

Curse of the Law?

by Sam Willcut

The curse of the Law is that one must keep the whole law in order to be justified by it and that once one has sinned under the law, there is no way to put away one's guilt. The law made no provision for the forgiveness of sin. In James 2:10, we are taught that under a system of law, if one tries to keep the whole law yet offends in even one point, he is guilty of all. The curse of the law, according to Paul in Romans 7, is that it exposed sin in his life, yet it did nothing to take away his guilt.

The Law of Moses only allowed for forgiveness in prospect, that is, it only covered the sins of men until Christ came to take away those sins. Now that Christ has come, the law has been taken away. It was nailed to the cross along with Him. So now, we are free from the curse of the Law of Moses. Does this mean that there is no longer a law that we must follow? Is there a requirement for Christians to obey, in the New Testament?

Christ demands our obedience. Matthew 7:21 teaches that we must do the will of the Father in order to enter into the kingdom of heaven. The will of God is our law. The will of God has been revealed in its completeness in the pages of the New Testament. It is the word of Christ that will judge us in the last day. Those who reject Christ and His word are rejecting the very law that will judge them. We are now under the Law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 gives us the imperative command to bear one another's burdens in order to fulfill the law of Christ.

We are under the law of Christ which is a law of Liberty. The fact that Christ's law is a law of liberty does not mean that we are free to disobey it. James teaches in chapter 1:22-25, that we must be a doer

of the word of God and not a hearer only. One who is a doer of the law of liberty will be blessed. He also teaches in chapter 2:12 that we will be judged by that law of liberty.

Since one could not keep all of the commandments of the Law of Moses, as we saw in James 2:10, one was guilty of all the Law. There was no way under the old law for ones sins to be taken away. The punishment for sin is death. Therefore, violation of any point of the Law of Moses brought one under the "curse" of the law, which was the death sentence. Only by the grace of God was a way made for man to rid himself of the "curse" of law. The grace of God freed man from the curse of the law. Does this mean that grace and law are mutually exclusive?

Grace brought about a system of salvation by faith in Christ Jesus. We are justified by our obedient faith in Christ, not by works of law. But, that does not void law. Romans 3:31 teaches that law is established through faith. Faith establishes or confirms law. If we have faith in Jesus and are obedient to His will, then we must recognize His will as law, or else we would not be faithful to it. Our obedience to Christ's law confirms that His law is in effect.

In Galatians 2:16-21, the word "law" is referring any system whereby one is saved according to works of merit. Whether it is by the Law of Moses, which made no provision for forgiveness; or whether it was by the Law of the Jews, which was apart from the Law of Moses, and had developed into a system of works based salvation. The Jews believed that they could earn their way to heaven by keeping the traditions of their forefathers. Therefore, we are not justified by law keeping in and of itself, but we are justified by the law of faith in Christ Jesus.

The Perfect Example of Evangelism

by Sam Willcut

Jesus not only preached to masses of people throughout His ministry here on earth, but He also knew the importance of teaching the individual.

In seeing Him as the perfect example of evangelism, notice several lessons from Him in His contact with a Samaritan woman and other Samaritans from Sychar in John 4. First, Jesus showed compassion. In leaving Judea for Galilee, the text reads that “he must needs go through Samaria” (John 4:4).

Since many of the Jews traveling from Judea to Galilee circumvented Samaria on the eastern road through Jericho, Christ’s need to travel through Samaria was spiritual and not geographical. When Jesus confronted the Samaritan woman after sending His disciples for food, she was perplexed that He would have dealings with her because of her race and gender. Christ’s contact with a hated race was enough to impress her with His compassion. If I am to follow His example of evangelism (cf. 1 Cor. 11:1), then I must be compassionate to others.

Second, Jesus introduced the gospel with the gift and the giver (John 4:10, 14). We are living in a world of sin. People do not need a “watered-down” gospel. Rather, the world needs to hear about the gift and the giver (Rom. 6:23). The gospel we are commanded to teach should involve both, and any other gospel is accursed (Gal. 1:8). Thus, if I am to follow the example of Jesus in evangelism, then I must introduce the gospel with both the gift (salvation) and the giver (Jesus).

Third, Jesus was interested in all souls, and He looked for more opportunities to share the gospel. After she inquired about receiving everlasting life, Jesus asked her to call her husband. Certainly, He already had in mind the opportunity to prove His deity, but He was not only interested in her soul, but the souls of her family as well. Later, the Samaritan woman brought many from Sychar to see Jesus, who then believed in Him (John 4:39). We should open our eyes and look for opportunities to spread the gospel to as many as we can. We must be interested in all souls!

Fourth, Jesus taught her properly the truth. He corrected her concept of worship (John 4:19-24), not giving her any idea that she was worshipping properly. He did not commend her sincerity. To be more precise, he said, “Ye worship ye know not what” (John 4:22) and then

taught her the proper method of worship according to both spirit and truth (John 4:24). Sometimes, teaching the gospel in an evangelistic manner requires some tearing down before building (cf. Jer. 1:10). We cannot overlook the need to deal with false doctrines; we must teach people properly the truth, for only it can save (cf. John 8:32).

Fifth, Jesus continually realized the importance of soul winning (John 4:35). Although the disciples questioned His involvement with this woman and tried to urge Him to eat, He was interested in the harvesting of souls. What more of a purpose statement do we need as Christians? Evangelism ought to be as much a part of our lives as breathing air! To follow the example of our

Lord in evangelism, we ought never to let down in looking for opportunities, realizing its great importance.

