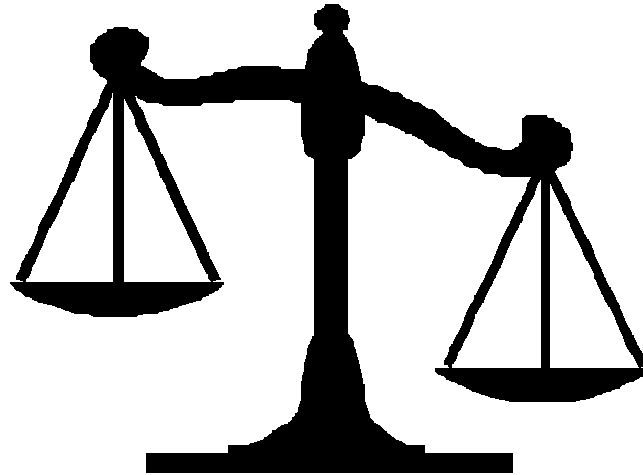


Session 3: Law vs. Grace

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Note: The audio file (mp3) of this presentation is made available on www.audioteaching.org



Law and Grace

The principle of the Law: Exodus 20 – thou shalt, thou shalt not.

- The basis – blessing offered as a reward in return for adequate performance – this do and thou shalt live (ie continue to live on earth).
 - NB Deuteronomy 27 / 28 The Law and its end.
- The Law was given to the nation of Israel, to demonstrate the fact that even the most favoured nation in the world (Is. 5 v 1 – 7, Mt 21:33 – 41) could not meet the requirements of the Law.
- When Israel is eventually brought into their final blessing, it too will be based on the sovereign blessing of God, and not dependent at all on what the nation deserves:

Contrast:	The Law	–	Exodus 20	–	“thou shalt!”
	Grace	–	Jeremiah 30/31	–	“I will!”.

Law and Grace



The principle of Grace: Ephesians 2 v 8 – 9:

- by grace, through faith, for
 - initial overall salvation (ie eternal life, possessed and enjoyed first on earth, and then eternally in heaven) and
 - for daily living (Romans 8 v 4).
- The basis – blessing offered on the basis of acceptance of the fact that the responsible sinner could never ever deserve anything but righteous judgment from a holy God.
- God blesses on the basis of the value to Him of the work of Christ upon the Cross.

Law and Grace



- The idea of a mixture of grace and law is totally abhorrent to God and without any support in scripture.
- We live in the day of grace, i.e. the period when grace, not law, is operative.

- The principles of law and grace are completely incompatible; totally and mutually exclusive.

Law and Grace



Summary: Law vs. Grace

Run, John, run, the Law demands,
But gives him neither feet nor hands.
Grace speaks of better things;
It bids him fly and gives him wings.

Alternative: Law vs. Grace

Do this or that, the Law demands
But gives me neither feet nor hands.
Grace brings me to much better things
It bids me fly, and gives me wings.

There are two major treatises on this subject.

- The Epistle to the Romans
 - Is the **exposition** of the principles of grace to the saved sinner
 - the basis on which salvation is bestowed.
- The Epistle to the Galatians
 - Is the **vindication** of the Gospel to the saved sinner



Law and Grace

- GALATIANS 1 v 1 – 9
- The Epistle to the Galatians met a special need in the first century AD.
- We can be thankful that it has been included in the canon of scripture and preserved up to the present day.
- The need persists.
 - It is no exaggeration to say that probably the vast majority of committed Christians at the present time may well be marked by the kind of thinking that was prevalent amongst the Galatian believers.
 - The Galatian Epistle is therefore no less topical now than when it was written.
- It will be necessary for us to examine the main elements of the teaching given, and in particular study the **words** which the Holy Ghost teacheth (1 Corinthians 2 v 13).
- Much of the power of what Paul says is found in the significance of the actual **words** which Paul was led to use.



