

[Christ] has qualified us, making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient, as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant of salvation through Christ, not ministers of the letter of legally written code, but of the Spirit; for the code of the Law kills, but the Holy Spirit makes alive.

II Corinthians 3:6 (Amplified Version)

**Joseph Herrin**

## **Laying Down the Law**

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**Galatians 5:12**  
**I could wish that those who trouble you would  
even mutilate themselves!**

## **Introduction**

There was perhaps no more troubling issue in the early church than that of the Law and its role and place in Christianity. Entire city churches were being led astray from the gospel of faith they had first received. Converted Jews were insisting that, in addition to faith in Christ, the Law of Moses must be kept. The false teaching of the Judaisers was so pervasive that even a number of apostles were led into error and they had to be publicly confronted concerning their hypocrisy.

The apostle Paul had helped to found the church in Galatia, and the saints in Galatia had started out well. They professed belief in Christ, and they embraced the apostle's doctrine of justification by faith and life in the Spirit. They understood that life in Christ began with a spiritual birth, the same spiritual birth that Yahshua spoke to Nicodemus about, and which John recorded in his gospel.

**John 3:5-8**

5 Yahshua answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, "You must be born again.'

8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Paul taught the same things to the Galatian believers that he taught everywhere. He shared with them that forgiveness of sin is obtained through faith in Christ's atoning work on the cross of Calvary. Righteousness, that is right standing before the Father, is also freely given to the saint who understands their vital union with Christ. The saints were in Christ as He was reconciling the world to the Father. Yahshua died on behalf of all that all might be cleansed and have the certificate of debt consisting of charges against them removed. He then rose from the grave that the Elect might also be partakers of His resurrection life.

Everything in the gospel that Paul preached pointed the saint to Christ. Apart from Christ the saint had no forgiveness, no righteousness, no life in the Spirit. As the saint was joined to Christ they became partakers of the very life of Christ and all that it entails.

This is the gospel that was first delivered to the Galatian believers, and they received it with great joy. However, the peace and joy of these new believers was soon disturbed by those who crept in and began making false and misleading statements that turned the focus of the saints away from a pure devotion to Christ. These Judaisers, as they were called, claimed that faith in Christ was good, but it was not sufficient for the saint to be totally approved of God. In addition to faith in Christ, they proclaimed that the saint must also adhere to the Law of Moses with all of its regulations and rituals. They went so far as to say that the saints must even be circumcised as a sign of their intent to keep the Law of Moses.

The apostle Paul, who had labored over these saints, and who had established them in truth and faith and love, was so incensed that they were casting away their confidence and freedom in Christ to embrace a slavery to the Law, that

he declared that he could wish that those who were troubling the believers with their false doctrines would even mutilate themselves. Paul was livid as he saw the enemy coming in and turning the saints away from faith in Christ to a path of dead works, turning them away from the righteousness that is found in union with Christ, to a righteousness that is derived from keeping the Law through the power of man's own efforts. Paul was led to ask the following questions:

**Galatians 3:1-5**

**1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Yahshua the Messiah was publicly portrayed as crucified?**

**2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?**

**3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?**

**4 Did you suffer so many things in vain -- if indeed it was in vain?**

**5 So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?**

Galatians 5:7

You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

It is very easy to see the emotion in Paul's words. The apostle sought to lead the church into a mature walk in the Spirit. He desired that they should all walk in the anointing of the Spirit that they had received, that they should all be taught of God, discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit and responding in simple obedience to what they heard. He desired that they should all find Christ being formed within them as the Spirit bore fruit in their lives and love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control became more and more evident in their lives.

The apostle desired that the saints should be conformed to the image of the heavenly, spiritual creatures they were destined to become, and to dwell less and less upon the flesh and the elemental things of the world. Yet the Judaisers were coming in and directing the saints' attention away from Christ and back to the flesh which profits nothing. Paul yearned for the Galatians to see how complete and vital their

union with Christ was. It was to the Galatian church that he penned the following words:

**Galatians 2:20**

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Paul testified that he had died when Christ died, and now it was not himself that was truly living, but the Spirit of Christ was living in him. He walked by faith, seeing his complete union with the Messiah who had died for him that Paul might be joined to Him by the Spirit who was promised. In another epistle Paul wrote these words:

**Colossians 3:1-3**

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Not only did Paul die, but he proclaimed that all the saints had died, and their life was now hidden, completely enveloped and swallowed up, in the life of Christ. The saint's focus was to be heavenly, not earthly. The saint was to understand their union with Christ, the mystery that had been hidden to previous ages (Colossians 1:25-27). This mystery is stated simply as "Christ in you."

It is understandable then that Paul should be so incensed that the Galatian believers were being turned away from this great mystery of their union with Christ to embrace a righteousness apart from Christ, a righteousness derived by keeping the Law. They were being turned away from life in the Spirit, a life of anointing, to a life of works in the flesh. They were being directed away from faith, into striving and the works of man. Paul spoke very passionately to the Galatians about the error they had embraced.

**Galatians 3:11, 12**

**11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "*The righteous man shall live by faith.*"**

**12 However, the Law is not of faith...**

**Galatians 5:1-4**

1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you...

4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

There can be no more serious charge among the saints than that of being separated from Christ. Separation from Christ is the byproduct of the Judaisers teaching. By taking their focus off of the Savior and placing it upon themselves and their efforts to keep the Law of Moses, the saints were being separated from Christ. The saints were being directed back to a focus upon regulations engraved in stone, and away from life in the Spirit where hearing the voice of the Spirit and responding in obedience constituted the simplicity of life to which they were called.

Anyone who seeks to follow the letter of the Law knows well that it is anything but simple. This is why the Jews had their lawyers who were trained in the Law of Moses. This is why the Jewish legal system existed. Every action had to

be carefully scrutinized and examined according to the Law, and the end result was that the original intent was often overturned and the will of God was replaced with the justifications of sinful men.

But we have been called to a life of simplicity. We are to hear the voice of the Spirit and walk in obedience.

**Isaiah 30:21**

**Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.**

Today there are many saints who are being troubled by the same message that the Judaisers brought to the Galatian believers. They are being taught that faith in Christ is wonderful and to be desired, but that they must also keep the Law of Moses. There is a resurgence of saints that are proclaiming that Christians must be 'Torah observant', which is merely an euphemistic expression meaning they must be Law keepers. The same result is occurring, many are being separated from Christ and led away from a life of faith.

This book will look at the true role that the Law plays today. It will look at Yahweh's original intent in giving the Law to Moses, and we will see that the purposes of the Law have been fulfilled. Understanding these truths holds great value for all who have ears to hear. May you be blessed with peace and understanding as you examine these words.

**Romans 8:14**  
**For all who are being led by the Spirit of God,  
these are mature sons of God.**

## **Chapter 1 - Life in the Spirit**

One cannot understand the depth of the error of those who teach that the saints are to keep the Law of Moses, unless they first see clearly the type of life to which the saints are called. From the beginning of creation God has been looking for mature sons to come forth after His image, and after His likeness. This thought was expressed in the opening chapter of Genesis.

**Genesis 1:26-27**

**26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."**

**27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He**

created him; male and female He created them.

We are told that God's original communication with Adam was face to face. In the book of Genesis we read that God came walking in the Garden in the cool of the evening, and that He called out to Adam. Yet God desired a much fuller and intimate form of communication with man. He desired to dwell within man. Man was designed to be a container of the Spirit of God, a temple in which God's Spirit could dwell.

Adam's communication with God was not unlike the disciples' relationship to Yahshua. The disciples walked with Yahshua for three years. They heard His voice and saw His works, yet this was not the ideal relationship between God and man. It was limited in very crucial ways. Yahshua could not be with every disciple at all times. In His earthly body, Yahshua was limited by time and space. But more importantly, in His physical and bodily relationship with the disciples, Yahshua could only relate to them externally. He could not transform them internally. He could not be formed within them. For this reason He spoke the following words:

**John 16:5-14**

**5 "But now I am going to Him who**

sent Me; and none of you asks Me,  
'Where are You going?'

6 "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you...

12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you."

