



Colossians

series

Christ in you, the
hope of glory



MICAH
COMMUNITY CHURCH

THE LAW AND THE CROSS

Colossians 2:13-19

By Milton



Offences nailed to the cross

Colossians 2:13-19 NLT

- ¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Ignore the blind guides

- ¹⁶ So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ **For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality.** ¹⁸ Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. **Their sinful minds have made them proud,** ¹⁹ **and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.**

(Col. 2:16-19)

What is the Law?

Definition of Law

The Jewish word for Law is **halakhah**, it means *the way to behave or the way of walking*.

Prior to the Law – Egypt

Their schooling was in sin

*Righteousness had to be taught – and modelled
Law.*

What exactly is the Law?

Understanding the **Law** and how it leads to **grace** through the **cross**.

- The purpose of the Law
- The letter of the Law
- The spirit or intent of the Law
- Failure to keep the **whole** Law leads to a curse
- Keeping the **whole** Law leads to untold blessings
- Why the Law points to Christ – who both fulfills and keeps the Law on our behalf.

The purpose of the Law

Although the Law is stated by Paul to be *good, holy and righteous (Rom 7:12)* it is impossible for a human being to keep it perfectly. That's why the substitutionary sacrifices of animals were necessary.

What then is the point of the Law?

Well, the Law identifies our wrong actions as sinful – it makes us aware of our sins. (and therefore where we come short of God's righteousness)

It also **points us to** the one and only person, who would one day keep the Law **perfectly** on our behalf

The letter of the Law - the printed commands. **The spirit or intent** – the intent (righteous character)

The greater Moses

Moses was given the Law on Mount Sinai – Moses then spoke of a greater Moses to come:

*The LORD your God will raise up **for you** a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.*
(Deut. 18:15)

Almost 1600 years later - Jesus, **the greater Moses** arrives. During His Sermon On The Mount He said:
²¹ "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. (Matt. 5:21-22)

Jesus vs. the Pharisees

Interestingly, when Jesus was asked what the greatest Commandment was – He said in essence:

“Thou shalt **love** the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and **great commandment**. And the **second** is like unto it, Thou shalt **love** thy neighbor as thyself.” (Matthew 22:37-39)

- It seems then that trying desperately to keep the Law puts us in the hypocritical place of the Pharisees, who:
- Failed to love God - Failed to love their neighbour (Jesus).
- Hated God's Son - Killed God's Son
- (They hated God!)

The failure of the Pharisees

Now we know why these Pharisees were labeled as hypocrites by Jesus who **successfully** obeyed both the **letter** and the **spirit** of the Law:

He loved God to the extent that he put aside His own divinity to become a servant – obeying the Father's every word – even to His death on the cross.

He loved his neighbours – those who tortured Him - so much so that He was willing to die for them – even asking the Father to forgive them.

- **Thank the Lord** - otherwise we would still be in our sins. Anyone who keeps the whole Law would receive untold blessings. And because we are **found** in Christ – who did just that – we are blessed (**Deuteronomy 28**).

What is grace?

(John 1:17) explains it very well:

For the law was given by Moses,

but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. Grace is the undeserved favour that a righteous, loving Father God, bestows on His children, **even when** they were in sinful rebellion against Him.

In God, there is virtually **no limit** to the grace that He **pours out** on us - for here comes Jesus who became **true Israel** and kept the Law perfectly. He also fulfills the Law because it **pointed** to Him - it was always **all** about Jesus.

And because **we are found in Jesus** - we have also kept the Law. God's grace comes to us **because of the cross**. Because of Christ's sacrifice.

How do we understand the relationships between the Law, the cross and grace?

(Galatians 3:24-26)

Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus

Foundations:

- ABC - names and sounds - CVC words.

Vowels & consonants.

- Counting 1-10 values.

- Teacher: freedom, excellence, empowerment.

- The cost and the cross.

The triumph of the cross:

- redemption
- justification
- adoption
- sanctification
- glorification



Grace overflowing

- Grace brings God's overwhelming love brings us undeserved favour. To prove His love, God deposited Himself in us as a guarantee of our salvation.
- (Galatians 5:18) ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
- (Romans 6:14)
- ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
- (Romans 8:14)
- ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons** of God.
- This is all **because** of the cross.

You have freedom in Christ

- ¹⁵ Ephesians 1:7-8 ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding.
- ⁸ And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an **abundance** for every good work. (2 Cor. 9:8)
- Abundant, plentiful, overflowing, full to bursting.
- How does God's grace translate to our everyday experience?

KEY POINTS

- When Christ said it was finished - He meant it.
- We don't need Christ plus – Christ is enough.
- The cross - Jesus triumphed - purchased our salvation.
- Grace is His love poured out on us – through His Son.
- Whatever you are going through, be encouraged - approach God as the perfect Father.
- Don't ever doubt God's love.

An audience with the Father

