22:38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

Mat 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Mat 22:40 "All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

One law of Moses was the law regarding the circumcision of every male child. But what does Paul say on this matter in.

Gal 5:2 Behold, I, Paul, tell you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will profit you nothing.

Gal 5:3 Yes, I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

Gal 5:4 You are alienated from Christ, you who desire to be justified by the law. You have fallen away from grace.

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

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision amounts to anything, nor uncircumcision, but faith working through love.

Now let us examine how the dietary laws established in the "Law of Moses" were changed.

Mar 7:18 He said to them, "Are you also without understanding? Don't you perceive that whatever goes into the man from outside can't defile him,"

Mar 7:19 "because it doesn't go into his heart, but into his stomach, then into the latrine, thus purifying all foods?"

Mar 7:20 He said, "That which proceeds out of the man, that defiles the man."

We cannot make ourselves unclean by the food we eat, it is by the words that come out of our mouths that make us unclean.

Is it still mandatory to put to death anyone caught in adultery according to the law of Moses? Is that still binding today?

What about working on the Sabbath day? The Pharisees accused Jesus of doing this and how did Jesus respond to them.

Luk 14:3 Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

Luk 14:4 But they were silent. He took him, and healed him, and let him go.

Luk 14:5 He answered them, "Which of you, if your son or an ox fell into a well, wouldn't immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?"

The law of Jesus permits healing the sick and doing essential work on the Sabbath, but the law of Moses does not allow it.

Notice, even the law of tithing changed with the new testament. Formerly a tenth of one's income was to be offered to God, and many times this would have been a reluctant offering, only given because of the "Law of Moses". But today we are to give freely, and not of necessity as we see in.

2Co 9:6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

2Co 9:7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

There was a radical change to this law of tithing. If you do not want to give cheerfully, then do not give at all. If your whole heart is not willing to contribute to the work of God.

Do we still need to sacrifice animals in order to receive temporal forgiveness for our sins? No, we must accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. He died once and for all. Animal sacrifices are no longer necessary, nor is there a need for a priest to intercede with God for the forgiveness of our sins. Except for our high priest, Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can intercede between us and our Heavenly Father. No one else has this prerogative.

The Church and Israel

The “Law of Moses” was for the Jews and was to be observed by them until the appearance of Jesus Christ. Once Jesus died on the cross, the new covenant came into force and the old covenant became obsolete.

Take this into consideration and you can see the church is not required to keep the law of Moses, but by faith in Jesus Christ, we are keeping the law of Jesus. Since Moses himself told us to listen to Jesus, then I believe this is what we must do.

The Apostle Paul gives us one last warning in his letter to the Galatians, which we simply must listen to. I believe it is imperative we take his advice, especially in these days, when there are so many false teachers and prophets who can lead you away from Jesus. Many of these people are very sincere in what they teach, but this still does not make them teachers of the truth. Just a little falsehood can do a great deal of damage to your faith in God. Please read what Paul wrote for our benefit in Gal 1:3-10.

Gal 1:3 Grace and peace be to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,

Gal 1:4 Who gave Himself for our sins, in order that He might deliver us from the present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father;

Gal 1:5 To Whom be the glory into the ages of eternity. Amen.

Gal 1:6 I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

Gal 1:7 Which in reality is not another gospel; but there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Gal 1:8 But if we, or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you that is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!

Gal 1:9 As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!

Gal 1:10 Now then, am I striving to please men, or God? Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Moses told us we must listen to the prophet who was going to be raised up after him, and this can only mean our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the Law of Jesus that we are to follow. The law of Moses was fulfilled and became obsolete the moment Jesus died on the cross. In verses 8 and 9 above, Paul repeats what he said about anyone who preaches a gospel other than what they have learned from them. They are to be accursed. He repeated this to clarify that the gospel of Jesus, or the law of Jesus, is the ultimate law we are to strive to keep.