Law and Grace

Galatians (cont'd)

IMPORTANCE

- The relative importance of the Epistle is seen in
 - the strength of the language and terms used, and
 - the vehemence with which Paul expresses himself.

Background

- The Galatians had been deceived by teachers from Jerusalem, God's earthly centre until Christ came.

The main question

- **Is Christ (and His work) sufficient?**



Law and Grace

Galatians (cont'd)

The approach

Detail

1 v 1

- Paul's Apostleship and Gospel did not depend on man.
 - They were neither of man as to origin or by man as to agency.
 - Verse 1 declares that Paul's Apostleship was from God the Father (Source and Origin) and by or through Jesus Christ (the Agent).
 - Paul's links were with One Who has been raised from among the dead. In Him, Christ, God has made a new start.

1 v 2

- Paul was not alone. Those who were with him were fully with him in what he said and did.

1 v 3 – 5

- These verses seem to crystallise for us the truth which has come to light in the Cross of Christ. All is dealt with.



Law and Grace

Galatians (cont'd)

- Past – Who gave Himself for our sins.
- Present – deliverance from this present evil world.
- Future – glory throughout the ages of ages.

- This ministry was particularly applicable to the Galatians,
 - who needed to realise the necessity of dissociation from all that marked this 'present evil age',
 - including the ecclesiastical attitude which sought to add 'The Law' to the grace with which it cannot be mixed.

- 'Keeping of the Law', as such, belongs to the 'old life' and its ways,
 - which were brought to an ugly, unsavoury, disgraceful end in Christ's death.



Law and Grace

Galatians (cont'd)

NB:

- **Crucified** – in the various scriptures where it is used:
 - invariably carries the thought of abrupt, shameful end.
 - Cf Daniel 9 v 26 – **cut off**; Colossians 2 v 11 – **circumcised**,

v 6: The grace of Christ.

- Pure, unmixed, unmingled, unadulterated grace (cf mercy).
- Another: **heteros** v **allos**

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- Numbers 14 v 24
 - 1 Samuel 10 v 9
 - Psalm 89 v 20
 - John 14 v 16
 - Acts 13 v 22
 - Galatians 1 v 6/7



Law and Grace

Galatians (cont'd)

v 7 Pervert:

- corrupt – pollute
- NO ADDITIVES
- ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION!
- Sin is the gravest pollutant.

v 8 – 9

- accursed – cursed of God.
- Deuteronomy 27/28 The Law and its end.
 - Obedience → **blessing** (Gerizzim)
 - Disobedience → **curse** (Ebal)

What would happen?

- 12 x **curse**s. They could not keep the Law.
- Curse. The inevitable end (terminal point) of our works, the activity of man).



Law and Grace

Galatians (cont'd)

Summary

- We have seen that the Law and its result were given in Deuteronomy 27/28.
- The truth is confirmed in Romans 10 v 4 (As a way of attempting to please God is concerned, Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth).
- Likewise, Grace and its outcome are summarised in Romans 8 v 1 – 4:
 - Romans 8 v 1 Summary of the teaching of Romans 5
 - Romans 8 v 2 Summary of the teaching of Romans 6
 - Romans 8 v 3 Summary of the teaching of Romans 7
 - Romans 8 v 4 Summary of the teaching of Romans 8



Law and Grace

Galatians (cont'd)

Additional Notes

1. The Law did its job.

It demonstrated that man is incapable of meeting God's righteous requirements. Read Romans 7 v 12, 1 Timothy 1 v 8.

2. All other (men), apart from the Lord Jesus personally, are covered by the opening chapters of the Epistle to the Romans, summed up in Romans 3 v 19: 'The whole world is guilty before God.'

- Read also Galatians 3 v 13.

3. Only once ever has the Law been kept/fulfilled in its entirety.

- That was in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ in His life on earth.
- Read Isaiah 42 v 21
- But only on the basis of His death and resurrection can any now be made right with God. Read Romans 5 v 17 – 18, Galatians 3 v 13.