

My Word is Law

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psa 23)

What are you trying to do? You are legalistic! Are you trying to be a perfectionist? Your standards are too high! Not everyone has the same abilities as you!

These are some of the things that have been said to me. Looking back I realise I have lived my life, for the most part as a fool. In the beginning I tried to do things correctly, as they should be done. When I left school, I only tried to do things my way, for my benefit, which often lead me into conflict. Working as a technician, one soon realises, that to minimise the time spent doing work; one must plan it properly, work to the correct standard, use good quality parts and materials, and work as accurately as possible. Otherwise, one will often end up taking longer, or having to do the whole task over again. When one becomes completely focussed on one task, other equally important issues can become neglected, which leads to other problems later. Like when earning money!

Striving for an achievable goal or standard, means that the outcome of our labour, is of a better quality or achieves a better result.

So what is a standard?

A standard states, what is required to achieve a specific quality or result.

What is a law?

A law states, what the required result or reward is, for a specific condition or action.

Without laws and standards, there is chaos. For example if one wanted to design an electrical circuit and didn't know Ohm's Law, $V = I \times R$; it would be very difficult and guesswork and experience would then be the only way to work. Knowing this Law, gives one a foundation and a tool to work with. This law dictates the performance of our design, even before we put it to the test. Only a fool with knowledge of this law, would try to build a circuit by ignoring this law, as it is tried, tested and proven to be true.

A Law gives one a fixed reference from which to work. Like a fulcrum for a lever, or the center pivot of a balance scale. It does not compel one to work in a specific way, that choice is still left to us, but it does indicate what the outcome of your action will be.

Who hates the law? – The people who receive the negative result - curse.
Who loves the law? – The people who receive the positive result - blessing.

For example, let's say the safe speed limit on a public road is 60km/h.
If I drive my car below 60km/h, I am better able to brake safely when an emergency arises. I don't have to worry about speeding fines and I can enjoy the driving experience.

If I drive my car above 60km/h, I am a danger to other roadusers and pedestrians. I have to constantly worry about being caught speeding, and it is then a stressful, not enjoyable driving experience.

If I say, I hate the law, what I am really saying is that I prefer chaos to order!

The law can be the staff that supports you, or the rod that comes down on your backside for punishment. We learnt that in school, abide by the rules or bend for your reward!

Grace is shown by the judge, when punishment is due according to our actions, but withheld because we fulfilled a specified condition. Grace does not do away with the law, it fulfils the law when meeting a specific condition. If there was no law, we would not need grace for punishment either.

God's Word is the Law of God. If one sins – the consequence for sin is death. This is the curse of the Law which Paul refers to:-

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is every one who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them." Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Gal 3:10-14)

Paul could also have said that the people who keep the Law receive the blessings of the Law. There were specified ways declared, through which the people who sinned, could cover their sins with the blood of an animal sacrifice. People who kept the Old Covenant Laws of God for righteousness lived by them, and were regarded as righteous men and women. The blessings and the curses are listed in Deuteronomy 28 –Blessings for obedience. and Curses for disobedience. The real issue regarding righteousness, was not the Law itself, but the attitude of the heart of the person. If they had faith in God, they kept His Law and were blessed accordingly. If they turned their backs on God, forsaking Him, they didn't have faith in God, and they received the curses according to the Law.

At the time Paul said this, Jesus Christ was crucified, had died, and was resurrected from the dead. Jesus Christ is the blood sacrifice for all sin, past and future, including those sins covered under the Old Covenant!

And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. (Heb 9:15)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them."

But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend to heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Rom 10:1-13)

The mark of a believer under the Old Covenant for righteousness, was the mark of circumcision, and that they kept God's Laws for their purification from Sin. When Paul refers to Moses, he states that the righteous were discerned by their works, and the way by which they lived.

After Jesus died on the cross, the Old Covenant ended and the New Covenant began. The veil of the Temple was torn in two to signify this. Those Jews that Paul was talking about, wanted to stay on the Old Covenant path of righteousness. The mark of circumcision in the flesh was exchanged for circumcision of the heart, the attitude of the believer. The blood sacrifices of animals, were perfected by Jesus' final 'blood sacrifice' on the Cross, as the full payment for all Sin. The death of Jesus Christ instantly redeemed all Old Covenant and future New Covenant believers to God. Believers are God's inheritance from this world, as the next world without Sin, is the inheritance of all the people who are redeemed by faith to God.

