Which Way To Righteousness –
Law Or Grace?
by Derek Prince
— Study Note Outline —
LG1

Four Tape Series
1081 Only Two Ways To Righteousness
1082 Why The Law?
1083 The Righteousness God Requires
1084 How Grace Operates

Only Two Ways To Righteousness
1081

I. The Law
A. Main theme of Galatians—the phrase “the law” occurs 28 times. Also dealt with
in at least 27 other chapters in the New Testament.
B. Define
1. “Law” means “religious law, viewed as a means to achieve righteousness with
God” (Rom. 10:4). (Our teaching does not apply to secular or civil law,
viewed as a means of preserving social order).
2. The law means “the law of Moses”
   a. However, Gentiles—not under the law of Moses—can be “a law unto
      themselves” (Rom. 2:14–15)
   b. In Christendom today we have various forms of special “religious law”
      associated with different denominations; e.g., Baptist, Catholic,
Pentecostal.
2. “Grace” means “that which is freely given by God, received by faith, without
being earned or deserved”
C. These are the only two ways to achieve righteousness. Each excludes the other.
   (John 1:17; Rom. 6:14, 10:5–6, 11:6). Only two kinds of religion: Cain and Abel
   (See diagram)

The Two Kinds of Religions
Gen. 4:1–8: Cain and Abel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abel</th>
<th>Cain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By faith (Heb. 11:4)</td>
<td>Not by faith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received God’s Word (Rom. 10:17)</td>
<td>Refused God’s Word (compare Rom. 10:3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offered propitiation</td>
<td>Offered his own works</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(Slain lamb) (The product of earth that God had cursed)  
Rom. 3:23–26  
Gen. 3:17  

Accepted by God  
(Gen. 4:4)  
Rejected by God  
(Gen. 4:5)  

Supernatural testimony (Heb. 11:4)  
No supernatural testimony (Gen 4:5)  

Produced a martyr  
(Gen. 4:8, Heb. 11:4)  
Produced a murderer  
(Gen. 4:8)  

Will produce the Bride  
(Rev. 19:7–8)  
Will produce the Harlot  
(Rev. 7:1–7, 18:1–4, 23–24)  

D. The Law of Moses  
1. Given through Moses (John 1:17; Rom. 5:13–14)  
2. A single, complete, perfect system (Deut. 4:2, 12:32; Matt. 5:17–18; Rom. 7:12)  
3. *All or nothing* (Gal. 3:10; James 1:10–11)  
4. Christ *fulfilled* the law (Matt. 5:17)  
   a. By *keeping* it perfectly (John 8:46)  
   c. By paying its *final penalty* (Rom. 6:7, 7:4; Gal. 2:19–20)  
5. Christ is the *end of the law* (Rom. 10:4; Eph. 2:14–16; Col. 2:14–16)  
6. Christians are *not under the law* (Rom. 6:14, 7:4–6, compare 8:14; Gal. 5:18)  
7. Christians are warned against *going back to the law* (Rom. 8:15, Gal. 3:1–4, 5:1–4)  

Why The Law?  
1082  

I. The Law (cont’d.)  
E. Purposes for which Law of Moses was given  
1. Not as a means to achieve righteousness (Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16, 3:11)  
2. To reveal *sin* (Rom 3:20, 7:7, 13)  
3. To reveal man’s *carnal nature* (Rom. 7:14–18)  
5. To bring us to Christ (Gal. 3:24)  
6. To keep Israel a separate people (Gal. 3:23)  

F. Effects of the Law  
1. Stirs up *sin* (Rom. 7:5, 9)  
2. Strengthens *sin* (1 Cor. 15:56; Rom. 6:14)  
3. Produces *transgression* (Rom. 4:15)
4. Therefore wrath (Rom. 4:15)
5. Causes condemnation (Rom. 8:1–3)
6. Keeps us under Satan’s dominion (Col. 2:14–16)
7. Brings a curse (Gal. 3:10)
8. Produces a double enmity
   a. Between God and those under the law (Eph. 2:16)
   b. Between those under the law and those not under the law (Eph. 2:14–15; Gal. 3:23)
9. Produces bondage (slavery) (Gal. 4:24–25; Rom. 8:15)
10. Produces persecutors (Gal. 4:29; [compare Cain—Gen. 4:8])

