

Sermon on Galatians 3:23-29

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

One who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall be put to death.

Anyone who dishonors their father or mother must be put to death.

You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day must be a Sabbath day of complete rest, a holy day dedicated to the LORD. Anyone who works on that day must be put to death. Okay, enough of that. If you look back into the Old

Testament there are five books of the bible that are part of the

Mosaic Law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and

Deuteronomy. There were many, many, many laws that come out of these books. I really don't know how they kept track of them.

Well okay, I know...the bible. Easy enough, right? Well...back

when Paul was writing to the Galatian Church, some teachers were instructing them to follow the Mosaic Laws to the T, as well as

what Christ Jesus had stated in the Gospel according to Matthew;

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets”. Paul stated in chapter 2 of Galatians that when Peter was eating and hanging out with the Gentiles, the men from James came into town, they started to draw back and separate themselves. The Jews didn’t want to be around the Gentile because they were not circumcised. And they believed that circumcision was required for salvation. Paul wasn’t too keen on that ideal. Paul also says that he is a lawbreaker and that Christ has died for the laws that were broken by him. That goes for the rest of us as well. I believe that Paul’s text from today’s reading means, that being in prisoned by the law before you have found your faith in Jesus Christ you might be burdened by the laws. Before you start to feel so bad about breaking those laws, you may have been stoned to death back in the day if you broke any of those laws. Once you have found faith in Christ Jesus knowing that he had died for your sins on the cross, you can ask for forgiveness of those sins, you shall be relieved of that burden. I’m not saying that you can go out and break any law willfully just

because you know that you will be forgiven. Once that faith was revealed, we didn't need to be burdened anymore by the laws.

Paul then reminds us that we are all sons of God through our faith in Christ Jesus for all who were baptized into Christ and have clothed ourselves in Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus. I really love that last sentence! Here it is again: There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus. In today's world there is too much out there trying to divide us as a "people", whether it is something on the evening news that tries to divide us by the color of our skin or by which kind of person someone thinks you are because of who you want to be president. We must always remember that we need to treat ALL people with dignity and respect. We are all one in Christ Jesus. There is neither Baptist nor Episcopalian, Democrat nor Republican, A's fan nor Giant's fan... for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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