

Psm. 11:3

Baptists For Liberty

Prov. 29:2

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

NEWS LETTER

Issue #6

March 2013

Monthly verse: *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death”
Romans 8:2*

Sermon:

“The Right Use of the Law”

by Bro. Jeff Short

And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. ~ Deuteronomy 32:46
Do we have any use for the law of God today?

Many professing Christians express disdain for God’s law. They do this by ignoring and neglecting the Old Testament. They do this by relegating the Old Testament to nothing but interesting history and fodder for Sunday School stories. They do this by viewing the New Testament as a replacement for the Old Testament.

The expressions we hear about God’s law differ drastically from the statements of the Scripture writers. They loved God’s law and esteemed it very highly.

Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.
- Job 23:12

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- Psalm 1:2

I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.
- Psalm 119:16

The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.
- Psalm 119:72

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.
- Psalm 119:97

Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.
- Romans 7:12

Lawful Use of the Law

Paul wrote, *“But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully”* (1 Timothy 1:8), indicating there is a good and right use of the law. The law can be used wrongly, but that doesn’t negate the right use. A wrong use of the law, for example, would be to merit justification before God. The law wasn’t given for that purpose and has no power to that end. *“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight”* (Romans 3:20). The Bible teaches us at least six good uses for the law:
Restrain wickedness (1 Timothy 1:8-10)
Convict of sin (Romans 3:20; Romans 7:7)
Expression of God’s holy righteousness (Leviticus 20:7-8)
Pointer to Christ (Galatians 3:24)
Protection of the weak and preservation of justice (Isaiah 1:17)
Teaches how to love (Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 22:36-40)



In this month's issue;

“The Relevance of The Law To Today's Christian”
by Bro. David M. Green, page 2

“Are a Society’s Views on God Reflected in Its Laws?”
by Bro. Michael Farmer, page 3

“Danger of False Teachers: Easter”
by Bro. Steve McCool, page 3

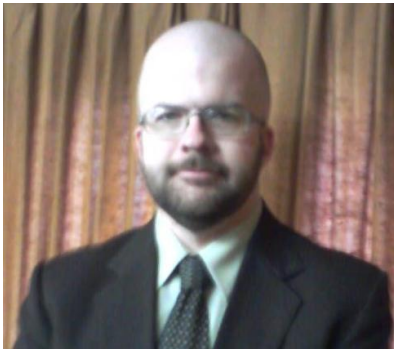
“The Lawgiver, The Law, and The Lawless”
by Bro. Milburn R. Cockrell, page 4

News, page 6

“Christians cry too!”
by Bro. David Green, page 7

“Freed From The Law!”
by Bro. Todd Bryant, page 9

“THE RELEVANCE OF THE LAW TO TODAY’S CHRISTIAN”



by Bro. David Green

In today’s world, many will search out to find the answer to this question. Unfortunately, many are misled and deceived into believing the wrong idea about this question.

Before I begin, I want to define a couple of words to try to set forth what people mean when they use these words. The first big word you may hear is antinomianism.

Antinomianism is the belief that the Gospel frees Christians from required obedience to any law, whether scriptural, civil, or moral. This is heresy came from the devil himself, and is not taught in the Scripture.

Another word you may hear being tossed around is legalistic. Someone who is legalistic is someone who believes that the law will save you. This doctrine is another idea that came from the Devil. The law of God was never intended to save anyone.

If both of these ideas are wrong, we must ask ourselves, “What does the Bible teach?” Please consider each of the references from the Bible that are given and take the time to turn to them. I believe this to be a very important article.

THE LORD’S FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW

When the Lord came to the earth, a few people thought he came to destroy the law. A few people still think that today. However, our Lord answered them by saying, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.” (Matthew 5:17). He came to fulfill the ceremonial law. Thus, the sacrifices are done away with...the veil of the temple was torn in two. He did not destroy the law, but he fulfilled it!

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

There are some who claim that in the Old Testament, men were saved by the keeping of the law and that the law is void in our age of grace because we are not saved by the law. In Romans 3:27-31, we read “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.” The law of God was NEVER intended to save people, but it is the schoolmaster to teach us that we are sinners. (See Galatians 3:24).

BEING FREE FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW

A verse that is often misused when dealing with the law is Romans 6:14, which reads “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.” Men and women run to this verse the second that they realize that God has said something (usually in the Old Testament) that they do not like. Some folks do not understand the Word of God. Others are in pure rebellion. After all, it is easy to break a law if the law is gone. The truth of the matter is, the moral law of God has not disappeared!

Continue reading in Romans 6 and you’ll find that in verse 15, the Holy Spirit directed Brother Paul to write, “What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.” This passage cannot be used as

a ticket to sin!

A careful study on sin will bring to light the fact that there would be no such thing as sin if there were no law. I John 3:4 says “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” Romans 4:15 tells us that “...where no law is, there is no transgression.”

In light of these two passages, we must come to the conclusion that the law he is writing about in Romans 6 is not a matter of having no responsibility to the moral law of God, but it must be something else. We have already seen that sin is the breaking of God’s law. Let’s look at Romans 6 in that manner: “...shall we [break the law] that grace may abound? God forbid.” We still have a responsibility to God’s law!

For the sake of continuity, let’s just go over to Romans 7:1-7: “Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law;) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”

Paul is not preaching the lawlessness that some believe in today. The moral law of God is not gone like some men say it is. We have been freed from the penalty of sin! In that sense, yes we are dead to the law.