The requirement of the Law, that lifeblood has to be taken in payment for sin, was fulfilled by the death of Jesus Christ. To become righteous now, we have only to believe in Jesus, repent and confess that He is our Saviour and the Son of God. Who was sent by the Father as the sole means, by which we are redeemed to Him. A believer is 'sealed' by the Holy Spirit, as their God given spirit is reborn within them, and all their sin, past and future, is exchanged for the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and they instantly become a righteous child of God.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
(Heb 11:1)

Righteousness is by faith, and not by works for the redemption from Sin. However God's Law has not been rendered null and void. Jesus Christ's sacrifice is the offered Grace, by which Sinners are redeemed from the penalty of Sin. The reward of the unrighteous, is the judgement of the eternal second death, to be thrown into the lake of fire on Judgement Day.

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Mat 10:28)

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?
(Heb 10:26-29)

Moses was appointed to do a great righteous work, to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. But when he left Horeb to go to Egypt he was attacked by the angel of death, because he had not fulfilled the requirement of God's Law to circumcise his firstborn. Moses was saved from certain death, thanks to the quick reaction of Zipporah his wife, who circumcised his son. (Gen 4:24-26)

Uzzah was not so lucky! He was told by righteous King David, to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. But they did not fulfil the requirements of the Law of God, regarding transporting the Ark of the Covenant. Instead of the Ark being carried on the shoulders of sanctified priests, they tried to transport it on a ox-drawn cart. When the oxen stumbled and the Ark moved, Uzzah reached out his hand touched the Ark, and was struck dead in his effort to support it. (2Sa 6:1-8)

In ignorance of the Law of God, even royal or divine appointment, does not defend one from the consequences of breaking God's Law. The only way to protect ourselves is be educated in God's Word and to fulfil the requirements. We cannot become righteous, through our own works of righteousness. We can only exchange our state of sin, for a state of righteousness, through the confession of faith in Jesus Christ.

God's Law

People may say that the Law is done away with, but beware the Ten Commandments were written in stone, four times by God's finger, and the Sabbath Day was sanctified by God, even before there was any Sin present on this Earth. The testimony of the judgement according to the Law of God is found in the following verses.

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (Joh 3:18)

"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (Joh 3:36)

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. (1Th 5:9-10)

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and every one who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (1Jo 5:1-5)

What shall we eat, and what shall we drink?

"And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet. You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or similar drink, that you may know that I am the Lord your God." (Deu 29:5-6)

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." (Joh 6:51)

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven - not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." (Joh 6:53-58)

What shall we wear?

Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud did not depart from them by day, to lead them on the road; nor the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way they should go. You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold Your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; they lacked nothing; their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell. (Neh 9:19-21)

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ... For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Mat 6:25,32-34)

The Wisdom of God

And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men - than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon. (1Ki 4:29-34)

Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her. And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the

house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her. Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard. Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom! Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness." (1Ki 10:1-9 and 2Ch 9:1-8)

So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. (1Ki 10:23-24 and 2Ch 9:22-23)

Solomon's fall from grace

So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded. Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen." (1Ki 11:9-13)

"From where then does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? It is hidden from the eyes of all living, and concealed from the birds of the air. Destruction and Death say, 'We have heard a report about it with our ears.' God understands its way, and He knows its place. For He looks to the ends of the earth, and sees under the whole heavens, to establish a weight for the wind, and apportion the waters by measure. When He made a law for the rain, and a path for the thunderbolt, then He saw wisdom and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out. And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.'" (Job 28:20-28)

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." (Psa 14:1)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Pro 1:7)

The way of the just is uprightness; O Most Upright, You weigh the path of the just. Yes, in the way of Your judgments, O Lord, we have waited for You; the desire of our soul is for Your name and for the remembrance of You. With my soul I have desired You in the night, yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; for when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. (Isa 26:7-9)

Acronyms

LAW = Lord's Anointed Word
FOOL = Fellow Opposing Our Lord

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