Yahshua told His disciples that it was to their advantage that He go away in order that the Helper, the Spirit of truth, might be sent to them. The Spirit would dwell within each of them and disclose to them the words of Christ. The Spirit would cause each of them to be born

again spiritually, and then the Spirit would brood over this new spiritual man and labor to bring it to maturity. We have many scriptures that reveal Yahweh's intent that man should be a temple wherein His Spirit should dwell.

**I Corinthians 3:16**

Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

**II Corinthians 6:16**

For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "*I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.*"

**Ezekiel 36:27**

"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."

**Romans 8:11**

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Yahshua the Messiah from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through

## His Spirit who dwells in you.

The disciples did not discern how much better it would be for Yahshua to go away. They did not understand the full benefit of the Spirit being given and dwelling within them. It was far better to have the indwelling Spirit of God: the Spirit that never sleeps, that is always present, that would lead them into all truth, that would bring life to their mortal bodies, than it was to have an external Christ that had to relate to man through their flesh.

There is a parallel truth when we look at the Law. The Law was engraved on stones and written about in many writings, but the Law was external to man and it had to enter man through his flesh. However, the flesh is corrupt and wicked and all that passes through it is tainted by the weakness of the flesh. The Spirit of God speaks directly to the inner man, the new creature in Christ, and the communication is pure and undefiled. It is therefore better to have the Spirit dwelling within man and making known to man the mind of the Father, than it is to have an external body of rules that speaks to man's flesh. This is Paul's message in the following verses:

**Romans 8:3-4**

3 For what the Law could not do,  
weak as it was through the flesh,  
God did: sending His own Son in the  
likeness of sinful flesh and as an  
offering for sin, He condemned sin  
in the flesh,  
4 so that the requirement of the Law  
might be fulfilled in us, who do not  
walk according to the flesh but  
according to the Spirit.

From the time of Adam's creation God has desired to dwell within man and to commune with each individual saint. He has yearned for each person to come to Him directly to learn of His ways and His will for them. It was not His desire that men should have some intermediary, such as a priest or prophet, who would declare God's mind to them. Though such priests and prophets were ordained for a time, they were to no longer be necessary when mankind should reach maturity. Yahweh has desired to teach each one of His children Himself.

John 6:45  
*"It is written in the prophets, 'and they shall all be taught of God.'"*

I John 2:27  
As for you, the anointing which you

received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Romans 8:14

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the mature sons of God.

Isaiah 30:19-21

19 O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

20 Although Yahweh has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher.

21 Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

Sadly, Satan has done such a work of obscuring God's design for the saints to be Spirit led that

there are groups of believers today that deny that God speaks to the saints at all. They declare that God quit speaking when the Bible was completely written, and that all that is necessary is to seek the mind and will of God in the pages of scripture. These are blind guides leading the blind. It is a vital necessity that all of God's children should hear the voice of the Spirit within the temple of their body.

Yahshua is the pattern for our own lives as children of God. He was the firstborn among many brethren. His life was a life in the Spirit. He did not begin His ministry until the Spirit descended upon Him, and from that moment forward His life was guided and empowered by the same Spirit. He discerned the mind of the Father by the Spirit. This is also to be our pattern. We are not to be led by the letter of the Law, but by the Spirit that was freely given to us.

**I Corinthians 2:9-13**

**9** but just as it is written, *“Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

**10** For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit

searches all things, even the depths of God.

11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

These are marvelous declarations. We have been given the Spirit so that we might be guided by the Spirit into all truth. The Spirit teaches the saints all things, even the deep things of God. The very thoughts of God are made known to the saints by the Spirit. It was in this way that Yahshua performed His ministry. He was always beholding the Father through the eyes of the Spirit, and He did only those things He saw the Father doing. The very words He spoke were those which the Father gave Him to speak.

Yahshua demonstrated that this is the way that each of His disciples is also to walk before God. Many saints have noted that Yahshua said, "As the Father has sent Me, so send I you", but they have failed to consider how the Father sent Christ. Did the Father give Yahshua a mandate to go and be the Messiah to humanity, to go and perform miracles and cast out demons and prophesy? No, He did not. The Father determined that Christ should be led of the Spirit in all things. He was to let the Spirit guide Him into all of His activities and in all of His words.

Some saints mistakenly believe that they are just to go and do the same things Christ did; preach the gospel, cast out demons, heal the sick, make disciples, etc.. They have not discerned that Yahshua did none of these things of His own initiative. He was led of the Spirit in every word, every miracle, every moment of His day. We can see this desire of Yahshua's, that all of His disciples be Spirit led, very clearly as we look at the scriptures.

**John 20:21-22**

**21 So Yahshua said to them again,  
"Peace be with you; as the Father  
has sent Me, I also send you."**

**22 And when He had said this, He**

breathed on them and said to them,  
“Receive the Holy Spirit.”

If the disciples did not receive the Holy Spirit, they could not walk as Christ did in this world. For this reason they were strictly commanded to “tarry in Jerusalem until you be endued with power from on high.” They had to await the day of Pentecost and the giving of the Spirit. By receiving the Spirit, they were then equipped and empowered to walk in the same manner as their Savior. They would be prepared to walk as Christ walked in this world.

I John 4:17

By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; ***because as He is, so also are we in this world.***

Life in Christ is by necessity a life in the Spirit. We are to walk as He walked, and He was Spirit led from the moment of His baptism at the Jordan River. As soon as the Spirit came upon Him we have these words:

Matthew 3:16-4:1

16 After being baptized, Yahshua came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were

opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,  
17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."  
4:1 Then Yahshua was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Yahshua could not begin His ministry until He received the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. As soon as the Spirit came upon Him we see Yahshua being led by the Spirit. This leading continued, and eventually the day would come when the Spirit would lead Him to the cross.

We are told that Yahshua learned obedience through the things He suffered. When the Spirit revealed the will of the Father, Yahshua had to choose to obey. At times He wrestled with the revealed will of God, but He always chose a response of obedience. On the Mount of Olives in a place called Gethsemane, Yahshua wrestled with the will of God and the bitter cup He was called upon to drink. He wrestled until He sweat drops of blood. He came forth victorious as He declared, "Not My will, but Thy will be done." He then arose and submitted Himself to the will of the Father.

This is the manner in which every saint is to conduct their lives. They are to abide in the Spirit, to pay attention to the voice of the Spirit, and to choose obedience to that which the Spirit reveals to be the will of the Father. Every saint has this treasure in earthen vessels, the very Spirit of God. The saint's body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and in this temple we meet with God.

Many saints do not discern the voice of the Spirit because they have defiled their temples. They have brought the traffic of the world into their temple as they pursue all that the world has to offer. Like those who brought oxen, sheep and doves, and who exchanged money in the temple, the saints have also brought the traffic and commerce of the world into their temple, and the noise of this traffic has drowned out the still, small voice of God. Yahshua demonstrated His zeal for His Father's house by driving out the merchants and money changers. He declared, "My Father's house shall be a house of prayer."

It was not Herod's Temple that Yahshua was zealous for. It was the temple of our bodies. Did we not just read that we are temples of the Holy Spirit? It is our lives for which Yahshua is so zealous. Many saints have filled their temple

with the traffic of the world and in so doing they have defiled their temple. The voice of the merchants and money changers makes it impossible to hear the voice of God. In this, many saints have followed after the pattern of Satan who defiled the temples of Yahweh of which he was placed in charge before his fall.

Ezekiel 28:18

"By the multitude of your iniquities,  
In the unrighteousness of your  
trade,  
You profaned your sanctuaries."  
NASU

Ezekiel 28:18

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by  
the multitude of thine iniquities, by  
the iniquity of thy traffick...  
KJV

To the degree that the saint of God pursues the world and all that it offers, they will defile their temple, and the house of prayer, their body, where communion with God is to be the order of the day, will be choked with the noise of commerce and trafficking in the things of the world. The voice of the Spirit will go undetected, and the saint will find it impossible to discern the mind and will of God.

There is another reason why the saint may also find it difficult to discern the voice of the Spirit. If the saint has failed to walk in obedience to the things the Spirit has spoken to them in the past, then even the truth they once possessed will be taken from them and their hearing will grow dull and their eyesight dim. This is the meaning of the following parable of Yahshua.

**Luke 8:4-18**

4 When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable:

5 "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up.

6 "Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture.

7 "Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out.