In Galatians 3:13 we read “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:”

Here it is...we have been redeemed from the curse of the law! Not from the law itself, but from the curse of it. The law says “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.” Jesus has brought life! Romans 6:23 says “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” We broke God’s law, and as lawbreakers God still demands punishment (eternity in Hell). Yet, Christ came and paid our penalty for us.

FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN

The Bible does also speaks of us being free from the law of sin. Look at how the Holy Spirit defines the differences in Romans 7:14-25 “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.” The Apostle Paul recognized this law of sin. Every child of God has it within his flesh to serve that evil law. Yet, he also had the responsibility to serve and obey the law of God.

Continuing on into Romans 8:1-3, the Word of God brings it together. “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:”

There is no condemnation (freedom from the curse of the law) and we are

freed from the law of sin and death.

THE LAW FULFILLED IN US

"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Romans 8:4-8).

Here we read that we fulfill the law. Now, wait a minute...We read that Jesus came to fulfill the law when we read in the book of Matthew earlier. Is there another contradiction in the Bible? Absolutely not! What is the difference? Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial law. We fulfill the moral law of God when we live according to the moral laws of God.

CONCLUSION

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Psalm 1:1-2)

Is your delight in the law of God? Do you meditate upon it? Or do you try to get away from the law. If God's people looked at the law of God in the correct manner, we would have a moral influence on the world. We need to remember that just because we have been freed from the curse of the law does not mean we have no duty towards it. It is still very relevant to today's Christian.

"Are a Society's Views on God Reflected in Its Laws?"

by Bro. Michael Farmer

Every aspect of this world's system stands opposed to God (James 4:4). To go ever further, every aspect of this world's system is at its core satanic (II Cor. 4:4). This would include the aspect of the legal system. For periods of time and in certain areas, law, might be closer to God and the Bible; but it will always degenerate over time. In this process degeneration, you can see how a society, nation, and/or government views God by looking at its laws.

There are two examples I want to look at. First are the differences between Natural Law and Human Law. God has "written on the hearts" of every man certain laws (Rom. 2:15). His conscience bears witness to these Natural Laws. They could be summed up as love God and love your neighbor (Matt. 22:37-38; Rom 13:9) or the dreaded Ten Commandments. Having never read a Bible, a man's conscience will tell him that it is wrong to murder. Human Law should support God's Natural Law if the government has a biblical view of God. What eventually happens is that as the law degenerates it changes its views on God and His law. Eventually the laws of the land go beyond Natural Law and become bureaucratic regulations that make the State a god. The law now gives the State authority to steal, kill, harass, etc. and the citizen is viewed as a subject of the State. The Ten Commandments are now taboo, replaced with piles of pages of tax code, health care regulations, restrictions on citizens, and on and on.

The second way we see society's view of God in the law is in the area of morality. Again, Natural Law and our conscience teach us morality, and the scriptures give us a more perfect understanding of it. When a society is close to God, you can see godly morality codified in its laws. When a society slides back to its natural anti-God condition, you can see that too in the way it legislates morality. Again, Natural and Divine Law bear witness to the fact that murder is wrong; so, Human Law is enacted to codify this moral belief. The degenerate society has a new morality. They believe that same-sex marriage is moral, they believe that uncompromised preaching against sin is hateful and intolerant, both grave trespasses in the new morality. Society now enacts laws that support their new "morality," and now there are "hate speech" laws, discrimination laws, etc.

Our hope is never in this world or any of its systems including law and government. As our society degenerates and becomes more anti-God, we should pray like Paul that the government will leave us alone to live "a quiet

and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (II Tim. 2:2).

"Danger of False Teachers: Easter"



by Bro. Steve McCool

Today I will go through briefly the unholy worship of Easter. I will not at this time go in depth for lack of time and space. Most of us have heard of the pagan/catholic beginnings of this holiday. In this article I will concentrate on what the scriptures say and do not say about this topic. We will discuss the time/day. In Luke 23:54 and in John 19:14,31 we learn that Jesus was crucified on the Jewish holiday of Passover.

Leviticus 23:5 says *"In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's passover."* The first month on the Hebrew calendar is the same as the month of April on the Roman calendar we use today.

In Matthew 20:19, Mark 9:31; 10:34 and Luke 18:33; 24:7 we read where Jesus rose again on the third day. That would mean that He arose from the grave on April 17. Also notice that the Passover started in the evening.

Genesis 1:5 is an example of God's days. It says *"And the evening and the morning were the first day."* So in Bible time the day started with the evening not in the morning as we do today.

The Passover started when the morning of April 13th was finished and the evening of the 14th began. So according to the prophecies of the Son of God in the Old Testament Jesus had to die on the cross in the evening of April 14th before the Passover began.

Exodus 12:13; *"And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."* The blood of Jesus is our "token" for God's final Passover.

