



Devotional Study Guide Journal

February 11th

Paul Meant ALL Law

If we do not understand that when Paul wrote “law”, he meant ALL of the Old Covenant law, we will fall short in our understanding of nearly everything Paul writes and never truly comprehend the magnitude and power of the gospel of God’s grace. Here’s an example of why this is so important.

Galatians 2:21

I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.

Paul clearly taught that righteousness is by faith in Jesus. If there is any other way that we can be made righteous before God, then Jesus died for no reason. That is what Paul meant when he wrote this verse. If we think “law” here refers only to the civil and ceremonial laws, this verse loses its meaning and power.

Few believers feel compelled to keep the Jewish civil and ceremonial laws, let alone feel that their righteousness comes from doing so. However, when we include the moral law, we understand the enormous impact of his statement.

Does not the church today major in teaching that in order to be righteous before God, we must keep the moral law? Yet this is precisely what Paul was combating. He intended to include the whole law. “If righteousness comes by keeping the Ten Commandments (or any other aspect of the law), then Christ died in vain.”

Later in Galatians, Paul makes it very clear, “The law was our tutor to lead us to Christ, BUT after FAITH has come, we are no longer under a tutor” (Gal. 3:24-25). We are no longer under any part of the law. If we do not acknowledge this, we cannot be truly free. We will continue to be led by law instead of by the Spirit, and usually without knowing it, we are saying that something more than what Jesus did on the cross is required to be righteous! Imagine the severity of thinking this way.

Paul also wrote in Romans 6:14, “Sin shall not have dominion over you because you are not under the law but under grace.” If we think this only refers to civil and ceremonial laws, how does this help us at all? How much more powerful is this, “Sin has no dominion over you because you

are not under the Ten Commandments (or any other aspect of the law) but under grace.”

We are not righteous by keeping the Ten Commandments. We are righteous by faith (Rom. 5:1). We are not guided by the Ten Commandments. We are led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14). We are not instructed by the Ten Commandments. We are taught by grace Titus 2:11-14.

I understood MANY things about the gospel of God’s grace and was living in the freedom of it, even teaching it, but it wasn’t until I understood this truth that I fully comprehended His amazing grace and more closely understood the writings of Paul.

Think about this while reading his letters when he speaks of law.

1. Do you find yourself having a strong reaction to this topic? I know I used to defend the keeping of the moral law very emotionally, but when I finally saw it, the glories of living by grace through faith became crystal clear. Write your thoughts here and then do further study.

2. To study this topic further, see our series under SGF Teachings called [“Do You Know How?” Lessons 1 and 2 go into great detail and show clearly that we are under the New Covenant only and that the Ten Commandments were the Old Covenant.](#)