8 "Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

9 His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.

10 And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so *that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.*

11 "Now the parable is this: ***the seed is the word of God.***

12 "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.

13 "Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.

14 "The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

15 "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good

heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance...

**18 *"So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him."***

This is a sobering parable. Many saints have not been careful about how they listen. Many have heard the word of God through the voice of the Spirit and they have stumbled over some point of obedience. It may be that the Spirit told them not to marry a certain person, or not to go into debt to buy something their soul desired, or the Spirit may have directed them to speak a word of truth or take a stand that they knew would be unpopular and would result in difficulty and conflict arising in their life. Whatever the situation, when the saint fails to walk in obedience to the voice of the Spirit, fruit fails to come forth in their life and they risk losing what truth they previously possessed.

If you are a saint who is having difficulty discerning the voice of the Spirit then look to the temple of your body. Have you defiled it with the traffic and pursuit of worldly goods? Have you failed to obey in some matter that the Spirit has

brought before you? If so, repent. Allow Yahshua to cleanse your temple and make it once more a house of prayer. Repent of past disobedience and cry out for your hearing and sight to be restored. It is impossible to walk as an Overcomer in this world if you are not hearing the voice of the Spirit. It is impossible to be conformed to the image of Christ and walk as He walked in this world if you are not attuned to the voice of the Spirit and responding in obedience.

From the beginning it has been the Father's will to have many sons and daughters who would receive the indwelling Spirit and who would be Spirit led and empowered in all that they do. This is a most important matter. It is the will of God, and to fall short of God's desire is to miss the mark and resign oneself to a place of defeat.

Satan would like to present the saints with an alternative to being Spirit led. He would have them to be led by their soul and their flesh. He would have them attempt to comprehend the will of God as they examine the scriptures with their minds and as they try to apprehend mentally what is written. This is futility, for the mind of man cannot apprehend that which is spiritual. It has to be spiritually appraised. All spiritual truth must be comprehended through

the Spirit.

Satan would tempt man to believe that if he can just discern all that is written in the Law, and if man can then keep every commandment, that man will be pleasing and acceptable to God. There are myriads of teachers today that are laying the burden of the Law upon the saints. Rather than teaching them to be Spirit led, they are instructing them to follow the letter of legally written code. In this the saints are being led away from Christ and away from life in the Spirit.

Many saints ask, “How can we know what is good and what is evil unless we read it in the Law of Moses?” The answer is simply that the Spirit will reveal the will of God and will make known what is righteousness and what is sin. Yahshua declared that this would be a function of the Spirit when He was given.

**John 16:7-11**

7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin

and righteousness and judgment;  
9 concerning sin, because they do  
not believe in Me;  
10 and concerning righteousness,  
because I go to the Father and you  
no longer see Me;  
11 and concerning judgment,  
because the ruler of this world has  
been judged.”

It was necessary for the Law to be given to the Israelites until One should come who would walk in the fulness of the Spirit and who would open the way for others to walk in the same Spirit. The Law was a temporary measure given until the promise of God should come. It was not Yahweh's intent that man should be ruled by the Law for all time. He looked forward to a more complete solution, and that was to place His Spirit within man and to transform man into the image of His Son. No longer would man need an external body of rules to hold him in check. He would have the indwelling Spirit of God and he would have the nature and character of God formed within Him.

Having begun our life in Christ in the Spirit, we must continue in the Spirit. We cannot go on to perfection by returning to the Law and the works of the flesh. This we shall look at more

fully in the next chapter.

**Galatians 3:23**  
**Before faith came, we were kept in custody**  
**under the Law...**

## **Chapter 2 - The Purpose of the Law**

It is an easy mistake to make to assume that man has always been under the Law, as far back as Adam. The majority of the writings contained in the Old Testament relate to the period in which the Israelites were under the Law of Moses. The vast amount of material in scripture relating to the age of Law can make it appear that the Law dominated most of man's existence. However, to believe this would be a misconception.

The Law was given approximately 1,500 years prior to the birth of Messiah. Adam was created about 4,000 years prior to Messiah's birth. In this we can see that of the 4,000 years prior to the coming of Yahshua, during approximately 2,500 of these years the Law did not exist. Since the birth of Christ mankind has experienced another 2,000 years in which the Law has not held jurisdiction over mankind, for with the death of Christ the old covenant passed away,

and with His resurrection a new covenant was instituted.

**Hebrews 8:6**

**But now He [Yahshua] has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.**

When we add all these years up we find that it has been approximately 6,000 years since Adam, and of these 6,000 years, in only 1,500 of them did the Law exist and hold jurisdiction over man (actually, it was only given to one nation). This equates to only 1/4 of man's existence.

The Law did not initiate with Adam, as some would falsely assume, thinking that all men have been under the Law. The Law did not exist in the days of Noah. The Law did not even exist in the days of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Law was given 430 years after Abraham. The Law was not known in Joseph's day, nor did it exist in the 400 years that the Israelites were in captivity in Egypt. Man was not made to be ruled by Law. The Law was given for a specified period of time, due to the transgression of man, until the promised Messiah should come to remove the

enmity that existed between God and man, and the Spirit should be given.

Beginning with Abraham, Yahweh began to do a peculiar work among mankind. He chose one man from among the nations and He called this man to step out in faith, to leave the land he dwelt in, and to journey to a new land where God would bless him and his offspring. Yahweh did not choose Abram (as he was then called) because he was more righteous than others. He did not choose him because he kept the Law of God, for the Law had not yet been given. He simply called out this man by His own sovereign election and He made promises to Abram.

We are told that the thing that delighted Yahweh about this man Abram, is that Abram believed God. He believed the promises God made to him, and he journeyed out, leaving family, friends and all that was familiar behind, to go to a place he knew nothing about.

Yahweh delivered no Law to Abram. He did not speak blessings and curses to Abram that were based upon his performance, or adherence to a set body of rules and regulations. Yahweh simply made some promises to Abram and, to his credit, Abram believed God. This is the same basis upon which all men have found approval

in Yahweh's sight through the ages. Even those who lived during the period of the Law were not justified by the Law, but by their faith in God.

Under the Law Yahweh told men that they had to bring sacrifices, oxen, sheep, doves, etc., and these animals had to be killed and their blood shed to atone for the sins of man. It was by faith that a man would bring his sacrifice to the temple and present it. By faith the man would believe that God would regard the sacrifice and that the man's sins would be forgiven.

But the Law, along with its sacrifices, was unable to permanently remove sin. This is why sacrifices had to be made year after year. Only when the perfect Lamb of God came and shed His blood for the remission of the sins of mankind were sins removed permanently. Through this perfect sacrifice the enmity that existed between man and God, because of sin, was removed. And beyond all of this, the way was prepared for man to be born again and to receive the indwelling Spirit of God. All of this is received by faith, even as the promises given to Abram were on the basis of faith.

When Yahshua walked this earth and taught men about His Father, He had some Jews come up to Him and ask, "What must we do to do the

works of God?” In essence they were asking, “What works can we do to merit God’s approval?” Yahshua responded in this way:

**John 6:29**  
**Yahshua answered and said to them,**  
**"This is the work of God, that you**  
**believe in Him whom He has sent."**

From the time of Abram the thing that has merited Yahweh’s approval has not changed. It is still faith, belief in His word, that is pleasing to Him. Yahweh’s Son was the Word made flesh, and believing in Him merited God’s approval. The sacrifices set forth in the Law of Moses merely pointed to the ultimate sacrifice that would one day be made on behalf of all mankind. If a man under the Law of Moses had faith to believe that God would forgive his sin through the sacrifice of the shed blood of an animal, and God honored this faith and forgave the man’s transgressions, then how much more will God honor those who believe that the blood of His Son has cleansed them from all sin and has presented them righteous before Him?

We see then that it is faith, and not works that justify a man before Yahweh. It was never the keeping of the Mosaic Law that made men

righteous. If a man should think that he had kept the Law meticulously, and if he should trust in his ability to keep the Law to earn right standing before God, then that man would no longer be walking in faith. Instead, he would be trusting in his own works. However, the scriptures are very plain that the works of man will never justify him in the sight of God.

Isaiah 64:6

For all of us have become like one  
who is unclean,  
And all our righteous deeds are like  
a filthy garment...

