



JESUS AND GOD'S LAW

SECTION I. Introduction

- A. Do people give us gifts because we deserve them?

- B. What was the best gift anyone ever gave you?

- C. Why was it so wonderful?

SECTION II. Because God wanted men to know how He wanted us to live, He gave the Law (the Ten Commandments) to Moses. These Ten Commandments can also be expressed as the two Great Commandments that Jesus gave us. Read these in Matthew 22:35-40. Jesus said that we must obey these commandments.

- A. Now read Matthew 5:48.
 - 1. What does this verse say we must do?

 - 2. Do you think it is possible for us to do that?

 - 3. If we seriously try to do that, what do you think the result will be?

B. Read Matthew 5:17-20.

NOTES

1. What position in God's Kingdom will we have if we set aside God's Law (Moses' Teachings)?
2. What kind of a life must we lead?

SECTION III. It seems as if Jesus is giving us the same rules that we read about in the Old Testament. He is telling us that He expects us to be perfect and never to do wrong. He seems to be asking us to do what we know we cannot do, no matter how hard we try. We know that we do wrong things; we even think wrong things. God has an answer to the problem.

A. Read Isaiah 53:6.

1. What does every one of us do?
2. What would we think God would do or say when we sin?
3. What does God actually do?

B. Read Isaiah 53:4-5.

1. What did Jesus do for us?
2. What words show that Jesus did this because He chose to do it?
3. What is the result in our lives?

- G. The words that show that what Jesus did for us was voluntary are “He took upon himself.” This was something that Jesus did of his own free will. (verse 4a)
- H. When we have faith in Jesus we are freed from the curse of obeying the Law, we receive God’s approval and the blessings promised to Abraham. We also receive the Spirit of God.

I.
The verse which says, “Whoever obeys laws will live because of the laws he obeys” tells us that we must choose the way of faith in Jesus or we must try to live by the Law through our own efforts and obey the law perfectly. It does not imply that the person who chooses the way of the Law will succeed, but only that when we choose the law, we will live or die on the basis of that choice.

SECTION IV. In section 4 E, here are some ideas which might make it hard for us to receive the free gift that God wants to give us.

Pride in our own goodness or strength

Cultural or societal pressure to repay gifts

Finding it hard to believe we can receive such a gift because we are not worthy.

A belief that no one gives *free gifts*, so there must be a *catch*. (We really have to *earn* a gift.)

C. Read Galatians 3:10-14.

1. If we try to live by the Law and gain God’s approval by obeying it, what happens to us?
2. (optional question) Can we possibly gain God’s approval by obeying the Law?
3. How is it possible for us to be free of the curse of obeying the Law and receive God’s approval?
4. What four things happen as a result of our faith in Christ?

SECTION IV. What Jesus did is truly *Good News!* Romans 6:23 says: “The reward for sin is death, but the gift that God freely gives is everlasting life found in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Read Galatians 2:16.

- A. According to this verse how do people try to gain God’s approval?
- B. What is actually the only way to receive God’s approval?
- C. How does God’s free gift change how we think about our relationship to God and His Law?
- D. How might it change our thinking about how to live?

E. What are some of our ideas about ourselves and the world that may make it hard for us to receive the free gift that God wants to give us?

JESUS AND GOD'S LAW LEADER'S NOTES

This study is the second of a three-part series that should be done consecutively. The first is "God's Law." The third study is "Free at Last!"

SECTION I.

Most of us have had the experience of receiving a gift that was wonderful because it was unexpected, just what we wanted or needed, and really unmerited. This short introduction is intended to help people think about gifts, why they are given and why some gifts are more appreciated than others. God's gift of Jesus to the world was the most perfect and unmerited gift possible. We did not deserve it, in fact we were totally undeserving, and that is what makes it even more wonderful!

SECTION II.

The first part of this section reviews the two Great Commandments and the demands of the Law. Many people believe that they are *good*, especially when they compare themselves to others. They really believe that they are very acceptable and will go to heaven because of the *good* things that they do. This is not what the Bible says. The Law reveals our sin, so that we will realize that we cannot save ourselves by *good works*. Some people may say they do not sin, but most will admit that they are not perfect in all they do, think and say. This perfection is what the Law demands.

The scribes and Pharisees were Jews who tried to carefully obey all of the laws. They thought that they could earn God's approval by doing this well and that they were better than others and were acceptable to God.

SECTION III.

F. God's response to our sin is not what one would expect. We would expect God to be angry and punish us. Instead He responds in love.

promised pledged, given to
 Spirit Holy Spirit, third person of the triune God

Galatians 2:16

in order to that we might

Romans 6:23

reward prize
 everlasting life live forever

**JESUS AND GOD'S LAW
 VOCABULARY**

Matthew 22:35-40

expert a person skilled through knowledge or training
 Moses' teachings God's law
 commandment law, rule
 soul spiritual nature of man, unseen part of a person that God gave only to humans
 the Prophets God's teachers
 depend rely

Matthew 5:46

perfect very best, without fault
 heaven the place where God, all His holy angels and saints (believers in Jesus Christ) live

Matthew 5:17-20

set aside get rid of
 guarantee take responsibility for fulfillment, promise, assure
 period punctuation mark, something very small
 comma punctuation mark, something very small
 command rule or law
 kingdom of heaven where all believers will live after this life ends

approval the act of thinking (and often saying) that what was done was good, or that a person is thought of favorably

faithfully accurately, loyally

scribes teachers who studied and interpreted the Jewish law

Pharisees Jewish leaders who emphasized strict obedience to the law

Isaiah 53:6

strayed to go off the proper path or road, often following a path that leads to evil results

way path to one's destination

laid to place, put

sins thoughts, words or actions that are against God's will

Isaiah 53:4-5

take upon put on

suffering pain or difficulty

sorrows mental pain caused by injury or loss

wounded hurt or injured, either physically or emotionally

beat hit

punished to make a person pay for something that they did which was wrong; as we punish a thief by sending him to prison

rebellious acts doing what a person in authority over us does not want us to do; to do the opposite of what we are told to do

crushed being injured or destroyed, often by being pressed between two things

peace freedom

healing the act of bringing someone back to health and wholeness

wounds injuries, sores

Galatians 3:10-14

curse evil

rely trust

efforts actions, works

standards level of expectations (requirements)

Scripture the Bible, God's written Word

cursed suffering great harm

faith belief that does not rely only on logical proof or material evidence

hung (to hang) fastened, nailed

blessing good things (either physical or spiritual) that God gives us