Matthew 27:45,46 tells us in "about the ninth hour" of the day was when he died. Three days later He arose from the tomb. Now three days later would have been in the evening of the third day, the weekly sabbath or Saturday. Now the scripture tells us that they hurriedly took him down from the cross and put Him in the tomb because the sabbath was about to begin. This was a special sabbath and not the usual Saturday sabbath they observed every week. This was the Passover Sabbath. Remember the Passover was to take place on April 14th. According to historians April 14th in the year our Lord was crucified would have begun on Wednesday evening. That means He was in the grave Wednesday night, Thursday, Thursday night, Friday, Friday night and Saturday. The third full day would have been Saturday so He would have arose on Saturday evening. Mark and Luke tell us the women had prepared spices and ointments and were on their way to his tomb the morning of the first day of the week. This would have been the fourth day or Sunday. Jesus first appeared to the women in the morning on the first day of the week. So as you can see many of the Easter traditions we observe today do not match with God's word and with world history. Why do we move the day around? Shouldn't it be on the 17th of April every year? Why do we observe Easter on Sunday morning? Did not His resurrection take place on Saturday evening? The answer to these questions and many more that we could ask about this topic is that the Catholic church, under the guidance of satan, has tricked man into observing lies rather than truth. They have done this with every so called "Christian" holiday on our modern calendar. To my knowledge there is only one holiday that the Lord told us to observe and that is the Lord's Day or the first day of the week (Sunday). In America today we have been so brain washed into believing in fantasy that we have allowed even the truths of our Heavenly Father to be presented as fantasy.

“The Lawgiver, the Law, and the Lawless”



by Bro. Melburn Cockrell

In our generation, we find ourselves surrounded with a diversity of laws. There are physical, moral, civil, and spiritual laws in our complex society. Living in such an environment, it is necessary that we acquaint ourselves with the meaning of the word “law.”

Law is “something laid down” or “something established.” It is a general expression of will enforced by power. It knows no persons or personalities. Law applies to all classes and in more than one case. There can be no law without power to enforce it. Without power to enforce, it becomes the expression of mere wish or advice.

The essential idea of law is will enforced by power. It implies a lawgiver, subjects, a general command, and a power to enforce. Or better stated, law is a general command from an authoritative being enforced by power upon other beings.

Law is an expression of the nature of the lawgiver, and it reveals the normal relation of the subject to the lawgiver. Any law which fails to represent the nature of the governing power will eventually become obsolete. All permanent law is a transcript of what must be in order to have harmony between the governing power and the governed subjects.

God and Law

God is not subject to law; he is the source of law. James 4:12 says, “*There is one lawgiver.*” God’s law is an expression of the Divine will enforced by supernatural power upon His creatures who are duty-bound to obey Him, and who are liable to pains and penalties for disobedience. It expresses the moral nature of God and calls His creatures to absolute conformity to His holiness (I Pet. 1:15-16; Matt. 5:48). This complete conformity to God’s law is the normal condition of man. The whole law can be summed up in three words: “*Be like God.*”

The underlining idea of sin is law: “Sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4). All sin is against the will and nature of God. It is a lack of conformity to the law of God, either in disposition, act, or state. It is a destitution of correspondence with the Divine law, a rejection of the Divine authority.

All sin is law-breaking. Sin cannot exist without the law of God. Romans 4:15 declares, “For where no law is, there is no transgression.”

The Three Systems of Law

Law is a term found about two hundred times in the Bible, meaning a rule which regulates human conduct. Three subdivisions are mentioned: “the law of God” (Rom. 7:22, 25), “the law of Moses” (John 7:23; Acts 13:39), and “the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2).

These expressions are not synonymous in meaning. Failure to distinguish between them has brought about no small amount of confusion. Law cannot be understood in the Bible unless one understands these three expressions.

The law of God is God’s unchanging moral standard of regulating the

conduct of all humanity. Sometimes the term refers to the whole revealed will of God, and at other times it points to the Ten Commandments. It is a transcript of the mind of God as to what man ought to be. This law expresses God’s holiness, for it discloses God’s holy face to human sight.

Obedience to this law is man’s first duty: “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man*” (Eccl. 12:13).

The law of Moses is the entire system of legislation, judicial and ceremonial, which the Lord gave to Israel during the time of Moses. It contained three parts: (1) moral regulations, Ex. 20:1-17; Matt. 22:36-40; (2) social requirements, Ex. 21:1-23:33; (3) ordinances for worship, Ex. 25:1-31; 38. Much of the law of God was incorporated into the moral regulations of the Mosaic law, but this Mosaic system was not given to the Gentiles (Acts 15:5-6, 10).

The law of Christ is God’s law in the hands of Christ our Mediator. Christ was made under this law (Gal. 4:4), and this law was in His heart (Ps. 40:8). It was this law that he came to fulfill. “*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfill*” (Matt. 5:17).

Thus the law of God is almost synonymous with the law of Christ. As creatures we are under the law of God our Creator, but being in union with Christ, believers are in-lawed to Christ (I Cor. 9:21). Christ was responsible to the law for us, so that we are no longer responsible to it, but to Him. So the believer is not without law to govern his conduct when in-lawed to Christ.

Misconceptions of God’s Law

The law of Jehovah is not temporary, for it manifests the essential nature of God. Moses broke the tables of stone upon which the law was inscribed, and Jehudi cut up the scroll and cast it into the fire (Ex. 32:19; Jer. 36:23), but the law continued as eternal as before in the nature of God and the constitution of man.

“The moral laws are just as stable as the law of gravitation. Every fussy human chicken that is hatched into this world tries to fool with those laws. Some grow wiser in the process, and some do not.

“We talk about breaking God’s laws. But after those laws have been broken several billion times since Adam tried to play with them, those laws are still intact, and no seam of fracture is visible in them---not even a scratch on the enamel.

