

That We All May Be One: New Law

Series of lessons by the Elders (Bob Cooper/Dwain Stoops)
Bob's 2nd lesson - Sept. 25, 2011 (Sun. Eve.)

I. Intro

This evening I will present my second lesson in a series of lessons given by the elders we are entitling: "That We All May Be One" (Jn. 17:21). My 1st lesson was to inform us what the "Old Law" was and this lesson is to inform us about the "New Law".

Pro 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

From the beginning of time unto this present day humankind has struggled with sin and its consequences.

In the garden of Eden God said to Adam...

Gen 3:11 "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

Gen 6:5 During the days of Noah GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Gen 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Exo 32:7 As Moses was on Mnt. Sinai receiving the written law, God told Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou brought out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

Exo 32:8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

The cycle of depravity of humankind follows a pattern of.... spiritual faith, great courage, liberty, abundance, leisure, selfishness, complacency, dependence, weakness, bondage. All through the book of Judges this cycle was repeated over and over. Why?

Jdg 21:25 sums it up in a single sentence, "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

Did kings bring stability and righteousness to Israel? Absolutely not!

2Sa 12:7 Nathan said to David, "You are the man! 2Sa 12:9 Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his

wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

2Sa 12:13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

1Ki 11:1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women,

1Ki 11:2 from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.

1Ki 11:9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice

1Ki 11:10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the LORD commanded.

Jer 32:30 (capsulates in general the entire history of God's special chosen people.) "For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth. The children of Israel have done nothing but provoke me to anger by the work of their hands, declares the LORD."

These few Biblical excerpts clearly reveal the continuing saga of sin that continually plagued humankind and the chosen children of Israel.

No doubt God created law from day one as rules of conduct inherent in human nature and binding upon human society.

God wrote the Decalogue (or 10 commandments) with His finger on two tablets of stone to help rule Israel, but there is substantial evidence that these 10 basic laws have always existed from the beginning of time and still rule us under the New Law of Christ. With more time available this statement could be expounded upon in another lesson.

As we pointed out in our first lesson about the Old Law, God chose the nation of Israel to help demonstrate to the world the strength, power, and salvation the true God of heaven and earth would deliver to an obedient nation

(Pro 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.).

I suppose all nations have always felt that their god was the most powerful if they were prosperous in material wealth and victorious in battle. Over and over the true God of the universe demonstrated to His chosen Israel that He was far superior to the man made idols of the Canaanites.

Within all of the covenants God has forged with mankind the promise of blessings has always been accompanied with the stipulation of obedience to His law. God also has made it very clear that there would be negative consequences if disobedience prevailed. Since we were created in God's image He has always wanted us to be like Him - holy and upright

(1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.)

Law is the avenue to holiness.

Rom. 7:7 tells us that without law we wouldn't know what sin is.

1Ti 1:8 But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;

1Ti 1:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

1Ti 1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

1Ti 1:11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

Well, if the law is made for the ungodly and sinners then I guess you and I are included because Rom. 3:23 says we are all sinners and who besides Christ has been able to resist all temptation of sin?

Our problem today is no different than King Solomon's or any other we already mentioned - **Who can keep all the commands of the Lord without fail? Sin is a people problem that has existed from the time of Adam and there are billions of dead bodies that have returned to the dust to prove it.**

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Rom 2:13 For it is not merely those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight. No, it is those who do the law, who will be justified.

Jas 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

II. Body

As Kevin in his Sun. morning class has pointed out in his teaching of Romans we are all partakers in a two choice situation. We can choose to live under the law of sin and death or we can live under the New Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

You may be thinking the Old Law was a law of sin and death written for the Jews but the natural law the Gentiles lived under was a law of sin and death also.

Rom. 8:1,2 clearly projects a paradox - :1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. :2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

1. The law of sin and death vs. The law of the spirit of life

We need to think of the law of sin and death as a principle which was established in the Garden of Eden.

(Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.).

Eve repeated this same law to the serpent as she conversed with him in Gen. 3:2,3.

Through the transgression of God's law Adam and Eve lost...