So if you are tempted to follow someone, or some organisation, or attend a church where the whole truth is not preached. Or maybe you are being told you must obey the “law of Moses” rather than the law of Jesus. Then my advice to you is to leave such a fellowship and seek the truth from the only place you will find it. In God’s holy bible.

What Is The Law of Christ

The Bible is the best-selling book in the world. This book is both simple and extremely complex, and as you study it more, you come to realise that only God could have written a book like this one.

The Bible is simple because you can read it and understand some of God's plan for humanity. You can see the holy days God has given to us so we can know something about his plans for us all. He reveals what is yet to come through prophecies that are still waiting to be fulfilled, and prophecies that have already come to pass that we can see, and that will allow us to believe in our Creator God.

Then it is also complex because if you look deeply into the Bible, you will discover different layers of information. If you look deeply into the Bible, you soon realize that the Old and the New Testaments are interwoven together and rely on each other for a complete understanding of God's scriptures. You cannot understand fully either Testament without the support of the other.

Throughout this book, I have stated that we must keep the "Law of Christ" rather than the "Law of Moses". So, this chapter explains the "law of Christ" and outlines our expected adherence to this law.

The Jewish leaders in the time of Jesus were very knowledgeable about the Old Testament scriptures, and they considered themselves to be experts in the law. One of these experts asked Jesus a very important question in the book of Matthew, and Jesus gave him a powerful answer that actually answers our question of what is the law of Christ. Listen to the question and the answer in the following verses.

Mat 22:34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.

Mat 22:35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

Mat 22:36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Mat 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Mat 22:38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

Mat 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Mat 22:40 "All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

In verse 36, this expert in the law asks Jesus what the greatest commandment of the law is. Jesus gives his reply in verses 37 to 40. We are to love God and our fellow man. But note what Jesus says in verse 40. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Look now at the book of Mark, chapter 12 and verse 31 and see what Jesus says about loving your neighbour.

Mar 12:31 "The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

There is no commandment greater than love. And that must include the commandments in the law of Moses.

What does Jesus mean by all the law and the prophets? He must be referring to the Law in the old testament. There was no other law. And the law of the old testament was the law of Moses.

Jesus is telling us the importance of loving both God and our fellow man. If we do both, we are keeping the full law. The law of Moses comprised some 613 laws that the Israelites were to keep perfectly. To break one of these laws was to break them all because they were all a part of the complete law. Yet in these verses, Jesus tells us by keeping just two laws, we are keeping them all.

This idea of love fulfilling the entire law is reinforced in

Rom 13:10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

This is a radical change in how to keep the law. We know it was impossible for anyone to keep the Law of Moses comprising 613 laws, so how can keeping just these two laws fulfil them all? We can find the answer to that all-important question in John 15:8-14.

John 15:8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."

John 15:10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

John 15:11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

John 15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

Let me now analyse these verses to see the extremely powerful meaning concealed here. In verse 8, we must show ourselves to be disciples of Christ. So what is a disciple? The following is a dictionary explanation.

Quote

Webster's definition of a disciple is "a pupil or follower of any teacher or school." A true disciple is not just a student or a learner, but a follower: one who applies what he has learned. Thus, a true disciple will ask, "What would Jesus do?"

End Quote

To be a disciple of Jesus means to do what we learn from him. To put into action the things he tells us are important.

Verse 9 above is one of the most amazing examples of Christ's love for us. Notice he loves us as the Father has loved him. So how to describe this love of God for his son Jesus Christ? Read what happened when Jesus was baptised by John.

Mat 3:16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

Mat 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Another scripture to confirm God's love for his son is when Jesus was transfigured in Mat 17:5.

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Because of the Father's love for Jesus, he has bestowed on him honour and glory.

2Pe 1:17 He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

From these passages of scripture, we can see how the Father views his son. He reveres, treasures, honours, and adores his son. God's love is complete, it is unconditional, and it will never change. And according to John 15:9, this is how Jesus loves us. This has to be one of the most encouraging passages of scripture you will ever read. To understand just how much Jesus loves us all.