“But the lawbreakers---that is another story. If you want to find their fragments, go to the ruins of Egypt, of Babylon, of Jerusalem; study statistics; read faces; keep your eyes open; visit Blackwell’s Island; walk through the graveyard and read the invisible inscriptions left by the Angel of Judgment, for instance: ‘Here lies the fragments of John Smith, who contradicted his Maker, played football with the Ten Commandments, and departed this life at the age of thirty-five. His mother and wife weep for him. Nobody else does. May he rest in peace!’” (W. Raushenbusch)

Men do not actually break God’s laws; they break themselves against them. Jesus Christ said, “*The scriptures cannot be broken*” (John 10:35). Here our Lord affirms the permanent authority of the Scriptures. Nothing can deprive them of their authority, for they are settled forever in Heaven (Ps. 119:89).

Some are prone to think of God’s law as being merely negative. This is an error, because conformity to God is the inmost requirement of law. The law is spiritual and required likeness in character and life to God Who is Spirit. Behind the negative expression of God’s law are legions positive moral requirements. When a sin is forbidden, the contrary duty is commanded (Is. 1:16-17).

It is also an error to think of God’s law as being to only one part of man’s being. Man’s law binds the hands only; God’s law binds both the hands and the heart. It requires purity in soul and body (II Cor. 7:1). Anything which comes short of perfect purity in soul or perfect health in body contradicts the law and is a transgression.

The law of God is not always outwardly polished or externally written. There was a law against murder (Gen. 4:8-15) and adultery (Gen. 38:24) in ancient time which have not come down to us in writing. Moses gave to man the first written law, but God’s moral law existed from the creation of man. It is written in Genesis 26:5: “*Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.*”

During the old dispensation the Gentiles were without an externally written

law, but they had a natural law written on their hearts. It was sufficiently clear to secure at the day of judgment their acquittal or condemnation. It is written in Romans 2:14: *"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not a law, are a law unto themselves."*

Man's consciousness or unconsciousness in no way limits the scope of the law. The law of the Lord exists like the law of nature whether men recognize it or not. We cannot rid ourselves of God's dominion by denying its existence or refusing submission to it. *"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh"* (Ps. 2:2-4).

God's law is not capable of modification, even to save a world of sinners. God cannot change it without ceasing to be God. The requirements of the law are not lessened because man is unable to keep it. Duty is not measured by ability. I may borrow money from the bank and then become unable to pay it back, but my inability does not excuse the debt. The obligation of man to obey the law is based upon man's original gifts and abilities. Man must render to God that which God first gave (Luke 19:23).

Characteristics of the Law

The moral law is all-comprehensive. It is over us at all times and in every circumstance. It cannot be confined to one place, person, or people. It requires every conceivable virtue and forbids every conceivable sin. *"Thy commandment is exceeding broad"* (Ps. 119:96).

Omissions as well as commissions are condemned by it. *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"* (Jas. 4:17). The neglect of doing good is actually a moral evil. To hold the truth captive is to be guilty of unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18).

"For we know that the law is spiritual" (Rom. 7:14). It breathes spirituality in its nature and intent. It embodies the demand of Him Who is Spirit. The law's essence is of like nature with the Holy Spirit Who gave it. God's law reaches to the spirit of man, and it gives him directions on how to be a spiritual man. It requires spiritual purity.

"The law of the LORD is perfect" (Ps. 19:7). Law is as the Lawgiver (Matt. 5:48). It needs no addition or subtractions. *"Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good"* (Rom. 7:12).

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (Jas. 2:10). The moral law expresses in its least commandment the one requirement of harmony with the Creator. The violation of one precept is all that is needed to condemn us.

The least sin separates from God. Little snakes are still snakes. The least offense makes us guilty of the whole law in that it reveals our lack of love which is required in all the commandments. One must keep every part of the law in order to be a lawkeeper. You cannot offend in one point without being a lawbreaker.

The Purpose of the Law

Only to Adam was the law proposed as a method of salvation. With the first sin, all hope of obtaining God's favor by perfect obedience was lost. Since the fall, man cannot submit himself to that Divine rule of life which is the practical expression of friendship with God. His aversion to the law makes subjection impossible, for sin cannot be in subjection to the law. *"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be"* (Rom. 8:7).

God never intended for man to be justified by the law. *"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified"* (Rom. 3:20). No corrupt man can ever be justified by the law in God's sight. The deeds of the law may justify us in the sight of the church and state, but never in the eyes of the Omnipotent One.

Paul clearly states: *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we believed in Jesus Christ, that we may be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified"* (Gal. 2:16).

It was not the office of the law to remove sin. *"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect... For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins"* (Heb. 10: 1, 4).

The law was the primer. It taught the elements of Christianity by objective lessons, but it could not meet man's need of justification and sanctification. It could not satisfy the demands of justice or make reconciliation for iniquity.

"For if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" (Gal. 2:21). If a man can be justified by the law, he needs no Savior. If he needs Christ at all, it is because he is condemned by the law.

The commandments were added at Sinai as a standard of life for a redeemed people. It was not a covenant of works in the sense that Israel's salvation depended upon obedience to it. The Israelites were saved just as we are by grace through faith. Acts 10:43 says, *"To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."*

"For by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:20). The law was given to show man that he is a sinner. *"What shall I say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet"* (Rom. 7:7). Those who would know sin must get a knowledge of the law in its strictness.

