

## Donkey o'leigh

*Great men are not always wise, nor do the aged always understand justice.  
(Job 32:9)*

*He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens his lips shall have destruction. (Pro 13:3)*

*Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive. (Pro 17:28)*

I wasn't going to speak about this, but after hearing the text misquoted again, it was once too often! Now my conscience says, "Enough! Its time to speak out!"

*They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet. (2Pe 2:15-16)*

People fear the law, because they fear its penalties. Government does not create laws which reward law abiding people. That would be too costly to maintain as its the smaller minority who break the laws of the land. Government invents ways to discourage offenders, who through their actions or carelessness cause harm and damage, to the people in their communities and to the environment. Laws are meant to act as a deterrent to wickedness, as the unjust and careless people should pay the price for their civil disobedience, thus encouraging compliance.

God's Law is different from man's laws in that it both rewards the righteous with blessings, and punishes the unrighteous with curses. Health, wealth, rest and eternal life for the righteous; sickness, poverty, torment and death for the unrighteous.

The phrase which I hear repeated over and over again is, "Christ is the end of the law!" This incomplete phrase, implies that God's Law has been done away with, which is simply not true! The Truth is clearly stated and not too difficult to understand.

Here are some everyday examples of the scripture text's structure:

Motor vehicles	are the end of horse-drawn carts	for public transport.
Compact Disks	are the end of cassette tapes	for recording music.
SMS messages	are the end of telegrams	for conveying messages.

Here is the complete scripture text :-

*For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.  
(Rom 10:4)*

*Jesus Himself said, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." (Mat 5:17-20)*

It is quite clear that heaven and earth, must first pass away before the Law can lose its relevance. Jesus goes on to explain that there is a higher standard for the New Testament Christian to live by. Hate becomes murder, and lust becomes adultery. The attitude of the heart is important, as all offences begin with sinful thoughts. Our good conscience through personal knowledge of God's Word, must rule over our fleshly desires. For if we constantly submit to sinful thoughts, we become slaves to Sin. It is only the Word of God, which can transform our hearts and thus modify our lifestyle. In the Old Covenant period, the righteous were those people who kept and lived by God's Law for justification from sin. They were blessed in their obedience to the Law. Salvation is only by God's Grace, we can't earn it.

*Jesus said to him, "I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (Joh 14:6)*

Now if a person dies just after accepting Jesus Christ, they are saved. A saved person lives by God's Law, in obedience and in righteousness. Paul had a hard time with Jews, who insisted on circumcision in the flesh. This is no longer necessary. Moses taught that our hearts must be circumcised, by following God's Laws for instruction in righteousness.

*"Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer." (Deu 10:16)*

Jesus Christ is the final blood sacrifice, for all the Sin of the world. Under the New Covenant, the righteous are those people who accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour for their personal sacrifice for sin. His 'Blood Sacrifice' is required for salvation from the second death in the lake of fire, good works alone cannot qualify a person. The quality of our faith after conversion, is verified by the quality of the spiritual fruit we bear, and by our good works.

*Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone 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)*

*Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. (Rev 14:12)*

Isn't it strange how those who speak against keeping God's Laws, Statutes and Commandments; instruct people to tithe, when tithing is a portion of God's Law?

*Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. (Rom 2:1)*

*Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another? (Jam 4:11-12)*

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