



Why did God give us the Law?

John N. Oswalt
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“A Christian cannot live in known sin and remain in a saving relationship with Christ.”

John McArthur
(pastor, theologian)

“The law was not set aside in its moral sense, only in its ceremonial sense.”

Charles Spurgeon

“Holiness is not the way to Christ; Christ is the way to holiness. Better still, Christ is our holiness.”

Two Different Gospels?

**God covered
our sin!**

so that we do not
have to keep the
law to be saved.

God saves us in
spite of our sins.

**God reforms
our fallen nature!**

so that we have
power to obey the
law and be saved.

God saves us from
our sins.

Two Different Gospels?



The Cross alone



The Scripture

Romans 8:1

**“Therefore there is now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.”**

Philippians 3:9

“(that I) may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.”

*Three reasons believers are free
from the Law's condemnation.*

1. All the demands of the Law have been satisfied by Christ.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us” *Galatians 3:13*

2. The Law as a covenant has been terminated and replaced.

“For on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.” *Hebrews 7:18*

Three reasons believers are free from the Law's condemnation.

1. **All the demands of the Law have been satisfied by Christ.**
2. **The Law as a covenant has been terminated and replaced.**
3. **Believers have not only died to sin through baptism into Christ (ch.6), they have also died to the Law (ch.7).**

If the Law is weak, useless, and removed, was it a mistake?



Romans 7

- **Paul is going to make an analogy from common civil law concerning marriage and sexual unions.**

¹ Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? ² For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. ³ So then if, while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man.”

- **The woman's freedom from condemnation before the law is determined not by her changed behavior but by her changed position before the law.**

⁴ Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God. ⁵ For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.”

- **Paul's point is that the Mosaic Law is not applicable to those who have died.**
- **We died to the Law in & for our union with Christ.**
- **Our freedom from condemnation before the Law is determined not by our changed behavior but by our changed position with respect to the Law.**

The Law exposes sin.

⁷ What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “*You shall not covet.*” ”

- **All humans have a sense that something is wrong and they feel some sense of a GENERAL shame and blame.**

- **The Law clarifies and specifies the problem as our sin.**



The Law brings shame & death

⁸ But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. ⁹ And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; ¹⁰ and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; ¹¹ for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me.”

- **The Law given to Israel promised life but this was misunderstood to suggest that human obedience was the path to life.**
- **Life is to be found in Christ through faith after the Law has killed all our hopes of human merit.**

Matthew 19:17

“. . . if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

1. Israel was challenged to find its life through (obedience to) the Law.
2. Israel interpreted the Law in such a way that it could be successfully managed with discipline.
3. Jesus challenged this interpretation in his Sermon on the Mount.

John 5

“³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; ⁴⁰ and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

- With these words Jesus reveals the purpose of the Law.
- The Scriptures are not our hope but they create a hunger for Christ and lead us to him as our hope and life.

Galatians 3

“¹⁸ For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. ¹⁹ Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made.”

The Law brings death.

“¹² So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. ¹³ Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.”

- We are not to conclude that the Law was at fault for it only exposed the real problem - our sinful nature.
- Until we sense the deadly consequences of our sin we will not be drawn to the Gospel of the Cross of Christ.

Does “falling away” mean failing to keep the commandments
(falling away from the Law)



Or does it mean failing to trust Christ as our righteousness and God’s grace as our calling.
(falling away from faith or grace)

Lessons for us

- **Bibliolatry** - making the Bible the object of our faith, hope, and love.

The Scriptures are not our hope but they point us to it.

The Quran

Christian Bible

Torah

The Holy Ark's entrance initiates the Jewish service



Our experience
Our personality
Our culture

We interpret the Scriptures through lenses.

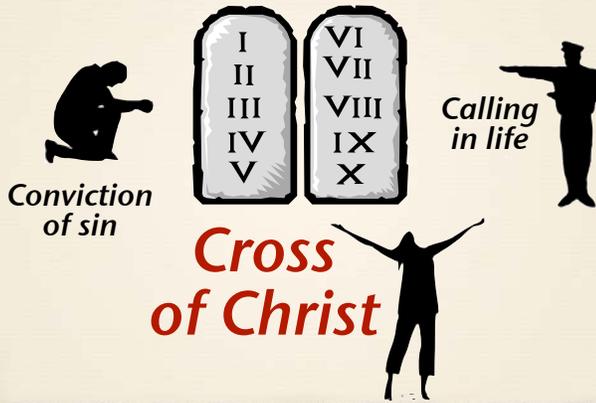
Some common mistakes

1. The devotional crystal ball -
read till you feel good or
find a verse that means
something to you.

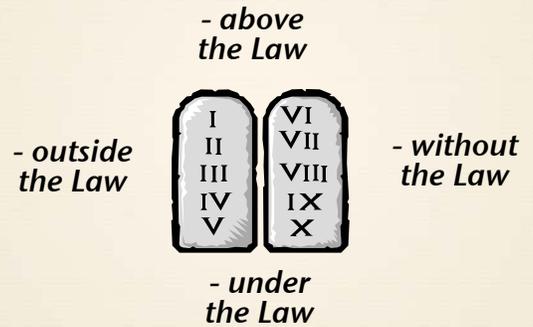
Some common mistakes

2. Disregard literary genre -
historical narrative,
poetry,
epistles,
gospels,
wisdom,
apocalyptic,
etc.

The Law should lead believers to:



*Christians are free from the Law -
This does not mean that they are"*



How should Christians view the Law of Moses?

Christians are free from the Law -

Romans 10:4

"For Christ is the end of the law of righteousness to everyone who believes."



Watch out for -

Carelessness **Worldliness**

- assuming that obedience does not matter. - preoccupation with the false hope of this world.

*Signs following:
Indifferent, Irreverent, Insensitive,
Independent, Ingratitude, Inhospitable,
Intolerant, etc.*

Motivation under -

Natural law **Mosaic law** **law of Christ**

Natural consequences of behavior Fear of God's judgment The Love and Grace of God

Guidance under -

Natural law **Mosaic law** **law of Christ**

Conscience and social contact Biblical rule and tradition Leading of the Spirit through the principles of Scripture