The law opens our wounds, but it offers no remedy. The commandments make sin to *"become exceeding sinful"* (Rom. 7:13). It, like a mirror, shows man his dirty face, yet it is a poor object with which to wash his face.

God's moral law stopped man's mouth. *"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God"* (Rom. 3:19).

The law convicts and condemns both Jew and Gentile. It prevents any man from boasting of being free from sin. It silences boasting by convicting men of their sins. It makes the world to come under the judgment of God and to stand condemned at His bar.

"The law worketh wrath" (Rom. 4:15) against all who break it. It pronounces a curse upon *"every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them"* (Gal. 3:10). The law was *"the ministration of death"* and *"the ministration of condemnation"* (II Cor. 3:7-9). All the law could ever do was to condemn a man for his sins against God.

If the law could not save or justify us, then what was its Divine purpose? The answer to this question is found in Galatians 3:19: *"Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."*

The law was given to make sins take the character of transgressions, and thereby the consciousness of sin be intensified and the desire for redemption aroused. It is the office of the law to awaken in man the consciousness of sin, in order that he may feel the need of a Savior.

The office of the law was similar to that of a pedagogue, or tutor, who had the care and control of children in those days when the New Testament was written. The tutor was to watch, restrain, and often severely discipline the children. *"Thus, even as the slave who leads a child to the house of the schoolmaster; so the law had led us to our teacher Christ, that by faith we might be justified"* (Gal. 3:24 Conybeare's Translation).

The Holy Spirit uses the law to convict the sinner of his sins. By means of it He makes us sick of self and fond of Christ. He brings us to see our condemnation that we will trust Christ to save us. He uses it to strip us of all pretense of natural righteousness so Christ can clothe us. He uses the law to shut us up unto faith in Christ as the only avenue of escape from Hell.

*My lips with shame my sins confess
Against thy law, against thy grace;
Lord, should thy judgment grow severe,
I am condemned, but thou art clear.
Should sudden vengeance seize by breath,
I must pronounce thee just in death;
And if my soul were sent to Hell,
Thy righteous law approves it well.*

*Show pity, Lord, O Lord, forgive;
Let a repenting rebel live;
Are not thy mercies large and free?
May not a sinner trust in thee?*

NEWS

Economics:

Retired congressman Ron Paul has continued with his weekly audio political commentaries “Texas Straight Talk” that he begun while in office. In the segment he published for the week of March 17th he took on the budget plans of the current congress; [“The Congressional Budget Debate Is Just A Sideshow”](#)

“Federal spending once again dominated the debate in Washington last week, as House Republicans and Senate Democrats began work on their ten-year budget plans. Contrary to claims, neither party's budget reduces spending. While the Republican plan increases spending a little less than the Democrat plan, it would still spend \$5 trillion in 2023, an almost two trillion dollar increase over this year's budget.

Of course, these projections of future budgets are meaningless, as a current Congress cannot bind a future one. Therefore, the projected spending for next year is the only part of the budget with any significance. So is there a great gulf between the two parties' budgets for next year? No. For fiscal year 2014, the Democrat budget proposes spending \$3.7 trillion, while the "radical" Republican budget spends \$3.5 trillion!

While the two parties bicker over minor differences in spending, the stock market, which many in Washington predicted would crash unless the parties reached a “grand bargain” on taxes and spending, seems unaffected by the various manufactured budget crises. Unfortunately, the market's indifference to Washington spending games is based on the fallacy that the deficit does not matter as long as the Federal Reserve is willing to monetize the federal debt.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is certainly doing all he can to facilitate deficit spending. The Federal Reserve's desire to monetize the federal debt is a main reason for the aggressive program of buying federal debt via the continuous quantitative easing. Under Chairman Bernanke, the Federal Reserve is pumping as much as \$85 billion a month into the American economy. This out-of-control monetary policy is largely conducted behind closed doors, yet it has much more effect on the do day-to-day lives of Americans than Congress's phony budget debates. The Federal Reserve's policies erode the value of the dollar, causing prices to rise, which in turn diminishes people's standard of living. This inflation tax may be the most hideous tax of all because it is both hidden and regressive.

Of course, the Federal Reserve can only keep this up for so long before doing serious damage to the economy. The Austrian school of economics teaches that the Federal Reserve is responsible for the boom-and-bust cycles that plague modern economies. The Federal Reserve's aggressive money pumping runs the risk of creating hyperinflation — especially once banks stop hoarding their reserves and began flooding the economy with Fed-created fiat currency.

Even though the economic crisis of 2008 proved the Austrians correct, there are still too many in D.C. and on Wall Street who believe the Keynesian fallacy that government and the Federal Reserve can spend-and-inflate our way to prosperity. But, as is the case with the narcotics addict, the longer the Federal Reserve enables Congress's habit of deficit spending, the more painful will be the withdrawal when Congress is finally forced to kick the habit.

The role of the Federal Reserve in facilitating deficit spending by the US— and even foreign governments—means it is a mistake to segregate monetary and fiscal policy. Our nation will never get its fiscal house in order until we reform monetary policy. The first step is letting the American people know the real facts about the Federal Reserve's actions.

The debate over the federal budget and even the battle over the Federal Reserve are ultimately arguments over symptoms rather than the cause. The root of the fiscal crisis is the belief that the federal government is qualified to manage the economy, provide for the people's needs, and spread democracy throughout the world through either by foreign aid or by force of arms. Neither party in Washington questions the welfare-warfare state.

