

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 1:17

Lesson #12

Free from the Law Covenant

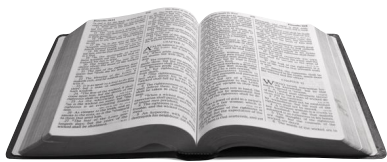
03/24/2019

Are you living “under the Law”?

- ☐ **Superficiality** - focused on “optics” and outer life issues.
- ☐ **Selectivity** - blindness to personal inconsistency / hypocrisy in application.
- ☐ **Separatist** - isolation from those deemed unclean, unworthy, or unenlightened.
- ☐ **Score keeping** - tracking credits and demerits of self and others.
- ☐ **Shame, blame, or pride** - inner turmoil, bitterness, and or hubris.

1

How to read the Old Testament



What does it mean
to be “free from
the Law”?



2

“There is perhaps no part of divinity attended with so much intricacy, and wherein orthodox divines do so much differ as stating the precise agreement and difference between the two dispensations of Moses and Christ.”

Jonathan Edwards
Memoirs of p 463



3

“Throughout history Christians have disagreed as to how to understand the relationship of the Old Testament Law to the Gospel of Christ as taught by Paul.”

LAW

Matthew 6:15

“But if you do not forgive men, **then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**”

Ephesians 4:32

“And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, **forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**”

Grace



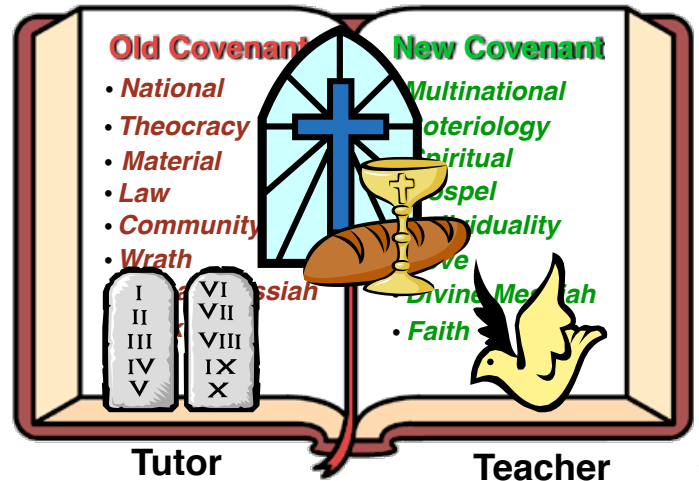
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The challenge of two different emphases



6

The challenge of two different emphases

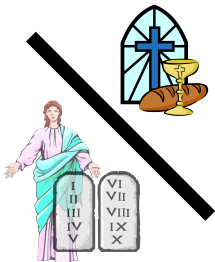


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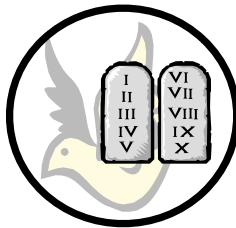
Dealing with the tension between the OT (Jesus) and the NT (Paul)

1# Contradiction 2# Continuity 3# Contrast

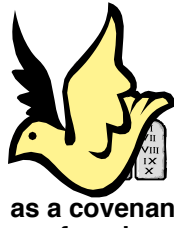
Christ of **faith**
versus the Jesus
of **history**



New Covenant
upgrades the
Old Covenant.



New Covenant
replaces the
Old Covenant



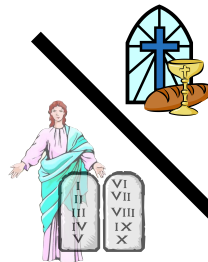
as a covenant
of works

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View #1 Biblical theology is hopelessly contradicted because it is of human origin.

1# Contradiction

Christ of **faith**
versus the Jesus
of **history**



Cultures

Myriapods

Ebionites

Torah

Paul

Peter

John

James

Judaisers

Nazareans

Historical
Jesus

Four Gospels

Church fathers

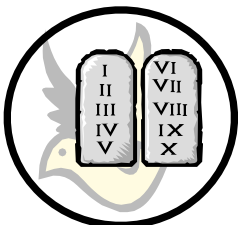
Gnostics

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View #2 Biblical theology is a single covenant with different expressions.

