

LAW and GOSPEL

(Romans 2:17-24)

Introduction:

- Confusion exists today concerning the relationship between the Law of Moses, religious rules, and the gospel.
 1. If God's word is confusing, the problem is with _____, not with His word. He desires for believers to understand.
 2. Rom 2:17-24 corrects this confusion
 - a. A Jewish Christian group was going around to churches insisting that non-Jewish Christians keep the Law of Moses and traditional Jewish laws.
 - b. Verse 17 states if you are called a Jew and *rely upon the Law*.
 - 1) The original Greek text does not distinguish between capital and small letters. So if you have a capital L, the translators think it is referring to the Law of M_____.
 - 2) The original Greek text does not have "the" before "law" in verse 17 and should literally read, *rely upon law*. – I propose that Paul is referring here to m_____ -made rules of religion.
- Let us be clear about the Law of Moses, man-made religious rules, and the gospel, so we hold out God's truth in how we live.

The Law of Moses – God's rules and regulations

- Defined – the set of rules and regulations God had Moses write down for the people of I_____, comprised of (see Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy):
 1. Laws of s_____
 2. Laws of relationships
 3. Laws of d_____
 4. Laws of feast days, religious rituals, etc.
- To whom was this Law given? – only the culture of I_____
 1. If a foreigner left their culture to join Israel's culture, they had to _____ the Law of Moses (e.g. Rahab and Ruth).
 2. G_____ were never under the Law
- 1500 years after the Law, the g_____ came
 1. Jesus died for s_____, was buried, and rose

2. Jesus commanded the group of Jewish Christians to spread this good news to the ends of the e_____ (Acts 1:8)
 - a. Many Gentiles (i.e. non-Jews) accepted Christ
 - b. Acts 15 settled the issue of whether these Gentile Christians should be required to keep the Law of Moses – the answer was _____.
 - c. Therefore, we are not under the Law of Moses.

● Since we are not under the Law, does this mean we can violate the Law of Moses?

1. Jesus came to f_____ the Law, not abolish it (Matt 5:17)
 - a. He fulfilled the Law by o_____ it perfectly (Phil 2:8; Heb 4:15); the laws He broke were man-made rules, not God's Law (e.g. Lk 6)
 - b. He fulfilled the Law by completing its p_____
 - 1) Purpose #1 – to show that sin must be paid for by an innocent and p_____ sacrifice (Lev 1:1-4)
 - 2) Purpose #2 – to set God's people apart from the rest of the world, called "h_____" or "sanctification" (meaning "to be set apart")
 - ♦ Dietary laws (Lev 11:44) – holiness
 - ♦ Cleanliness laws (Lev 10:10) – holiness
 - ♦ Sabbath laws (Ex 31:13) – sanctifies
 - ♦ The entire Old Covenant Law (Ex 19:5,6)
 - 3) Jesus is our:
 - ♦ S_____ that takes away our sin (Jn 1:9; I Pet 1:19; 3:18)
 - ♦ S_____ (I Cor 1:30 - literally, what makes us set apart from the world)
2. Jesus instituted a N_____ Covenant in His blood (Lk 22:20; Jer 31:33)
 - a. This covenant renders the Old Covenant Law of Moses as o_____ (Heb 8:13)
 - b. Believers are to be guided by His S_____ who indwells us (Eph 5:18)
 - c. Believers fulfill the Law by living out their relationship to Jesus (I_____ Him and everyone unselfishly – I Jn 4:7,8).

The Laws of Religion – man-made rules and regulations

● Verse 18 – *being instructed out of the Law*

1. The Greek text has the word “the” before “law” and so Paul is referring to the Law of Moses, which he makes clear.
 - a. Verse 20 – the Law contained the embodiment of knowledge and of the t_____
 - b. Verses 21,22 – list parts of the Law of Moses called the _____ commandments (stealing, adultery, idol worship).
2. Paul poses a question: do you break the Law and answers the question in verses 23,24

● Verse 23a – *you who boast in the Law*

1. The Greek text contains no “the” before “law”
2. Paul is referring to the man-made r_____ of religion

● Verse 23b,24 – *through your breaking the Law, you dishonor or blaspheme God.*

1. The Greek text has the word “the” before “law”
2. Paul is referring to the Law of M_____

● Summary of verse 23 – the Jew who boasted in their laws broke God’s Law by keeping their man-made rules (see Jesus’ example in Mk 7:6-9)

● Application

1. Never use religious actions as a means of becoming accepted by God (salvation is by g_____ not by works – Eph 2:8,9) – e.g. church attendance, giving
2. Never insist on traditions to the point of causing d_____ (Jn 13:35 – the world will know we are Christ’s disciples by our l_____) – e.g. controversy over worship music
3. Never use rules as a means of spiritual growth – we grow spiritually by living out our r_____ to Jesus (loving God and loving everyone unselfishly)

Conclusion:

- We fulfill the Law of Moses by embracing the gospel - Christ as our sacrifice and our way of being set apart
- We grow spiritually by living out our relationship to Christ – loving God and loving everyone unselfishly