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What Is the Point of God's Law?—P1

“Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin” (Rom. 3:20).

The question of what God's Law is and its relationship to the Believer has been a topic of confusion in the Church from the beginning. Some people argue that the Law has passed away and is no longer relevant because we live in a time of Grace, often using this argument to defend practicing sin in their lives. Others argue that while the Believer receives Salvation through Jesus, we still must abide by the Law and keep it to be saved. Neither is correct.

To the people who say the Law is done away with, Jesus said, *“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished”* (Matt. 5:18). The Law of God will not pass away until at least after the Millennial reign of Jesus. If that's the case, are we to live under it as Believers? No. The point of the Law is to bring knowledge of sin to those who encounter it: *“I would not have come to know sin except through the Law”* (Rom. 7:7b), for *“we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching”* (1 Tim. 1:8-10).

Before you were saved, you were an unrighteous person, and the Law of God made you aware of your sin and your need for a Savior. It was the Law that brought you to Jesus, for *“the Law has become our tutor to lead us*

to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith” (Gal. 3:24). What does that mean?

Before you knew God's Law, you were going to perish because even though you didn't know you were a sinner, you were under the wrath of God for your sinful deeds. When confronted with the Law, your sin was revealed to you, and you understood your sin deserved judgment. *“For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law”* (Rom. 2:12). The Law simply revealed your true nature to you—unjustified and accountable to God for your sin. You saw that you needed a Savior to save you from your destiny of judgment and destruction for your sins. It was then that God offered the free gift of Salvation through faith in Jesus—By His righteous substitution of Himself for you, you were justified, made righteous, and saved from the Law's judgment.

It is not by obeying the Law that we are justified before God, because we cannot obey it—which is the point of the Law, *“so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin”* (Rom. 3:19-20). *“So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good”* (Rom. 7:12), because it reveals to the unbeliever that what has separated them from God is sin and they are destined for judgment unless someone intervenes on their behalf as an advocate or savior.

The Law cannot make you right with God. Its purpose is to condemn all men by testifying against their sin. The Law necessitates a savior. Indeed, *“Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”* (Rom. 7:24b-25a). Through Him only, *“man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law”* (Rom. 3:8).

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