2# Continuity

New Covenant
upgrades the
Old Covenant.



View #3 Biblical theology is a single promise with both an OLD and NEW covenant.

3# Contrast

New Covenant
replaces the
Old Covenant

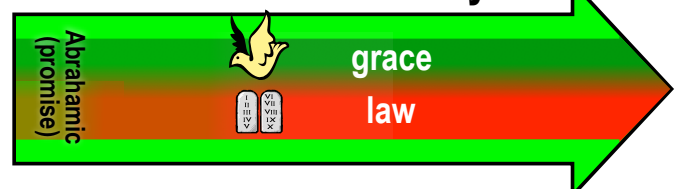


Christians are
divided over
these views.

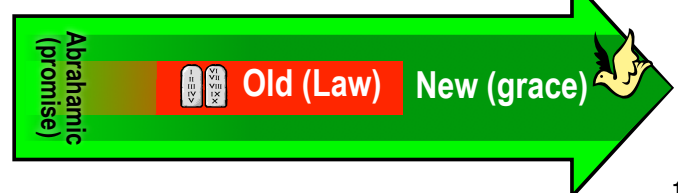
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Old and New covenants

View #1 continuity



View #2 contrast



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How did the N.T. writers read the O.T.?

12

The N.T. writers often used the O.T. as though it was written “about” them.

Hebrews 8:9

“He says, *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them upon their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people.*”

The blessings of the new covenant are applied to the Church, suggesting to some that the Church is a “spiritual” Israel.

13

The Cross and Resurrection of Christ stood in contrast to the Law Covenant of Moses.

John 1:17

“For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized **(came into being)** through Jesus Christ.”

The New Covenant **replaces** the Old Covenant as a covenant of works.

14

“In the New Testament, Law and “Gospel” primarily denote, not two constant aspects of God’s word to us, but two successive eras in salvation history.”

Douglas J. Moo
“Law, the Gospel, and the Modern Christian”
Page 322

15

The crucifixion, resurrection, Pentecost events marked the beginning of the New covenant age.

Old Testament - Gospels
New Covenant
Acts - Epistles

Ephesians 3:3-5

“that by revelation there was made known to me the **mystery**, . . . which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it **has now been revealed** to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit,”

16

The crucifixion, resurrection, Pentecost events marked the beginning of the New covenant age.

Old Testament - Gospels
New Covenant
Acts - Epistles

1 Corinthians 11:25

“This cup is the new covenant **in my blood.**”

Acts 11:15

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us **at the beginning.**”

17

The **crucifixion, resurrection, Pentecost events** marked the beginning of the New covenant age.



Romans 10:4

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

18

At the Cross, the Law covenant was set aside.

Hebrews 7:18

“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.”

NOTE: This “setting aside” had to do with its function as a “covenant” of cursing and blessing not as a reflection of God’s nature or Kingdom.

19

At the Cross, the Law covenant was fulfilled.

Galatians 3:12

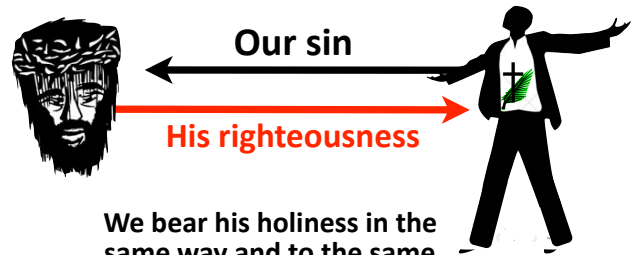
“However the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, He who practices them shall live by them. **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law**, having become a curse for us.”

20

The great exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



We bear his holiness in the same way and to the same extent that he bore our sin.

21

Christ “fulfills the demands” of the law without the believer “doing the works” of the law.

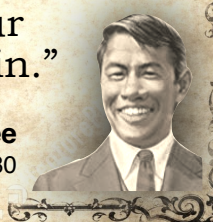
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“We think of the Christian life as a ‘**changed life**’ but it is not that.

What God offers us is an ‘**exchanged life**,’ a ‘substituted life,’ and Christ is our Substitute within.”

