

# The End of the Law

## Romans 7

### The Origin of Law

- *ex oriente lux, ex occidente lex*
- We were not intended to live through law (Gal 3:21)
- A Tale of Two Trees (Gen 2:9, 3:6-7)
  - We chose knowledge instead of trusting God. We chose judgment.
  - We chose life apart from God instead of through him. We chose death.
- The rest of scripture is the story of God restoring us to life *in him*. (Joh 1:1-4)

### Failing Law School

- Failed: Our attempts at law/judgment
- Failed: Keeping Law of Moses
- Purpose of the Law
  - To teach us... (Gal 3:24, KJV - "Schoolmaster")
    - We cannot approach God by Law (Rom 4:15).
      - Through the Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil
    - An emphasis on Love for God and each other
      - (Mat 22:36-40)
- The Law drives us back to the Tree of Life – Jesus Christ

### Rediscovering Life

- Jesus: Embodiment of the Tree of Life
  - Repeated use of light/life for Jesus (John)
  - John 1:1-4 – Light & Life linked w/Creation
  - The Temple/Tabernacle Lampstand
    - Heb 9:2: Contents of The Holy Place
    - Exo 25:30-39: The Lampstand/Tree of Life
    - Rev 1:12-13: Central Light of the Lampstands
      - Who is the source/light/life of the Church?
      - The "body" of Christ: Church (1 Cor 12:27)
- Scripture is the story of God restoring humanity to the Tree

of Life - Jesus.

## Bait and Switch

- The Religious Bait-and-Switch
  - Definition:
    - A sales tactic in which the customer is attracted by an ad for a low-priced item but then is deceived into buying a higher priced one
  - The Bait: *God loves and saves you by grace* *alone,*  
*apart from the Law*
  - The Switch: *Please God - Follow the Rules/Law*
  - The Truth:
    - Believers cannot keep the Law (Rom 7:21-23)
    - Believers are not accountable to the Law (Rom 7:6)
    - Jesus fulfilled ALL the Law FOR us (Rom 7:24-25)

## A Few Questions...

- So, what keeps people from sinning?
  - Nothing ever has. Certainly not religion.
  - Law/Rules separate us from God.
- What about repentance?
  - Adam and Eve “turned” (specifically, “hid themselves”) away from their relationship with God because of the Law Tree.
  - Repentance is about “turning” back to a love relationship and dependence on God through the Life Tree: Jesus.

## A Few Questions... (cont)

- So what then? How do we relate to God?
  - 1 John 4:9-13
  - Reliance on the Holy Spirit (Heb 10:14-17) instead of Law
  - A Relationship of Love with God instead of a Religion of Law
  - Relationship of Love with one another instead of the judgment of religious rules

## References

- References
  - *Blue Like Jazz*: Donald Miller
  - *Grace Awakening*: Steve McVey
  - *Recalling the Hope of Glory*: Allen P. Ross

## Galatians 3:21

- Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.

## Genesis 2:9, 3:6-7

- And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:9

- ...she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened...

Genesis 3:6-7

## John 1:1-4

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

## Romans 4:13-16, 3:20

- For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

**Romans 4:13-16**

- For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

**Romans 3:20**

## **Matthew 22:36-40**

- "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"  
And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

## **Hebrews 9:2**

- For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place.

## **Exodus 25:31-33**

- "You shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. And there shall be six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch--so for the six branches going out of the lampstand.

## **Temple Lampstand**

### **Revelation 1:12-15**

- Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst [middle] of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.

### **Rom 7:21-23**

- So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner

being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

## **Romans 7:6**

- But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

## **Romans 7:24-25**

- Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

## **Heb 10:14-17**

- For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

## **1Jn 4:9-13**

- In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

## **Heb 6:1**

- Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