Romans 3:19

Therefore by the deeds of the law  
no flesh will be justified in His  
sight...

If our works and righteous deeds, the keeping of the Law, cannot justify us in the eyes of God, then what can? By what means can a man be counted righteous in God's eyes? We find the answer plainly stated concerning Abraham.

Romans 4:2-3

2 For if Abraham was justified by  
works, he has something to boast  
about, but not before God.

**3 For what does the Scripture say?  
"Abraham believed God, and  
his faith was credited to him  
as righteousness."**

When Yahweh God gives man a promise, it is those who believe Him, those who count the promise as true and faithful, who are accounted as righteous before God. Ever since Adam sinned in the Garden mankind has had a problem that he could not remedy in his own strength. Once sin entered into the world, into man's flesh, there has been nothing that humanity could do to remove the presence of sin. It would take a Savior coming into the world who was not born of sinful flesh to do that which fallen mankind could not. By taking all the sins of mankind upon Himself, and offering Himself up as a sacrifice for mankind, sin would be condemned in the flesh and mankind would be set free from its rule.

**Romans 8:3**

**For what the Law could not do,  
weak as it was through the flesh,  
God did: sending His own Son in the  
likeness of sinful flesh and as an  
offering for sin, He condemned sin  
in the flesh...**

From the beginning, Yahweh had this plan in mind. Before man was even created Yahweh knew that man would sin . He also knew that mankind would be helplessly lost in sin unless God intervened. From the beginning He determined that His Son would be the One who would intervene. He would be born in the likeness of sinful flesh, though He would be without sin. He would give His life as a ransom for many, and in Him all the nations of the earth would be blessed. What greater blessing could mankind receive than to be delivered from that which he was powerless to overcome in his own strength? Yahweh was speaking of this blessing when He spoke the following words to Abram.

**Genesis 22:18**

**"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed..."**

**Galatians 3:8**

**The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "*All the nations will be blessed in you.*"**

Paul gives us insight into this promise that was made to Abraham. He reveals that the blessing to all the nations is not through many seeds, that

is, the blessing is not through the entire nation that would arise as Abraham's offspring. Rather, the blessing would come through one particular seed that would not be born until nearly 2,000 years later. This seed was Christ.

**Galatians 3:16**

**Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.**

It was in Christ that all the nations of the earth have been blessed. It was through Christ that mankind's sins were atoned for and he was set free from bondage to sin and the flesh. However, 2,000 years is a long time for the promise to tarry. Abraham's offspring would grow into a great nation in that time, and sin would be a great problem among the natural seed of Abraham. Something needed to be done in the interim to prepare the children of Abraham and to lead them to the promised one who would come and be a blessing to all nations.

**Galatians 3:17-19**

**17** What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.

**18** For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

**19** Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

God did not immediately give the Law to Abraham and his descendants. As we have mentioned, He waited another 430 years. He waited until Israel had become a great nation, and then through Moses Yahweh gave them the Law to act as a schoolmaster to lead them to Yahshua, the promised One who would come. The Law would speak of Yahshua in many types and shadows, and it would reveal to the Jews their need of a Savior. It would expose their inability to deliver themselves from the bondage of sin.

This is the point that many have failed to grasp: the Law was given for a period of time until the promised seed should come. The Law was not to endure past the promised seed. Yahweh never intended for man to be governed by Law. Indeed, the Law proved man's inability to be governed in this way. The Law stirred up sin which dwelt in man's flesh, and this produced transgressions of every kind. Yahweh always desired that man should live by faith, that man should trust in Yahweh's provision which would save mankind from that which held them in bondage.

For a period of time leading up to the fulfilling of the promise of man's deliverer, Yahweh placed His chosen people in the hands of a schoolmaster, a guardian, that should prepare them to receive the promised Seed. This is what Paul speaks of to the Galatian believers:

**Galatians 3:23-25**

23 Now before the faith came, we were perpetually guarded under the Law, kept in custody in preparation for the faith that was destined to be revealed...

24 So that the Law served [to us Jews] as our trainer [our guardian, our guide to Christ, to lead us] until

Christ [came], that we might be justified (declared righteous, put in right standing with God) by and through faith.

25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a trainer (the guardian of our childhood).

[Amplified Version]

Do you see what Paul is declaring here? He is plainly stating that the Law was given as a temporary measure until the seed (Christ) would come and the promise given to Abraham would be fulfilled, the promise being that all the nations would be blessed in his Seed. Yahweh knew it would be nearly 2,000 years from the giving of the promise to Abraham until the fulfillment. In the intervening time, because of sin's presence, Yahweh gave the Law to the children of Israel. But the Law was just until the seed should come! It was temporary.

For 1,500 years preceding the birth of Yahshua, Israel was placed under a trainer and guardian to prepare them for His arrival. It is evident that the Law of Moses was a preparation for the coming of Yahshua. The Law pointed to Yahshua over and over. In the observance of Passover the Law spoke of Messiah who would one day come and be offered up as a pure and spotless lamb to

atone for the sins of all mankind. In the removal of leaven and the baking of unleavened bread, Yahshua was foreshadowed, for in Him was no sin and He would take away the sins of the world. Paul even states that Christ is our Passover.

**I Corinthians 5:7**  
**For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.**

In the Laws that were engraved on stone that Moses brought down from the Mount we are given an image of God sending a mediator down to earth in order that His laws might be written on our hearts.

**Hebrews 10:15-16**  
**15 And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying,**  
**16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says Yahweh: I will put My laws upon their heart and on their mind I will write them..."**

What was the end, or goal, of all the moral Law? Was it not that men should love their neighbor as themselves, and love Yahweh with all their

heart, soul, mind and strength? The Law of Moses could only show mankind what type of character Yahweh desired to be formed inside of them, but it could not produce it. It was a mere shadow of what was to come. But through Christ we have this love, this fulfilling of all the Law, birthed within our hearts.

**Romans 5:5**

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

The Jews were given the Law of Moses for a period of time to lead them to Christ. In all of the sacrifices and feasts we see Christ depicted. In the Tabernacle and Temple and all the furnishings and rituals, we learn of God and His Christ. Endless numbers of books could be written, and already have been written, that point out how the shadows of the Law pointed to the substance that is Christ.

Did not the Law demonstrate that there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood? This was to prepare us to by faith receive a complete removal of sin through the shed blood of Christ. Did not the Law demonstrate

the principle of the sins of the people being placed on another who would be rejected and thrust outside the camp, as was seen in the scapegoat that was turned loose in the wilderness? All these things were to prepare the minds of the Jews to receive the work of Christ.

The Law told men that it was wrong to murder, yet it could not remove hatred from their hearts. The Law told men not to commit adultery, yet it could not produce within them a heart of faithfulness free from lust. What the Law could not do, being a mere shadow of the good things to come, Christ accomplished through His life, death and resurrection, and through faith we are able to enter into this same overcoming life. The Law pointed to Yahshua, but once He came it was no longer necessary to remain under the schoolmaster.

How foolish it would be today to continue offering bulls and goats and sheep and birds as an offering for our sins. Christ has removed all sin through His blood on the cross of Calvary. We no longer need the guardian and custodian for now the fulness has come.

In the same way, it is unnecessary to seek to keep the letter of the Law as it speaks of new moons and sabbaths and food and drink. These

things were all symbols and types of that which is fulfilled in Christ.

**Colossians 2:16-17**

**16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day --**

**17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.**

Even the moral Law that speaks of how one is to treat a fellow man, or how one is to act toward God no longer has jurisdiction over the saint. The Spirit has come and He is bearing the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc., in our hearts. No longer do we need to be restrained by an external body of rules written in stone. We have the love of God poured out within our hearts. We have His law written within us.

Do you need someone to tell you that it would be wrong to steal from your neighbor? Does not the Spirit within convict you of the evil of such an action? Do you need a written code that tells you that you should help a brother who is in need? Does not the Spirit testify that someone is a brother or sister, and is not a love for them

present in your heart?