Sixth, Jesus understood the concept of preparation in soul winning. Many of the Samaritans believed in Him from this account (John 4:39-42). A short time later, Philip would

come to Samaria and baptize many of them (Acts 8:12). Possibly, some of the Samaritans that heard Philip remembered the day they heard Jesus. Many times, we get discouraged in soul winning because we cannot see the immediate fruits of our labor. However, just because we do not see immediate success does not mean that we have not been successful in preparing the soil for another to reap the harvest. For us to follow the example of Christ in evangelism, we ought to rejoice when others can build upon the work we have done in teaching the gospel. We ought to be patient when we do not see an immediate harvest. We ought to be selfless, occupied in our task and willing to rejoice when others reap the harvest.

Seventh, Jesus knew the correct way to teach was exclusively from the word of God (John 4:42). When we teach the world, not with creeds or doctrines, but from the holy word of God, then God will add many saved souls to His kingdom.

Therefore, let us all apply these wonderful principles of evangelism from the example of the greatest soul-winner, and thereby gain more success in our endeavors!



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New Minister:

Cory & April Myers

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This will change soon as they are searching for a home here. We'll update as soon as we can.

New Members:

Billy Jack & Carolyn Howard

3000 W. 4th Ave. #301
Corsicana, TX 75110

Hector & Angelina Magana

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Corsicana, TX 75110

Wendy Monroe

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KariAnne Valdivia

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program - Dickie Russell

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - Delton McGuire, Director
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv

Prison Works

La Poyner Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

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Prayer List

Melba Bower is in room 220 at Navarro Regional.
Billie Thomas has outpatient surgery tomorrow.
Veran Barrett will have cataract surgery this week.
Helen Strange is back home recovering.
Meagan Gould had surgery Friday afternoon.
Bud & Barbara Moore have been struggling with eye issues.
Melissa Armstrong, Pat Ellis' daughter, had a brain aneurysm Wed. night and is doing better following surgery on Thu. It will be touch-and-go for the next few weeks.

Continue to Remember: Don Bowen, Bobby Compton, Velma McDougald, Ruth Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Irene Ross, Jan Ross, Pat Wheat, Alyce Barnes, Earlean Bailey, and John Smith.

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Josh Moehring, Ryan Payne, Devin Peterson, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, Payton Weaver, and Kye White.

Announcements

We are Thrilled that **Cory & April Myers** are joining us. Cory has accepted the position of Family & Youth Minister.

We Rejoice that **KariAnne Valdivia** put on Christ in baptism last Sunday!

We Also Welcome Hector & Angelina Magana and **Wendy Monroe** who placed membership last Sunday. **Contact info is on page 3.**

Our Love and Sympathy go out to Carolyn & Carl Max Bennett and their family at the passing of Carolyn's mother, May Dell Cypert.

Our Sympathies also go out to April & Cory Myers at the passing of April's grandfather Thu. night.

"To the Wonderful People at Westhill Church of Christ, Thank you for the delicious lunch you provided for the family of Charles Henry Harrison. The food was excellent and all members of our family could feel your love and care. Your many good works exemplify the spirit of Jesus Christ." Charles M. Harrison

"We Are So Thankful for our church family and for all your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits during Bobby's hospital stay and after we came home. It is so comforting to have your name lifted up before God. Bobby is doing just great and improving each

day. Also, my family thanks you for all the cards and visits to my mother, Wanda Brown. A special thanks to Nancy Armstrong for the sweet gifts and to Jeanie Slaughter for the sweet sweets!! We love all of you." Thank you again, Bobby & Dianne Compton

Our Annual Couple's Retreat is Feb. 27-28 Any married couples interested in driving out for these lessons (the rooms are all booked), see Brent or Lanette Stewart.

The Sweetheart Banquet will be Saturday, Feb. 14 at 7:00 PM. Please, sign up in the foyer.

Birthdays This Week:

- February 2 - Sam Dilbeck, Emory McDougald, Henry Wooten
- February 3 - Nick Hoffman
- February 4 - Madeline Berry
- February 5 - Jazmine Medina
- February 7 - Florence Dickey, Donna Drain, Kati Haffner, Clay Jackson, Tina Roughton

Next Week's Bible Class Joshua 6-7
The Walls of Jericho/Achan

Records for January 25, 2015

Bible Class	162
AM Worship	272
PM Worship	168
Wednesday	167
Contribution	\$9,979.00

Privileged to Serve

- Song Leader** Zach Drain
- Opening Prayer** Russell Bankes
- Communion Leader** Joe Glass
- Communion Servers**
 - Bryan Bearden Dan Gibson
 - Wade Hall Zack Lewis
 - David Mahoney Gene McDougald
 - Buck Murphy Rick Newton
 - Aubrey Parrish Wayne Prater
 - Austin Roughton Robby Thomas
 - Bronny Watson
- Closing Prayer** Scott Barham
- Nursery** Melissa Bearden & Emily Roughton
- PM Song Leader** Mark Blaylock
- PM Opening Prayer** Brody Owens
- PM Closing Prayer** Phil Pillans
- Wed. Song Leader** Jimmy Horn
- Wed. Devo** Greg Olsen
- February Contact Elder** Percell Milton - 903.673.1819