Going back to John 15:10, we are to keep the commands of Jesus if we are to stay in his love. Then verse 11 informs us Jesus has told us how much he loves us so our joy can be complete. And understanding how much love Jesus has for us all should indeed make us joyful and wanting to keep his commands to please him.

Now we come to the very challenging verse 12. We are to love others the same way Jesus loves us. Not just a simple concern for others, but a love so deep we

will be ready to lay down our lives for our neighbours as Jesus did for us when he sacrificed himself on the Roman cross.

What will result from such tremendous love for our God and for our fellow man? The first four of the ten commandments are how to love God and to keep his Sabbath day. While the last six commandments are all about how to treat and love our fellow man.

If we keep the laws of Christ, then we could never do any harm to our neighbours. We would never kill, or steal, or commit adultery, or even covert what our neighbours may have.

In this scenario, perfect peace would be our reality and there would be no need for security or armies, as we would have eliminated all threats to ourselves.

Conclusion

Now that I have shown some evidence about who we should listen to, it is time to ask again. “To whom will you listen?”

When we are keeping the law. Which law will you keep? The “Law of Moses” or the “Law of Jesus Christ”.

As we saw earlier, Jesus has the greater honour than Moses. This is something many people miss. Moses was a man. Jesus Christ is the “Son of God”. Jesus is the one who created everything, including all of humanity. He is the one who upholds everything by the power of his words.

To whom will you listen? May I advise you to follow the advice we have heard earlier when Moses told us we “must listen to him”. And even God the Father said we must “listen to him” when Jesus was baptized by John in the river.

There cannot be two laws, we can only keep one. The “Law of Moses” had its fulfilment in Jesus Christ. When Jesus died, his law became the reality.

I have presented some of the evidence to you. There is still more contained in the holy scriptures. I pray you will continue to seek the truth from the only place you will find it. In God’s holy bible.

So in closing let me show you two more sections of scripture that should convince you to follow Jesus and not Moses.

Gal 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Gal 5:2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.

Gal 5:3 Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.

Gal 5:4 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

Gal 5:5 For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

These six verses are very powerful and reveal what the penalty is to follow the law of Moses. Yes, there is a penalty, read especially verse four and see that by trying to keep the law you are actually alienating yourself from the Son of God, from Jesus Christ. Circumcision is one of the laws of Moses, but what is shown to us here. It is of no value and if someone does get circumcised they are then obliged to keep the whole law that is impossible for any man to keep.

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Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

The law of Moses commands us to love our fellow man as we love ourselves. But the law of Christ goes so much further. We are to love our fellow man as Jesus loves us. This is a greater and more sincere love. Now understand what is revealed in the following.

Col 1:19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

Col 1:20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Col 1:21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Col 1:22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

Col 1:23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Following, or obeying the laws of Christ will reconcile us to God, will present us holy in his sight, we will be without blemish and will be free from accusation if we continue in faith towards Jesus Christ. So why try to keep the impossible law of Moses, when you can just have faith in Jesus Christ to be made perfect before God. Something the law of Moses could never do.

May God bless you and your family.

About the Author

Leslie Rendell has always believed in the existence of Almighty God. But it is only in the last 34 years that he has become more dedicated to researching the Holy Bible to find answers to his own questions.

We all have our own personal question to ask as we wonder why things are a certain way in our lives, and in the lives of other people as well. Leslie has always relied only on the Bible for his answers to religious questions because this is the only place one can expect to find the truth. The thoughts and teachings of any man, church, or religion, mean nothing to him.

If there is a conflict between what man claims to be right, and what God has had recorded in his holy scriptures, then the word of God will always be regarded as correct. The traditions of man, no matter who he is, will never be seen as more important, or more authoritative than the words in the Bible.

This is the way Leslie has always written, and will continue to write, as he seeks to find answers to his own questions that will hopefully also help to answer questions other Christians, and Non-Christians, may have.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

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