**I John 4:7-8**

**7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**

**8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

The Law could not produce this love in our hearts. It could only reveal what type of actions were characteristic of one who walked in love. The Law was weak as it only touched the outside of man, his flesh, and could not bring internal transformation. But the Spirit bears fruit after the character of God in our lives. The Spirit produces within us a yearning to walk in righteousness, truth and love. This is what Paul declared when he said:

**Romans 7:22**

**For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man...**

Those who have been born of the Spirit of God no longer need an external body of rules to keep them in line. The Spirit produces a desire to walk as God would have them walk. The Spirit makes known the will of God in all matters. If

we turn to the right or the left, those who have been born of the Spirit will hear a voice saying, “This is the way. Walk in it.”

I know that some will argue that if we do not teach the Law then people will justify all manner of wickedness, and they will declare that the Spirit has given them liberty to walk in this evil way. Let me ask those who would make this objection, “Did not those under the Law do the same?” Did not the scribes and Pharisees set aside the Law of God through their traditions and false interpretations of scripture? Did not those who claimed to keep the letter of the Law devour widows’ households and mistreat orphans? Did not those under the Law justify divorcing their wives for any reason at all?

Those who yearn to walk in obedience to God need no law to keep them in line, and those who do not want to walk in obedience will not be made obedient through law. Those who insist that the letter of the Law must be kept are deceiving themselves. Obedience that is acceptable unto God flows from the heart of a man that has been inwardly transformed. It is not arrived at through outward constraint and force of law.

Those who are instructing the saints in this hour

to be Torah Observant, or to keep the Law of Moses, subjecting themselves to its demands to be considered righteous, are on the wrong track. They are leading the saints back to the schoolmaster when our date of graduation has already passed. They are leading people back to shadows, when the substance has now appeared. They are leading people back to that which was a minister of death, when now before us has appeared the One who is the Light of the world and the Life of man. The saints in this hour need to be led forward into life in the Spirit, not back to the deadness of the letter.

As it was with Abraham, that which will find approval in Yahweh's sight today is faith. That which God approves is faith in the provision He has made through His Son. He has caused us to be born again of the Spirit and to receive the Spirit of promise. He speaks His word to our inner man and those who are faithful will respond with reverent obedience. We are to be taught of God. We are to be instructed by the anointing that is within each saint.

There was a time when Yahweh placed His children under the Law, for the promise had not yet come. As children who had not yet come into their majority, the time of their adoption as mature sons, God placed His children under

schoolmasters and guardians, and for a time those who were destined to be sons and heirs were treated no differently than household slaves. They were commanded what to do in all things. They were treated strictly and given no liberty. But now that Christ has come, now that sin has been dealt with, and the Spirit has been given, we are no longer accounted as slaves, but as sons and heirs. We have been given liberty and loosed from the guardianship of the Law. Hallelujah!

Galatians 4:1-7

1 Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything,

2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father.

3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"  
7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Ephesians 4:15

But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ...

### **Chapter 3 - Epistles and Ministers**

In the last two chapters we have established that it is the will of Yahweh that all of His children should be led of His Spirit and they should walk in faith, that is, they should believe that which the Spirit reveals to them and they should respond in obedience. We also saw that before Christ came, and before the Spirit was given to dwell within the saints, within the temple of their bodies, that the Father determined that His chosen people should be kept under a tutor and a guardian, which was the Law. Now that Christ has come, and the righteous requirements of the Law have been fulfilled in Christ, we are now free from the Law. We are no longer under a guardian. We no longer are treated as slaves. We now have entered into the liberty of sonship.

Chapter one spoke of the saint's calling to be Spirit led, to be taught of God, and we saw John's words that the saints no longer have need

of any man to teach them.

**I John 2:27**

**As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.**

Admitting that John's words are true, we may then ask, "Why have ministers been given to the body, and why do we have all the New Testament epistles that are full of instructions to the saints? If we have an anointing that teaches us all things, why do we need ministers to tell us what God is saying, and why do we need any written instructions?" Answering these questions is the subject we will now look at.

To answer these questions we must look at man's being. Regenerated man is a tripartite being, that is to say he is composed of three separate parts. These parts are body, soul and spirit. We can readily identify these parts as we look at scripture.

**Genesis 2:7**

**And Yahweh God formed man of the**

dust of the ground, and breathed  
into his nostrils the breath of life;  
and man became a living soul.

Man's body was made of the dust of the earth, but it was from the breath of Yahweh that man became a living soul. The body is related to the dust of the earth, while the soul is related to the breath of God. In this, man is like all of the animals of the earth, for each one has a body after its kind, and a soul after its own kind. This is seen as one looks at various scriptures such as Psalm 104. This Psalm speaks of many creatures that dwell on land and in the sea. The wild donkeys, birds, the stork, wild goats, rock badgers, lions, man, and Leviathan are all mentioned by name. Then we have the following words:

**Psalms 104:29**  
You hide Your face, they are  
troubled;  
You take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.

We see that all of these creatures have breath, which relates to their soul, and they have bodies that are of dust. Yet of all created beings on the face of the earth, only man was created to also have a spirit. Man alone was created to

fellowship with God and to be a temple of God. As Paul stated, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels." What is the treasure? It is the very Spirit of God.

Yahshua spoke of the birthing of the spiritual part of man when He met with Nicodemus.

**John 3:6-8**

6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, "You must be born again.'

8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The first Adam was never born again. He never became a spiritual being. He was merely a living soul. It was not until Christ came that the world first knew the presence of a man that was a life-giving spiritual being. Until Christ, man never attained to that which Yahweh envisioned for mankind. Since Christ came there have been many men and women who have been born again of the Spirit and they have become tripartite beings.

I Corinthians 15:45-48

45 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.

This is an awesome thing to understand. Until Yahshua walked this earth, man had never before been a tripartite being. He had been body and soul, but never before had he been spirit. Until Christ came man always dealt with God externally. Since Christ came, all those who have been born again of the Spirit have known God internally. They have been born again of spiritual seed and they have become new creatures. They are a whole new life form.

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creature**; the old things

passed away; behold, new things  
have come.

Those who have been born again of the Spirit are transformed into a new being that none of the forefathers ever knew. Even the least of the saints who have been born again are greater than the patriarchs and prophets of old. They are a whole new type of being. This is what Yahshua was speaking of when He spoke the following to His disciples:

**Matthew 11:11**

"Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

John the Baptist was as great as any of the patriarchs and prophets, yet John was not born again. John was a living soul, but not a life giving spirit. John was born of woman, but not born of the Spirit. When Yahshua stated that the least in the kingdom of heaven were greater than John, He was speaking of those who were born again. This is plainly discerned in Yahshua's discourse with Nicodemus.

**John 3:3-5**

3 Yahshua answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

5 Yahshua answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Yahshua stated that a man cannot see the kingdom of God, or enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of the Spirit. Those who are born again of the Spirit can see and enter the kingdom of God, and Yahshua said that even the least of these are greater than John the Baptist. The reason is that these born again ones are tripartite beings who have been born of the seed of Christ.

**I Peter 1:23**

For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable...

The born again child of God is now more than body and soul. They are also spirit, as Paul acknowledged to the Thessalonian believers.

**I Thessalonians 5:23**

**Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole SPIRIT, SOUL, and BODY be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Yahshua the Messiah.**

Great mysteries are bound up in this matter, but we must leave them for another writing. Our question is why the saints have need of ministers and written instructions if they are able to discern the mind of God for themselves. The answer has much to do with man's makeup. The saint of God has truly been born again and become a spiritual being, but growth must take place before this new spiritual being reaches maturity. While the saint is growing spiritually they have need of those who are more mature to guide them and watch over them.

More than this, however, the saint has not yet been delivered from his sinful flesh. The born again saint has now become a spiritual being, and this spirit is of incorruptible seed. The spirit of man always agrees with God and is not

tempted to sin. It cannot be tempted for it is incorruptible. Paul speaks of this new creation as “the inner man” and he states:

**Romans 7:22**

**For I joyfully concur with the law of  
God in the inner man...**

John is also speaking of this inner man, this spiritual being, when he states:

**I John 3:9**

**No one who is born of God sins,  
because His seed abides in him; and  
he cannot sin, because he is born of  
God.**

This new creature is born of incorruptible seed. It is born of the seed of God. That which is born of the seed of God must be like God. Everything is after its own kind, and those who are born of the Spirit of God are like unto God. We have these words expressing God’s sinless character:

**James 1:13**

**Let no one say when he is tempted,  
"I am being tempted by God"; for  
God cannot be tempted by evil, and  
He Himself does not tempt anyone.**

God cannot be tempted by evil, and neither is the new spiritual creature, the inner man, tempted by evil. Evil has no hold or attraction to the spirit of man for it is after the image of God, being of His seed.