G. The root problem: self-dependence
1. The inner motivation of sin is the desire to be independent of God (Gen. 3:5 [compare Jer. 17:5–6])
2. The alternative to justification by faith is self-exalting pride (Heb. 2:4 [compare Rom. 3:27, 10:3])
3. Common sources of self-dependence:
   a. Wealth
   b. Nobility (social position)
   c. Education (knowledge)
   d. Power
   e. Religion (1 Cor. 1:26)
   f. The law lays bare this root; the gospel lays the axe to the root (Matt. 3:10)

The Righteousness God Requires

II. What Does God Require?

A. The righteousness of the law (Rom. 8:4)—this is summed up in one word: Love (Matt. 22:36–40; Rom 13:8–10; Gal. 5:14, 22–23; 1 Tim. 1:5–11)
   1. The person motivated purely by love is always free to do exactly what he wants and thus lives like a king (James 1:25; 2:8)
   2. God’s primary requirements of righteousness have never varied from age to age or from race to race (1 John 2:7–11, 3:11–14)

B. Love is . . .
   1. Expressed
   2. Developed by obedience
      a. Obeying God’s Word is the test of our love, but it is also the means by which His love is developed within us (John 14:15, 21:24; 1 John 2:3–5)
      b. What are we to obey?
         (1) All that the New Testament teaches. This will in turn lead us back to the Old Testament
         (2) Our understanding and application of God’s Word will be continually unfolding and increasing.
         (3) Phil. 1:9–11, 3:12–16; Col. 1:9–11, 4:12 (compare Prov. 4:18)
3. As a supernatural experience, God’s *total love* is poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). But as an aspect of our character it is the climax in a process of development (2 Peter 1:2–7).
   a. Faith
   b. Virtue (excellence)
   c. Knowledge
   d. Temperance (self-control)
   e. Patience (endurance)
   f. Brotherly love (for fellow believers)
   g. Charity (divine love for all men)
4. We thus move from *imputed* righteousness (Rom. 4:22–25) to *outworked righteousness* (Phil. 2:12–13)
5. The fine linen is the *righteous acts* of the saints (Rev. 19:7–8)

**How Grace Operates**

**III. How Does Grace Operate?**

**A. Grace** is made possible only by the atonement of Christ, who: (Rom. 8:3–4)
1. Paid the penalty of our past sins (Rom. 3:25; Col. 2:13)
2. Terminated the law (Rom. 10:4; Col. 2:14)
3. Settled Satan’s claims against us (Col. 1:13, 2:15)
4. Put away *sin* (Heb. 9:26)
5. Executed our *carnal nature* (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20)

**B. Different operation of law and grace**
1. Law commands the old man from without; grace writes upon the heart of the new man

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 Cor. 3</th>
<th>Law</th>
<th>Grace</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>v. 3</td>
<td>Ink</td>
<td>Holy Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. 3</td>
<td><em>External</em> tables of stone</td>
<td><em>Internal</em> tables of the heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. 6</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. 6–7</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td>Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. 9</td>
<td>Condemnation</td>
<td>Righteousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. 10–11</td>
<td>Temporary glory (Ex. 34:29–35)</td>
<td>Continuing glory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. 12–13</td>
<td>Veiled meaning</td>
<td>Plainness of speech</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

a. v. 17–18—While we look by faith in the mirror of God’s Word, the Holy Spirit transforms us into the likeness of what He shows us.

b. There is progressive revelation.
2. *Three ways* in which the New Covenant differs from the Old (Heb. 8:7–12 [compare Jer. 31:31–34])
   a. The Holy Spirit writes God’s laws in our hearts and minds
   b. Each believer knows God directly and personally without a mediator (John 17:3; Gal 3:19–20)
   c. Sin has been finally dealt with by Christ’s sacrifice on the cross (Compare Heb. 10:14–18)
3. Grace is worked out by a continuous supernatural operation of the Holy Spirit
4. In this new life we depend upon the Holy Spirit just as much as Jesus did for His resurrection (Rom. 6:4 [compare Rom. 1:4])

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