Until Congress begins debating questions such as whether or not we really need thousands of military facilities around the world, whether or not we should shut down the Education Department and return control to local communities and parents, and whether we should allow young people to completely opt-out of the entitlement programs, the so-called debates in Washington, D.C. will continue to amount to nothing but sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

Abortion News:

Sen. Rand Paul of KY has proposed a “Life at conception” bill, on March 15th his office released this statement;

“WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Thursday, Sen. Paul introduced S.583, a bill that would implement equal protection under the 14th Amendment for the right to life of each born and unborn human. This legislation does not amend or interpret the Constitution, but simply relies on the 14th Amendment, which specifically authorizes Congress to enforce its provisions.

From Section 1 of the 14th Amendment:

“No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

“The Life at Conception Act legislatively declares what most Americans believe and what science has long known- that human life begins at the moment of conception, and therefore is entitled to legal protection from that point forward,” Sen. Paul said. “The right to life is guaranteed to all Americans in the Declaration of Independence and ensuring this is upheld is the Constitutional duty of all Members of Congress.”

Russian Adoption band:

While some Russian officials criticize their government's ban on US adoptions of Russian children, (you can read more on that here:

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2013/03/20/Russian-official-criticizes-adoption-ban/UPI-53721363791459/)

Thousands of peaceful Russians gathered in support of the band earlier this month.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/02/us-russia-adoption-idUSBRE92107D20130302>

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-03-02/news/sns-rt-us-russia-adoptionbre92107d-20130302_1_adoptions-of-russian-children-adoptive-american-parents-russian-born-children)

Mean while Time posted an article “Painful Lessons from Romania's Decade-Old Adoption Ban” (http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2013/03/20/Russian-official-criticizes-adoption-ban/UPI-53721363791459/) and CNN posted a report on the loss of tax credits, (<http://money.cnn.com/2013/03/15/pf/taxes/russia-adoption-tax-credit/>)

White House press releases:

March 15, 2013; “FACT SHEET: President Obama's Blueprint for a Clean and Secure Energy Future”

“The United States is on the path to a cleaner and more secure energy future. Since President Obama took office, responsible oil and gas production has increased each year, while oil imports have fallen to a 20 year low; renewable electricity generation from wind, solar, and geothermal sources has doubled;

And our emissions of the dangerous carbon pollution that threatens our planet have fallen to their lowest level in nearly two decades. In short, the President's approach is working. It's a winning strategy for the economy, energy security, and the environment.

But even with this progress, there is more work to do. Rising gas prices serve as a reminder that we are still too reliant on oil, which comes at a cost to American families and businesses. While there's no overnight solution to address rising gas prices in the short term, President Obama today reiterated his commitment to a sustained, all-of-the-above energy strategy and urged Congress to take up common-sense proposals that will further reduce our dependence on oil, better protect consumers from spikes in gas prices, and reduce pollution."

To read the full 3 page plan go to - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/03/15/fact-sheet-president-obama-s-blueprint-clean-and-secure-energy-future> (Note: The above is part of a press release from the White House, not an endorsement or "fact check" by this new letter.)

March 16, 2013; "Statement by the Press Secretary on the Formation of Israel's New Government"

The President congratulates the Israeli people, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the new members of the Prime Minister's governing coalition on the successful formation of Israel's new government. President Obama looks forward to working closely with the Prime Minister and the new government to address the many challenges we face and advance our shared interest in peace and security. The United States places a high value on its deep and enduring bonds with Israel and the Israeli people. The President looks forward to further strengthening those bonds when he travels to Israel next week to meet with Israeli officials and to speak directly with the Israeli people.

March 18, 2013; "Statement by the Press Secretary Announcing the Visit of African Leaders"

President Obama looks forward to welcoming President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone, President Macky Sall of Senegal, President Joyce Banda of Malawi, and Prime Minister José Maria Pereira Neves of Cape Verde to the White House on Thursday, March 28. The United States has strong partnerships with these countries based on shared democratic values and shared interests. The five leaders will discuss strengthening democratic institutions across sub-Saharan Africa, and building on Africa's democratic progress to generate increased economic opportunities and expanded trade and investment. The visit of these four leaders underscores the strategic importance the President places on building partnerships and substantive engagement with sub-Saharan Africa, and our commitment to working with strong and emerging African democracies.

March 20, 2013; "Statement by NSC Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden on the Visit of Yoani Sanchez"

After many years of being prohibited from travel outside of Cuba, Yoani Sanchez, a respected advocate for the freedom of information and winner of the State Department's International Women of Courage Award, is visiting the United States. Today we welcomed her to the White House to meet with White House staff, including Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs Ricardo Zuniga, to discuss her efforts to promote increased respect for freedom of expression in Cuba. The United States looks forward to the day when all Cubans will have the opportunity to express themselves in public without fear and we will continue to support policies that encourage the free flow of information to, from, and within Cuba.

You can read more white house press releases at whitehouse.gov these where just a few from the past couple of weeks I found interesting.