However, there is another part of man that is not born after the image of God. It is born after the image of fallen mankind. That is man's flesh.

**Romans 7:18**

**For I know that nothing good dwells  
in me, that is, in my flesh...**

When Adam sinned he cursed all those who would be born of his lineage. Sin entered into humanity and it ruled over all of those who were born of Adam's seed, until Christ came. Christ has now set the saints free from bondage to sin and the flesh, but now a warfare rages within man, for the flesh still wants to dominate and it wars against the new spirit man. The two are set against one another and the battle is quite heated and unrelenting.

**Galatians 5:17**

**For the flesh sets its desire against  
the Spirit, and the Spirit against the  
flesh; for these are in opposition to  
one another...**

The saint of God experiences warfare within his members, and he is actually a divided house. This battle will continue until man is delivered of his sinful flesh. The day will come when the Overcomer will be given a new body that does not know sin, and then finally the long difficult war will be ended within his members. Paul speaks longingly of this day.

**I Corinthians 15:49-53**

49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

**Romans 8:22-23**

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the

pains of childbirth together until now.

23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Oh what a glorious day this will be. Bitter is the struggle now within the saint. The flesh often gains the upper hand through our lack of vigilance and our bodies are presented to sin as instruments of impurity and unrighteousness. What grief is ours when we know we have dishonored our Lord by not subjecting the flesh to the rule of the Spirit. But a day approaches when this fractured and torn state of man will be made whole and the long warfare will be over. Hosea spoke prophetically of this day.

Hosea 6:1-2

1 "Come, let us return to Yahweh.  
For He has torn us, but He will heal us;

He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.

2 "He will revive us after two days;  
He will raise us up on the third day,  
That we may live before Him."

For two days (two thousand years) mankind has been torn. We have not known wholeness, for our flesh and spirit have waged battle in our members. But we are told that on the third day we will be revived, raised up, and healed. Until that day comes the saints will need ministers and they will have need of instruction such as is found in the epistles of the New Testament.

It is not automatic, nor a foregone conclusion, that the saints will walk victoriously over the flesh. They must choose to do so. They must choose to put the flesh to death and to allow the spirit man to reign. Paul spoke of buffeting his body and keeping it under subjection. This battle can be quite brutal at times. We must take up the cross daily and we must deny the flesh and not allow it to rule. Paul spoke of this to the Galatian believers.

Galatians 5:16, 24-25

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh...

24 Now those who belong to Yahshua the Messiah have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also

walk by the Spirit.

He also spoke of this to the Roman believers.

**Romans 6:12-13**

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Understanding this conflict allows us to answer our original question. Ministers are needed because spiritual growth is a process. It takes time and experience for the saints to be able to accurately discern the voice of the Spirit from the voice of their own soul, the demands of the flesh, and the deceit of the enemy.

**Hebrews 5:14**

But solid food [advanced teaching] is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Also, many saints fail to rule over their flesh as they ought to, and they have need of reproof, correction and rebuke. All saints have the capacity to be Spirit led and to be taught of God, but not all apply diligence in this regard. There are many saints who are at ease in Zion. There are many who are protecting their flesh, pampering it, and giving into its demands. There are many who are pursuing the world and whose temples, their bodies, are full of idols. These need stern correction, and those whom they would encourage to join in their folly have need of ministers who will warn them of their error.

It is Yahweh's desire that all the saints should reach a place of maturity where they will not need ministers to guide them and correct them. Until the body reaches the fullness of the stature that belongs to Christ, until the seed of the Spirit within reaches full maturity and bears fruit after the character of God, the body will need the ministers that Yahshua has given to her.

**Ephesians 4:11-13**

**11 And He gave some as apostles,  
and some as prophets, and some as  
evangelists, and some as pastors  
and teachers,**

**12 for the equipping of the saints for  
the work of service, to the building**

up of the body of Christ;  
13 *until* we all attain to the unity of  
the faith, and of the knowledge of  
the Son of God, to a mature man, to  
the measure of the stature which  
belongs to the fullness of Christ.

There is nothing in Paul's epistles that the saints could not have received directly by way of the Spirit. The church in Corinth especially should have been able to discern things themselves without needing a rebuke from Paul. To any who were walking in the Spirit it should have been evident that dragging one another to the secular courts was not the will of God. They should have known that the divisions arising among them were a sign of their fleshliness. They should have discerned that Yahweh did not desire for them to get drunk during their meals together, nor for some to act as gluttons during the meals. They should have discerned that it was not the will of God for their meetings to be chaotic and disorderly, nor was it God's will that they should abuse spiritual gifts. They should have discerned that love was the chief goal of every saint. But they did not discern these things for they were not walking as spiritual men, but as fleshly men. They were failing to rule over the flesh.

**I Corinthians 3:1-3**

**1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men**

of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

These saints had not reached the fulness of the stature belonging to Christ. They were far from it. They needed Christ's ministers to call them on the carpet and rebuke them for their carnality. But this was not Yahweh's goal for them. He desired that they should walk as spiritual men, as the new creatures in Christ that they truly were. He desired that they should be led of the Spirit, and that they should not require such stern intervention.

As we look at Paul's writings to carnal Christians we see that he always strikes a balance between reproving them for their fleshliness and reminding them of who they are in Christ. He yearned for them to go on to maturity. Paul did not want to have to continue to treat them as children. He longed for all of them to go on to maturity and to be established in their own relationship with God, hearing His voice and responding in obedience. He did not want to have to tell them what God was saying, for they had the capability of discerning the will of God for themselves.

Let us look at one specific instance of Paul's instruction, for it illustrates well the need for ministers and instruction. In I Corinthians 11 Paul reminded the church in Corinth of things he had already once delivered to them. He spoke to them of headship as it relates to the kingdom of God.

**I Corinthians 11:2-3**

**2 Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.**

**3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.**

Now here is something that is very difficult for the flesh to submit to. Every natural man wants to rule his own life, and every natural woman wants to have authority over her own being. Yet we are told that the man must take Christ as his head, his authority in all things, and woman must take man as her head. This is God's order.

The Corinthian believers were allowing their flesh to have its way and consequently they were not submitting themselves to the order established by God. Men were doing as they pleased, ignoring the headship of Christ, and women were also doing as they pleased and ignoring the headship of man. Because these saints were so carnal, they were unable to discern the voice of the Spirit in this

matter and they had to be instructed once again by Paul.

Paul's correction of the Corinthian believers would not have been necessary had they been walking in the Spirit. The Spirit bears witness within every born again man that he should submit to the headship of Christ. The Spirit bears witness within the man that he should do nothing of his own initiative, but that he should only do what Christ his head commands him to do.

But a man can dull himself to the voice of the Spirit. A man can fail to rule over his flesh, and in so doing he can totally neglect the desire of God. There was not a saint in Corinth that should have needed Paul to tell them that Christ is the head of man and that man needed to submit to the will of Christ in all things. These things should be obvious to any spiritual creature that is born in the image of God. It was due to the presence of flesh that these things had to be explained once again.

This does not nullify John's words that the saints have need of no man to teach them. If the saints are walking in the Spirit they truly need no one to instruct them. They can all be taught of God themselves. But, not all saints walk in the Spirit, and the flesh of man grabs onto any deception that will allow it to continue to have its way.

This is easily seen today in the matter of women

having man as their head. This is God's order, but it is contrary to the flesh, for the flesh wants to submit to no one. The majority of the churches have embraced false doctrines that support the desire of the flesh and which deny the order that God has established. The flesh is running rampant and the saints have need of being instructed again, and even sharply rebuked due to their carnality. [For a thorough treatment of this issue, see the book "Sarah's Children" on the Heart4God website - <http://heart4god.8k.com> .]

If a Christian woman were to deny her flesh and listen intently to the voice of the Spirit, she would hear the Spirit instructing her to adorn herself with a quiet and gentle spirit, and to honor and reverence her husband, being careful to not usurp his headship. Such a woman truly needs no man to tell her that this is God's way, for she would be discerning these things through the anointing that is within her.

