

WHY THE LAW?

Romans 3:19-20

Introduction: Reading the Bible tells us that God gave His chosen people a set of laws to live by. After centuries of human life, why did God decide to give laws? Wasn't mankind doing alright without all the laws God gave?

I. "LAW" IS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURES

- The foundation of all divine law is God. The ways of man had far removed God's standards.
 - History reveals the unmeasurable gulf between God and mankind.
 - "Law" defined is a rule regulating conduct with power of enforcement with punishment.
1. The Ten Commandments were/are direct writings of God (Matthew 22:36-40)
 2. God's system of Government for Israel.
 - Commandments: revealed God's law relative to His will.
 - Judgments ere God's law relative to Israel's social life.
 - Ordinances were God's will relative to Israel's religious life.
 - All divine requirements covered by these three areas lasted until the Cross of Jesus.
 3. The Messianic Rule will be during the 1,000 year reign of the returned Christ.
 4. The Law is the Will of God for anybody when based on the works of the flesh.
 - God's blessings conditional upon keeping the entire law.
 - Any work of flesh done to gain God's favor is law.
 - Any work of flesh done to gain God's favor destroys GRACE.
 - Self-imposed laws find NO favor with God (unsaved wanting to live the Christian life in hope of being accepted by God).
 5. Any rule of Conduct prescribed by man. (1 Timothy 1:8-9)
 - The laws of Moses as a rule of life today is a man-made rule.
 - God doesn't recognize the laws of Moses for today's Christians.

II. THE BEGINNING OF THE LAW

- Sinful nature of man is untouched by the law (and that nature came to us all through Adam).
- Sinful acts by man are affected by the law (Galatians 3:19).
- Giving the law didn't make an obedient people.
- Giving the law didn't retard sin (Romans 7:12-13).
- The law never intended to bring salvation or justification.
 - It was a rule of conduct, a means of turning a people to God for mercy, like a school master.

1. Law began at Mt. Sinai. It was never imposed on anyone before (Deuteronomy 5:1-3).
 - In effect for some 1500 years, from Moses to Jesus Christ.
 - Israel deliberately gave up life under GRACE to remain under the law (Exodus 19:3-8).
 - God never forces His law on anyone.
2. Law ended at the Cross. (Galatians 3:19; 22-25)
 - No separation, Jew, Gentile, all alike, all sinful and all have the same access to God through Jesus Christ and by faith alone.
 - Law gave Israel a quality of life, the Cross gave all mankind redemption from sin.

III. THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW

1. Given to Israel only (Mark 12:29-30; Deuteronomy 5:1-3).
2. The Law was never given to any other nation for God made no covenant with any other people except Israel (Romans 9:4-5)
3. The Gentiles never had the law (Romans 2:14).

CONCLUSION:

1. The law given by Moses was a covenant of works.
2. The law was given after centuries of human history.
3. The law was intended for Israel only.
4. The law was terminated by the Cross of Jesus Christ.
5. Anybody depending upon the law after the Cross as a means of gaining favor with God is unrecognized by God.
6. Anybody depending upon the law has deliberately placed him/herself under its requirements for God doesn't require it today - for anybody.