Other issues:

On March 11th John W. Whitehead of the Rutherford Institute published an article regarding the Government's case against Bradley Manning, "The War Against Bradley Manning—A War Against All Who Speak Out Against Injustice"

"Time and again, throughout America's history, individuals with a passion for truth and a commitment to justice have opted to defy the unjust laws and practices of the American government in order to speak up against slavery, segregation, discrimination, and war. Even when their personal safety and freedom were on the line, these individuals spoke up, knowing they would be chastised, ridiculed, arrested, branded traitors and even killed. Indeed, while brave men and women such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Henry David Thoreau, Susan B. Anthony and Harriet Tubman are lauded as American heroes today, they were once considered enemies of the state." The full article can be found

https://www.rutherford.org/publications_resources/john_whiteheads_commentary/the_war_against_bradley_manning_a_war_against_all_who_speak_out_against

"Christians Cry Too!"

by Bro. David Green

(This article is also available in tract form, free of charge to those who can use them. Please [contact Bro. David \(dmgreen@faithdelivered.net\)](mailto:dmgreen@faithdelivered.net) for more information)

"Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets. But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep." (Luke 6:21-25).

See also Matthew 5:4, which says "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." (Matthew 5:4).

In my lifetime, I have met a few folks who will say "real men don't cry." Even among professing Christians, there are those who claim that tears are a sign of little or no faith. Yet what does the Bible say?

Our Lord, while preaching this sermon said "**Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh...**" Now, if weeping is a sign of little or no faith, then is He saying, "Blessed are ye that [have no faith] now: for ye shall laugh..."? And, if that be true, we have here in this passage our Lord promising blessings to those that sin! This would mean that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, totally contradicted the teachings of the Bible This is an impossibility, so then this idea that the Bible forbids weeping must be wrong. Let us notice what the Bible really says about crying.

TIMES OF WEEPING

"A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;" (Ecclesiastes 3:4).

There is a time to weep! And the Bible is full of examples of crying:

I. ABRAHAM

"And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old: these were the years of the life of Sarah. And Sarah died in Kirjatharba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her." (Genesis 23:1-2).

Abraham wept and mourned over the death of Sarah his wife. Sure, Abraham had his faults but this was not one of them! Abraham knew of the heavenly

country...Hebrews 11 tells us that. He wept over her because he loved her and missed her. Nothing is wrong with that.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." (Hebrews 11:8-19).

More is said about Abraham and Sarah in Hebrews 11 than any of the others who are written in there. What a wonderful thing it is to read just to see a name in that chapter, but to read so much about Abraham and Sarah.

II. DAVID

"And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep." (1 Samuel 30:1-4).

Here we read of a time when David and his men found the city burned and their wives, sons, and daughters were captured. The Bible says they wept until they had no more power to weep. Have you ever cried that much? I know I have. Did they not believe the Lord was powerful and in control? Of course they believed it! Read David's life. He knew of God's power and sovereignty.

"Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword...And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:...Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel." (2 Samuel 1:11-12, 17, 24).

Here David mourned and wept over the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. Verse 17 uses the word lamented. That word means "an expression of sorrow; cry of grief; act of bewailing." In verse 24, he commanded the women to weep over Saul.

Again, David had his faults, but I find no evidence that this was one of them. In fact, notice what God says about David in this passage: *"And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will." (Acts 13:22).*

III. THE PSALMIST

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remem-

bered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning." (Psalm 137:1-5).

Here was a people seen their temple burned, their city ruined, their wives ravished, and their children slain. They were in a strange land, and they wept. They did not weep because of the cruelties of the Babylonians....they wept because of what they had lost.

IV. JOB

"I have sewed sackcloth upon my skin, and defiled my horn in the dust. My face is foul with weeping, and on my eyelids is the shadow of death; Not for any injustice in mine hands: also my prayer is pure. O earth, cover not thou my blood, and let my cry have no place. Also now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my record is on high. My friends scorn me: but mine eye poureth out tears unto God." (Job 16:15-20).

Every one of us has heard of Job. Often, when trouble comes in our lives, we quote Job 1:20-22. But, let us also remember that Job cried. Let us remember that he wished he had never been born (Job 10:18-19)! Someone says "'no wonder he was not in Hebrews 11!"

But notice these passages:

"Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD." (Ezekiel 14:14).

Here Job is numbered with Daniel and Noah. This is also repeated in verses 16 and 20.

"Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." (James 5:11).

Here we see him as an example of patience. No doubt about it, friends, Job was a man of faith. Let us not be judgmental to those who weep! Job's friends were very judgmental. They were of no comfort, but God was. So, when Job cried, he poured out tears unto God! And our Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercy, even when our earthly friends are not.

V. OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR

"Jesus wept." (John 11:35).

This is the shortest verse in the Bible, but oh what a message it is! In order to get the reason behind it, we must go up to verse 33. He wept when he saw that Mary wept. Our Lord has compassion on us!

"Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?" (Psalm 56:8).

God not only takes notice of our tears, but He records them. They are kept in a bottle and recorded in a book. Matthew Henry observed, "(1.) That he observes them with compassion and tender concern; he is afflicted in their afflictions, and knows their souls in adversity. As the blood of his saints, and their deaths, are precious in the sight of the Lord, so are their tears, not one of them shall fall to the ground. (2.) That he will remember them and review them, as we do the accounts we have booked. The tears of God's persecuted people are bottled up and sealed among God's treasures; and, when these books come to be opened, they will be found vials of wrath, which will be poured out upon their persecutors, whom God will surely reckon with for all the tears they have forced from his people's eyes; and they will be breasts of consolation to God's mourners, whose sackcloth will be turned into garments of praise. God will comfort his people according to the time wherein he has afflicted them, and give to those to reap in joy who sowed in tears. What was sown a tear will come up a pearl."