Ministers are needed only where there is immaturity or fleshliness. One day when the body comes to the fulness of the stature of Christ, ministers will be needed no more. What a glorious day that will be! No longer will the saints be taught every man by his neighbor, but they will all be taught of God!

I Timothy 1:8

But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully...

## **Chapter 4 - The Lawful Use of the Law**

The subject of the Law is very troublesome to many saints. Many have failed to discern that it was given as a tutor to lead us to Christ, and it served as a guardian for a limited period of time. There were many lessons that this schoolmaster presented to those under its tutelage, and these lessons are still valuable today. We can learn much from that which is revealed in the Law. However, it would be a great mistake to submit oneself to once more be governed by the Law when we have now received the Spirit of God, and the shadows and types found in the Law have been realized in the fulness that is Christ.

Placing oneself back under the Law is an error that many are embracing in this hour. It is a very grievous error and much was written in the New Testament to address it. Mankind was not created to be governed by Law. He was created to be a temple of the Spirit of God, and from the beginning it was Yahweh's desire that man should be a partaker of His nature and be Spirit led in all things.

Romans 8:14

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are mature sons of God.

A man that has the Spirit of God within him does not need a legislative body of rules to instruct him in how he should act. He simply needs to allow the Spirit to freely express Himself through the vessel of his body. The Spirit will always act in concert and agreement with the Father and the Son, and those in whom the Spirit dwells will find themselves being expressions of God, living epistles that all the world can read. We are not living epistles because we keep the Law, but because the Spirit of God is within each saint.

**II Corinthians 3:3**

You show and make obvious that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, not written with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.  
(Amplified Bible)

The Spirit is forming Christ within each man, and this is something the Law could never do.

**Galatians 4:19**

My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you...

**Romans 8:29**

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many

brethren...

Seeing that Christ is being formed within the saint, seeing that the seed is growing up into the fulness of the stature of Christ, seeing that we now have the mind of Christ and that the Spirit is making known to us the mind of God, even the deep things of God, what need do we have to be governed by the Law any longer? There is no need at all.

Yet the Law can still be used to gain understanding, for the Law is spiritual and it was Spirit breathed. The Law is holy, and righteous and good. It is an excellent source for teaching and for discerning the things of God. Even Paul, who argued so valiantly and tirelessly against any need to keep the Law, used the Law for instruction, correction, and illustration on many occasions.

I Corinthians 9:8

I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things?

I Corinthians 14:34

The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

We can learn from the Law, but we are not governed

by it any longer. We are led by the Spirit. Paul never argued that the saints must do a particular thing because the Law demanded it. He stated that something must be done because it was the will of God, the Spirit bearing witness to this, and then he would often use both the Law and nature as evidences, or agreeing witnesses, to what he was speaking. Some have misconstrued Paul's use of the Law to support the assertion that the saints must keep the Law. Let us look at one of the examples above, and we will see that this is not Paul's intent.

In I Corinthians chapter 9 Paul is speaking of the right of those who minister in the gospel to obtain a living from the gospel. In this passage Paul declares that it is the Lord's will that those who labor in the gospel should be provided for. It is the Lord's command that is truly the foundation of all that Paul says. It is the Lord's command that is his authority.

**I Corinthians 9:14**

**So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.**

You may wonder, "Where did the Lord ever give such a command?" We have it recorded in the gospels.

**Matthew 10:9-10**

**"Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or**

sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.”

Luke 10:7

"Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.”

The Lord told His disciples not to take provisions with them when they ministered for they were worthy to receive all they needed from those they ministered unto. Food, clothing, lodging, everything they needed was to be given to them by those who received their ministry. It is the Lord's word that is Paul's authority, but he backs up what he says with both natural examples and the Law.

I Corinthians 9:7-14

7 Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?

8 I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things?

9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing." God is not concerned about oxen, is He?

10 Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops.

11 If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you...

13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar?

14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

Although some would like to take Paul's words and assert that he was teaching that the saints were to keep the Law of Moses, they are wrong in doing so. Paul is merely using the Law as an example. He is not leading the saints back to slavery under the Law.

In the first chapter we mentioned that the Law speaks of certain festivals and observances, one of which is Passover. We can learn much from Passover as saints, but we are not under obligation to keep the Passover. Paul mentions Passover, and he states that Christ is our Passover. Although the saints can learn much by studying the Passover and its requirements, they are not commanded to follow the letter of its instructions as recorded in the Law.

They are not required to kill a lamb and place the blood on their doorposts. They are not required to remove all leaven from their homes at the time of year set aside for Passover to be observed.

Many lessons can be learned by studying the Law, and the saint can be led into much truth as the Spirit opens their mind to understand the types and shadows contained within it. This is a lawful use of the Law. An unlawful use of the Law would be to declare that those who have been made righteous in Yahshua must keep the Law.

I Timothy 1:8-10

8 But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully,  
9 realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers  
10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching...

The Law can lawfully be applied to the unrighteous, but Paul plainly declares that the Law was not made for the righteous. Though the saint was formerly unrighteous, they are so no longer. They have been washed and cleansed and set apart as holy unto

God.

I Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 ***Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Yahshua the Messiah and in the Spirit of our God.***

I have recently corresponded with some who have asserted that the saints must observe sabbaths and new moons and festivals, and they must keep the Law in order to be considered acceptable unto God. One brother even commented that only those who kept the proper sabbath days would be a part of Yahshua's little flock of true believers. This is nonsense, and it leads people away from Christ who is the substance, while it focuses their attention on shadows and types.

One woman wrote a paper that was published on this man's website that went onto explain how the sabbaths were to be observed, and she showed that

all those who were keeping the sabbath from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday were keeping the wrong sabbath, for the calendars have been changed over the ages. It is true that the calendars have been changed and that the Jewish calendar today is greatly influenced by the Babylonian calendar. Many are not keeping the right sabbaths and feast days because they were to be observed according to the cycles of the moon and dated from the new moon.

This woman wrote a scholarly paper on this matter and she gave many arguments for the keeping of the proper sabbath days and the observance of the new moons and festivals. The man whose site she published it on then went even further and stated that one must keep these days to be a part of Christ's little flock. In doing so, this man and woman have become judges of the saints in regard to these things in clear violation of scripture.

**Colossians 2:16-17**

**16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day --**

**17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.**

Sadly, like so many others who are in error, this brother refused to discuss the issue from Scripture.

He would not do as the noble Bereans and search the Scriptures to find the truth of the matter. Instead he closed himself off from discussion and hardened himself in his false position.

This is an all too common occurrence in this day. This is in keeping with the way things were in the early church as well. Paul had no more difficult time with anyone than he did with those who were teaching that the saints must keep the Law. These Judaisers would not be persuaded from the Scriptures, or by the Spirit, or by reason. They zealously defended their error, and so do many saints today.

Do not give into the arguments of the Judaisers. The end of their teaching is spiritual death. The instruction to keep the Law leads saints away from Christ and back into bondage. The Law is not lawfully used when applied to the righteous. Flee from those who would seek to place you back under bondage and servitude. Heed the words of Paul to the Galatian saints:

**Galatians 5:1-5**

**1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.**

**2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.**

**3 And I testify again to every man who**

receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.

4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

Do not allow yourself to be severed from Christ. Do not lose the benefit and blessing of Yahshua. Do not fall from grace.

Keep standing firm in the faith. Keep looking to Christ for He is the saint's righteousness, and justification. Christ is the end of the Law to all who believe. Don't be tricked into thinking that you can begin in faith and then be perfected by the works of the flesh. It is those who stand in faith in the finished work of Christ who are pleasing to the Father and approved by Him.

**Romans 10:4**

For Christ is the end of the Law [the limit at which it ceases to be, for the Law leads up to Him who is the fulfillment of its types, and in Him the purpose which it was designed to accomplish is fulfilled. That is, the purpose of the Law is fulfilled in Him] as the means of righteousness (right relationship to God) for everyone who

trusts in and adheres to and relies on Him.

(Amplified Bible)

Galatians 3:1-3

1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Yahshua the Messiah was publicly portrayed as crucified?