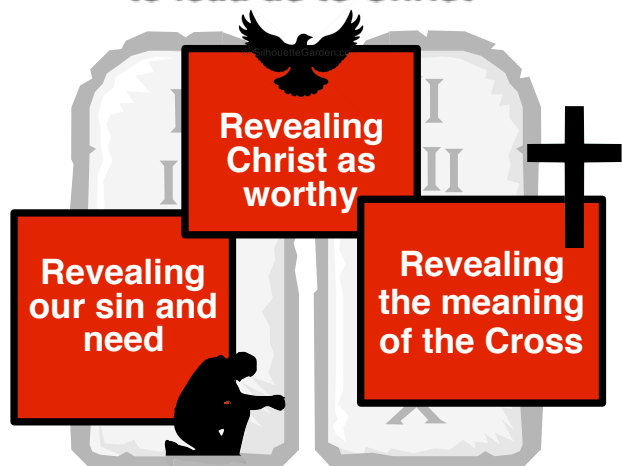
Watchman Nee

“The Normal Christian Life” Page 180



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**The Law's role as a tutor
to lead us to Christ**



24

**The Christian has died with Christ
and the Law's authority has ended.**

Romans 7:1,4,6

“the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?”

“you were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ,”

“But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound,”

25

Death is the
only sure
escape from
the law's
condemnation.



26

“Legalism is a toxic
preoccupation with the
rules of engagement
between man and God

as a means of achieving
and maintaining
forgiveness from God
and acceptance by God
through obedience to God.”

27

Legalism - a “paint by the numbers” system



28

**Above
the Law
(Libertines)**

**Outside
the Law
(Gentiles)**



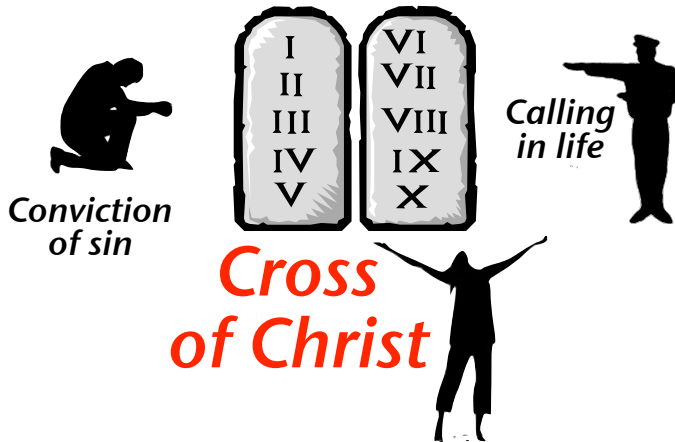
**UNDER
THE LAW
(JEWS)**

**Free from
the Law
(Christians)**



29

The Law should lead believers to:



The Terrorizing Work of the Law in the Christian's Life



Two mental postures

1. Listen to self (sow to the flesh)
 - Surface the lust of the flesh
 - Rehashing the lie
 - 1. Satan's word to Eve
 - 2. Satan's word to Jesus
 - 3. Satan's accusation
2. Talk to self (sow to the Spirit)
 - Import the Word of the Cross
 - Telling yourself the truth
 - 1. Your identity "in Christ"
 - 2. Your death by baptism
 - 3. The Spirit of affirmation



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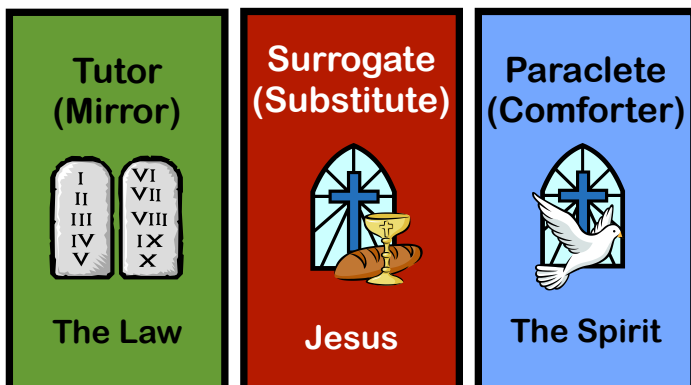
"Walking in the light" is "walking in the Spirit" is "walking in the Word of the Cross"

When we see self in contrast to Christ

When we see self in the context of Christ



Don't confuse the ministries of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.



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