VI. DEVOUT MEN AT STEPHEN'S BURIAL

"And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him." (Acts 8:2).

Devout men made great lamentation at Stephen's funeral. The word devout means "yielding a solemn and reverential attention to God." These were

Godly men who made great lamentation! Folks, there were some tears shed over the death of this martyr!

Someone said we ought not to cry at a funeral. For their proof they use I Thessalonians 4:13, which says, " *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*" But that passage does not say it is wrong to sorrow. All someone has to do is just read it to understand the meaning! It says that we are not to sorrow as though we have no hope. I agree with John Gill when he wrote, "...the apostle's view is not to encourage and establish a stoical apathy, a stupid indolence, and a brutal insensibility, which are contrary to the make of human nature, to the practice of the saints, and even of Christ and his apostles, and our apostle himself; but to forbid excessive and immoderate sorrow, and all the extravagant forms of it the Gentiles ran into; who having no notion of the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, had no hope of ever seeing their friends more, but looked upon them as entirely lost, as no longer in being, and never more to be met with, seen, and enjoyed; this drove them to extravagant actions..." To use this passage to say that mourning and weeping are forbidden is quite contrary to the teaching of God's Word! As Matthew Poole wrote in his commentary, "...he doth not condemn their sorrow, but the excess of it. Grace destroys not nature, but regulates it; nor reason, but rectifies it; nor takes away the affections, but moderates them....And to mourn for the dead, especially the dead in the Lord is a duty that both nature and grace teach, and God requireth..."

We certainly ought not to sorrow like those who have no hope. There is a difference. Perhaps you have been to such a funeral. How sad it is! As Charles Spurgeon said in his sermon "Death, A Sleep" (although his wife named it "His Own Funeral Sermon"), "It may be natural to the unbridled passions of an ungodly man, who has lost his wife, to tear his hair, to throw himself upon the bed, to clutch the body, to declare it shall not be buried, to rave through the house, cursing God, and saying all manner of hard things of his dispensations..." This certainly ought not to be our behaviour as children of God.

A child of God may weep over the loss of a loved one, but he does not do it without a hope. Though we sorrow and mourn for their loss, we know that there is life beyond the grave. Thus, Job said "*My face is foul with weeping...*" in Job 16:15, but he could also say "*For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.*" (Job 19:25-27).

At the loss of a loved one there may be outward signs of sorrow, but there should also be happiness too. While we miss them, we realize that departure from this life is "...to be with Christ; which is far better:" (Philippians 1:23).

Only God's people can be "**As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing....**" (II Corinthians 6:10).

CONCLUSION

"*Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*" (Romans 12:15).

Let us never forget the second part to this verse. It is easy to rejoice with them that rejoice, but we also need to be compassionate to those who weep. Never let anyone tell you that the Bible forbids the Christian from weeping. In this article, we have read of such mighty men as Abraham, David, and Job all crying. We even read that our Lord wept while on this earth. These were all Godly men who believed without a doubt in the sovereignty of God, yet we have read of these men crying because of loss, tragedy, death, and sorrow. The Bible certainly does not forbid it. And God help us if our religion should become one that forbids any signs of outward sorrow! But praise the Lord we do have a time to look forward to when "... *God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*" (Revelation 21:4).

"FREED FROM THE LAW!"



by Bro. Todd Bryant

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death" – Romans 8:2

Freed from the law! What a glorious thought. The Mosaic Law was given for one purpose – to show mankind our sin. None of us, believers or unbelievers, have kept the Law. Some may say, "Well, I've never committed adultery. I've never killed anybody." Yet, Jesus said, "... whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). The Lord inspired John to say, "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer" (I John 3:15). You see, we are all guilty of breaking the Law in the spirit in which it was given.

Yet, the believer has been freed from the Law. That Law which previously condemned us no longer has the yoke of bondage on us (Galatians 5:1). The Law has no dominion over us whatsoever. Some would say, "Well, we have been freed from the penalty of the Law, but we are still under it." Brothers and sisters, a law without a penalty is nothing more than a recommendation. God inspired Paul to say, "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace" (Romans 6:14) Praise the Lord, the child of God cannot ever stand as a sinner before the throne of God because he has been freed from the Law!! We are not under the Law but under grace. Thank the Lord for His sovereign grace.

Some may respond to this teaching by saying, "If I believed such as that, I'd go out and live the way that I want." Oh, but we are living the way that we want! Having been made alive by the Holy Spirit, our desire is to serve Christ. We are living the way we want! We are following the gentle leadership of the Holy Spirit. We no longer are under the service of the hard taskmaster of the Law. We have liberty in Jesus Christ because He has freed us from the Law itself.

If we are free from the Law, what in the world should we do? Are we left without guidance? A thousand times no!! The Lord Jesus Christ has given us plenty of instruction. The NT writers have given us plenty of instruction. We can still use the OT for instructive purposes as well. Even in the Law (which we are not under) we get a glimpse of the mind of God and how He relates to man. Yet, the greatest leader we have is the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:18 says, "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." And again, Romans 8:14 says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God."

Child of God, pause today to thank the Lord that we are not under the Law, "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse" (Galatians 3:10). Yet, we are not under the Law. We have been freed from this curse. Better yet, the Spirit Himself is guiding us step by step through this life. Praises be to our God and Father that has sent His Son and our Savior to free us from the Law. Now, let us be about His business in sharing this glorious good news with our fellow men.