2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Romans 3:20-22

20 For no person will be justified (made righteous, acquitted, and judged as acceptable) in His sight by observing the works prescribed by the Law. For [the real function of] the Law is to make men recognize and be conscious of sin [not mere perception, but an acquaintance with sin that works toward repentance, faith and holy character].

21 But now the righteousness of God has been revealed independently and altogether apart from the Law, although actually it is attested by the Law and the Prophets,

22 Namely, the righteousness of God which comes by believing with personal trust and confident reliance on Jesus Christ (the Messiah)...  
(Amplified Bible)

Romans 4:13-14

13 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

14 For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless...

Philippians 3:8-9

8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Yahshua my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,

9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith...

Allow yourself to be persuaded by these words.

**Matthew 3:15**

**But Yahshua answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."**

**Chapter 5 - Fulfilling the Righteous Requirements of the Law**

I have found that one of the most troubling passages of Scripture concerning the role and extent of the Law is that where Christ states that not one jot or tittle shall pass from the Law until all be fulfilled. Many use this passage to proclaim that the Law is still in effect and that dire consequences are prophesied for any who would teach otherwise. Yet, when one rightly understands this passage it becomes one of the greatest testimonies of the end of the Law that are found anywhere in Scripture. Let us look at the passage being referred to:

**Matthew 5:17-20**

**17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**

**18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**

**19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same**

shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.  
20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

There is much to be discerned in this passage, so let us begin at verse 17. Christ stated that He did not come to destroy the Law, or the prophets, but to fulfill them. We must be careful to seek the proper understanding of these words. Christ is assuring the Jewish believers that He did not come to set aside the Law and the prophets. He did not come to nullify those things which were recorded as holy men were moved by the Holy Spirit to write them. It was not His intent to tell the Jews that the Scriptures delivered to them were faulty, or needed to be abolished in any way. Quite the contrary, Christ came to fulfill what was written in the Law and the prophets. He assured them that not one stroke of a letter would pass from the Law until all was fulfilled.

Christ is here assuring the Jews that the Old Testament Scriptures that they have received are indeed the word of God and that every prophecy and every type and shadow that pointed to Him would be fulfilled. Nothing would be left unfulfilled. He is further stating that all the righteous requirements of the Law would be fulfilled in Him. There was no point of righteousness as found in the Law that He would fail to fulfill to the complete

satisfaction of the Father.

Christ is NOT saying that the Law will continue forever, as some have interpreted this passage to be stating. What He is declaring is that it will all be fulfilled and none of it will pass away until it has been fulfilled. In the very first verse of this passage we read that Yahshua understood that it was His calling and destiny to fulfill what was written in the Law and the prophets. He states, “I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”

There is no doubt that the Law brought a curse, and that sinful man was unable to fulfill the righteous requirements of the Law. Peter spoke in this way to the members of the early church in Jerusalem:

**Acts 15:10**

**“Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?”**

Yahweh knew when He gave the Law to Israel through the hands of Moses that they would never be able to meet the righteous requirements of the Law in their own strength. Their failure was intended to lead them to Christ, for Christ would fulfill all the righteous demands of the Law. Yet, just because they could not fulfill the Law’s righteous demands themselves, they could not declare the Law to be an impossible attainment and thus cast it away as a rejected thing. We know that by their

interpretations of the Law that the Jews in many instances actually nullified its requirements. Doing so did not find acceptance or pleasure with God. Yahshua did not come to reinterpret the Law to make it easier, nor to declare it null and void due to its seemingly impossible demands. He came to fulfill all the righteousness of the Law. Yahshua actually exposed the spirit of the Law and made it much more difficult to fulfill.

**Matthew 5:21-6:1**

“You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell...”

“You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart... And it was said, 'Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce'; but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

“Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.'But I say to you, make no oath at

all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; and anything beyond these is of evil.”

“You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.”

“You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven... Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Yahshua did not come to destroy the Law by declaring it obsolete. He taught the very heart of the Law and in doing so He made its fulfillment much more difficult than the Jews had interpreted it to be. He made it plain that God did not just judge a man's actions, but God looked at what was in their heart. A man could refrain from committing adultery, yet if he lusted after a woman in his heart he would still be considered a transgressor before God. A man

may not murder another, but if he held hatred in his heart then he was guilty before God.

Yahshua did not break a single commandment, nor did He teach others to do so. Instead, He explained that the requirements of God's Law went far beyond what the Jews had been taught. Yet even in with the Law being shown to be exceedingly difficult, Yahshua was perfect and did not break a single commandment. He fulfilled it's righteous requirements and was perfect even as His Father in heaven was perfect.

The disciples of Yahshua were incredulous when they were told that their righteousness must exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. There were none among the Jews who were more meticulous to keep the Law than the Scribes and Pharisees, yet Yahshua was saying that it was possible to keep the letter of the Law and still violate it in spirit. The Pharisees were extremely moral in appearance. They devoted themselves to keeping the letter of the Law. They did not commit adultery. They tithed in mint and dill and cumin. Yet they were not free from lust and covetousness and envy and jealousy. Outwardly they were beautiful in appearance, but inwardly they were full of death and decay.

Yahshua, however, was perfect. The Father declared of Him, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Yahshua kept the spirit of the Law, not

merely the external form of the Law. He was perfect as His Father in heaven was perfect and only in this way may one enter into the kingdom of heaven.

So how do we exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees? We will not do it by attempting to keep the Law in the same way that they did. We will only make Pharisees out of ourselves by attempting to do so. It is only by faith, as we see ourselves united with Christ in His life, death, burial and resurrection that we meet the righteous requirements of the Law. Christ accomplished what sinful man could not do, and we have been made partakers with Him of His righteousness. The Father sees us IN His Son, united with Him, and He has imputed the righteousness of Christ to us. It is Christ in us that imparts to us His life and power to live in a manner that is pleasing to the Father.

### Romans 6:3-6

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Yahshua the Christ have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we

would no longer be slaves to sin;

**Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

The righteousness of Christ has become our righteousness through our identification with Christ. We need not try to establish our own righteousness apart from Christ through works of the flesh in seeking to keep the Law. It is through faith, trusting in the work of Christ and our union with Him, that we are able to exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees. What Christ did in fulfilling the righteous requirements of the Law, He did for all men.

Christ knew from the beginning of His ministry that it was His calling to fulfill the righteousness of the Law. At the very beginning of His ministry, as he was being baptized by John, He declared this understanding.

**Matthew 3:15**

But Yahshua answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

Yahshua knew that He must fulfill all righteousness. When He later declared that He did not come to

destroy the Law, but to fulfill it, He was declaring this same truth. We know that Yahshua did fulfill the requirements of the Law, but where do the Scriptures declare this? Recently a brother shared a verse with me that answers this question, providing a direct link back to Yahshua's words that we are looking at. It explains clearly what Christ meant when He said, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Was all that Yahshua said would be fulfilled accomplished? Luke records the answer for us:

**Luke 24:44**

**Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."**

After Christ's resurrection He appeared to His disciples and declared to them that he had indeed fulfilled all that the Law and the prophets wrote about Him. He said, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you." What words was He referring to? It was His words that He did not come to destroy the Law and the prophets, but to fulfill them. Here He is now at the end of Luke's gospel declaring that these things were accomplished. The final seal upon His completed work in fulfilling all the righteous requirements of the Law was revealed in His final moments on the

cross when He declared “It is finished.”


We see then that all those who have understood Christ’s words about the Law not passing away as meaning that the saints are still bound by the Law, have misunderstood His words. He came to fulfill that which was written, and He did do so. It is finished. He fulfilled all that was spoken of Him. After His resurrection He declared this to be His meaning when speaking to His disciples.




Christ did what we could not do, and we need not attempt to duplicate His work. We must merely enter into His finished work by faith. We have been given the Spirit of Christ to dwell within these earthen vessels, and life in the Spirit is now the portion of all of the saints. We are no longer ministers of an old covenant, bound by the letters of legally written code that brings forth death. We are ministers of a new covenant of the Spirit that brings forth life in those who are united to Christ.

[Christ] has qualified us, making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient, as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant of salvation through Christ, not ministers of the letter of legally written code, but of the Spirit; for the code of the Law kills, but the Holy Spirit makes alive.

II Corinthians 3:6 (Amplified Version)

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