

The Law and You

Session IIIB:

Now that Jesus has fulfilled the Law, what does that mean for us? (A Look to the Epistles)

Study by Jason Labonte

I. What Various New Testament Writers Had To Say About the Law

A. The Writer of Hebrews: **Hebrews 10:1-10**

1. If the Law is only a shadow, what are the realities?
2. The Jews had missed some of the key points of the Law.
 - i. The purpose of the Law was never to purify from Sin.
 - ii. God had wanted them to desire to do His will.

B. Paul

1. **Romans 2:25-29** — Circumcision of the Heart

2. **Galatians 3:6-14, 17-29**

- i. The two main covenants in the Torah are not mutually exclusive.
- ii. Anyone who believes in Jesus is a child of Abraham and so falls under the first covenant.
- iii. The Law was like a (no longer needed) tutor (or babysitter).

3. **Ephesians 2:11-22**

- i. The Law was a barrier or wall that kept the Gentiles out of the sheepfold.
- ii. Now the Shepherd has come and the wall is no longer needed, because He is with us.
- iii. We are now a part of the fold.

C. James: **James 2:8-13**

1. Jesus had said that if we love Him, we'd obey His new command, "Love each other." (John 15:10-14)
2. James says that we can either follow that one simple "Noble Law" or the entirety of the old Law.

D. John: **1 John 3:21-24**

II. Purpose of the Law Revisited

- A. Protection
- B. A Reminder
- C. Covenant Membership
- D. Holiness /Set-Apart-Ness
- E. To Not Defile the Land
- F. To Serve as an Example or Instruction to the Unsaved ("This is how all men will know you are My disciples.")
- G. To Establish Relationship
 1. To God
 2. To Man
- H. To Offer a Choice
 1. Blessing
 2. Curse

"God's law is an order of life that cannot be changed or challenged. It is righteous because he is righteous. His ways are right; they thus give us life and security." — Gerhard Kittel and Gerhard Friedrich¹

¹ *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*