- **the garden paradise,**
- **the close spiritual union with God,**
- **access to the tree of life, and**
- **introduced death to all humanity.**

From the first man and woman who walked the earth until now nothing has changed - "if you sin you will die" - that is the nature of the law of sin and death!

Rom 5:13 For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Rom 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

No one has committed the same sin as Adam but all people have transgressed a law of God sometime because all people from Adam to the present have been under law.

When Paul said, "no sin is imputed where there is no law", we must realize he was speaking in absolute terms. He is not suggesting that there was ever a time where there was no law. In a hypothetical sense he simple states the fact that there must be law to have sin.

Eze 18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

This is a principle that has always existed. It is true the law of Moses by design clearly defined the principle of the law of sin and death.

Even though the law was just and good Jesus Christ was the only one who ever kept the law without sin so, **the transgressors of the law stood openly and justly condemned.**

What about the animal sacrifices the Jews offered, didn't they take away sin?

Heb 10:1 For the law, being only a poor copy of the future good things, and not the true image of those things, is never able to make the people who come to the altar every year with the same offerings completely clean.

Heb 10:2 For if this had been possible, would there not have been an end of those offerings, because the worshippers would have been made completely clean and would have been no longer conscious of sins?

Heb 10:3 But year by year there is a memory of sins in those offerings.

Heb 10:4 Because it is not possible for the blood of oxen and goats to take away sins.

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Gal 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

The Law of the Spirit of Life is different in every degree to the Law of Sin and Death.

- **one brings life the other one death**
- **one frees man from the bondage of sin and the other keeps one in bondage of sin**

The law of Moses was designed to reveal humankind's just condemnation while the New Law of Christ was designed to reconcile humankind to God.

2Co 3:6 who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2Co 3:7 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end,

2Co 3:8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?

2Co 3:9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory.

B. The Gospel of Christ is good news in every way!

❖ *It brings spiritual life to dead souls.*

(Joh 6:63 The spirit is the life giver; the flesh is of no value: the words which I have said to you are spirit and they are life)

❖ *It is called the law of faith.*

Rom 3:27 What reason, then, is there for pride? It is shut out. By what sort of law? of works? No, but by a law of faith. Rom 3:28 For this reason, then, a man may get righteousness by faith without the works of the law.

❖ *It is called the perfect law of liberty (Js. 1:25) because it sets man free instead of keeping him in bondage of sin and continuous guilt.*

III. Conclusion

It is clearly stated that we all are condemned souls because of sin. God is not willing for anyone to perish but accepts into heaven only those who are holy as He is holy. The sacrificial blood of Christ is the only cure for our spiritually terminal condition.

In Mk. 2:17 Jesus said, "They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

The Old Law accomplished what it was designed to do - to make us aware of what sin is and to usher in the true and only King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The 10th chapter of Hebrews tells us...

- **...that the old law was a shadow of good things to come.**
- **...that good thing was Christ who introduced the New Law.**

The sacrificial blood of bulls and goats had no power to take away sin but Christ blood sacrificed on the cross for all times can remove sin from any of those who have faithfully served Him.

The kings that the Israelites sought after only took them deeper and deeper into the bondage of sin which brought condemnation. But, under the New Law all people (Jews and Gentiles) can become servants to the King of Kings and become heirs to the kingdom of God just as though they were brothers and sisters to Christ(Gal 4:7).

There is a crown of life for those who live faithfully according to the law of faith (Rev. 2:10).

My next lesson in this series of lessons "That We All May Be One" will address the subject of "The Law Of Faith".

If one is in Christ there is no condemnation! Rm. 8 clearly shows a dividing line between those who have the Spirit of life and those who do not. A sinner gets into Christ through baptism.

Gal 3:26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

God has always expected obedience in every covenant He has made with the human race.

Joh 12:47 If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

Joh 12:48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

Joh 12:49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment--what to say and what to speak.

Joh 12:50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

The New Law is the only source of knowledge that can get you to heaven. Having knowledge of it alone is not enough! **It must be obeyed.**

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?

Slaves to Christ are treated like sons and daughters but slaves to Satan are misused and abused.

Who do you choose as your master?