

“The Purpose of the Law”

Ex. 30 – Num. 13

Open: Background

➤ “It is important to stress to your class that although the **traditions** of the law do not apply to the Christianity today; the **principles** upon which those traditions were built do.”

- It is important to understand that the children of Israel had lived many years in a land of paganism. Regardless of how hard they would have tried to not allow the culture to influence them, it did.
 - This culture taught them that reliance on man [government] for provisions in life is all that is needed.
 - This culture taught them that man can create his own spirituality based on how he views life.
 - This culture taught them that you can get the most out of life by living it your own way.
 - **Lawlessness** = A lifestyle with no boundaries or living your life without accountability.
- Next, we need to recognize that the children of Israel had become indoctrinated with carnal philosophies and theology. If God was going to be able to bless them, they were going to have to be re-educated.
 - They needed to learn that faith in God is where the provisions for life come from.
 - They needed to learn that spirituality is based on a relationship with God not in religious tradition.
 - They needed to learn that a life lived God’s way is the only way to get the most out of life.
- Lastly, we need to understand that God used the law to both teach His people how to please Him and to teach them how they could live their lives in a way He could bless.
 - God did not give them the law to enslave them, but to show them how to live a life of liberty.
 - God did not give them the law to force them to be a Christian nation, but to show them the blessings of being a child of God.
 - God did not give them the law to prevent them from enjoying this life, but to show them how to enjoy life to the fullest extent.

➤ Exodus chapter 12 would be an outline to the law that God would spell out in detail throughout the books of Exodus and Leviticus.

Tran: Application

- We need to recognize that we are living in a carnal world of humanistic philosophies, and regardless of how hard we try, the culture will influence us.
 - **Mk. 4:18-19** “And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, [19] And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.”
- Next, we need to recognize that living in this world, man’s way, will cause us to become indoctrinated with carnal philosophies; and if we, as Christians, are going to be blessed, we must allow the Word of God to reeducate us.
 - **Rom. 12:1-2** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
- Lastly, we need to understand that God gave us His Word to teach us how to please Him and how to live our lives in a way that He could bless. **John 15:10-11**
 - **James 1:16-18** “Do not err, my beloved brethren. [17] Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. [18] Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

➤ “Whether we like it or not, this world is controlled by law (the laws of creation which are the laws of God). Man is the only creation that’s been given the right and responsibility to choose if he wants to obey the law of God or do as he please.”

I. The purpose of the law was to help man to form the right habits so he could be blessed.

- *“The law was not ritualistic, it was routine.”*
 - God knows we are creatures of habits and that habits can only be formed by routines. So, God created a routine, through the law, that would help His people form habits he could bless.
 - God knows we are selfish creatures. So, God created a routine, through the law, that would keep His principles before His people.

A. God does not make you obey him; he wants you to choose to obey Him. **ILL:** *God did not force Adam and Eve to obey Him; He gave them a choice. The reason God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden was because His justice demanded the choice to love be given. Forced love is not love.*

- i. God does not force man to get saved; He gives them a choice. **Rev. 21:6** *“And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.”*
- ii. God does not make anyone serve Him; He gives them a choice. **Rom. 6:16** *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”*

➤ **Joshua 24:15** *“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*

B. It's important to recognize decisions have a predetermined outcome. You do not get to choose the consequence; only the decision. **ILL:** *Drive on whatever road you want, but you had better be prepared for the destination of the path you choose to take.*

- i. The path of the righteous. **Ps. 1:6** *“For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”*
- ii. The path of the just. **Prov. 4:18** *“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.”*
- iii. The path of the wicked. **Prov. 4:19** *“The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.”*
- iv. The path of the wise. **Prov. 15:24** *“The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.”*
- v. The path of the foolish. **Prov. 18:7** *“A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.”*
- vi. The path of the simple. **Prov. 22:3** *“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.”*
- vii. The path of the froward. **Prov. 22:5** *“Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.”*

➤ **Deu. 30:15-20** *“See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; [16] In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. [17] But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; [18] I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. [19] I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: [20] That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”*

II. The purpose of the law was to teach man to live by faith.

A. The law is not a **precursor** to faith; obedience to the law is a **prerequisite** for faith. **Gal. 3:21-24** *“Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. [22] But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. [23] But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. [24] Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”*

- i. Without the law, we would not have known that we need faith. **Rom. 7:7-8** *“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. [8b] ...For without the law sin was dead.”*
- ii. Without the law of God, we would not be able to love God.
 - a. **Joshua 22:5** *“But take diligent heed to do the **commandment** and the **law**, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to **love** the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”*
 - b. **I John 5:2-3** *“By this we know that we **love** the children of God, when we love God, and **keep** his **commandments**. [3] For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous”*

B. The law and faith do not stand alone as separate pillars; they are one foundation in the Christian life.

Rom. 3:27, 31 *“Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. [31] Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.”*

- i. At Calvary we were freed from the rituals of the law, but we are still bounded to the rudiments of the law. **Col. 2:7-14**
- ii. The traditions were removed, but the faith to obey God’s Word is still required. **Rom. 2:11-15**
- iii. At Calvary, man transitioned from keeping the letter of the law to obeying the commandments of the Lord. **Mt. 5:17-20**

III. The purpose of the law was to set up guard rails in life to keep man safe.

- It was not about religious tradition it was about obedience to Gods’ Word’s. **I Cor. 7:18-19**

A. Taught man the boundaries of morals.

- i. Boundaries of Marriage.
- ii. Boundaries of Personal Property.
- iii. Boundaries of Inalienable Rights.

B. Taught man how to respond when the boundaries of morals are crossed.

- i. How to Forgive.
- ii. How to Protect what is rightfully yours.
- iii. How to respond to those who have chosen to live their lives contrary to the law of God.

Close:

- Do not fall into the trap of thinking the law does not apply to Christianity today; because it was the law from which Jesus preached, to lay the foundation of faith for Christianity, while He was here on earth.
- Just as God gave the law to the Israelites, He has preserved the law for us to understand our responsibility of obeying His commandments.

James 1:25

“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”