

# **The Truth About God's Law**

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## **Table of Contents**

Introduction .....	5
What is the Law?.....	6
The Old Covenant and the New Covenant.....	14
The Love of God .....	19
5 Common Misconceptions About God’s Law .....	21
About the Author.....	26

## Introduction

There are many misconceptions about the Law of God. Did you know that most transgressions of God's Law did not require stoning? Do you know why God instituted a sacrificial system? This booklet will dispel many of the myths about God's Law and help you understand its place in the life of a Christian Believer today. Some say it was a yoke of bondage and an unnecessary burden on people. Others even go as far to say that is all done away with. In this booklet, you will learn the Biblical view of God's Law.

This booklet is a shorter version of the full-length book "Freedom Under the Law". The book is available on **[www.hungryheartsministry.com](http://www.hungryheartsministry.com)** in the Resources section.

## What is the Law?

There are many misconceptions today about God's Law. What is a Law? In General, a Law is a body of rules that govern human performance. They guide our lives to act or not act in certain situations. Every Kingdom or nation has some set of rules. The United States has laws, the first ten of which are called the "Bill of Rights". A nation enacts laws to protect citizens from each other and to protect citizens from the government.

When it comes to God's Law, people think it is cruel bondage. We think that the rules of God are restrictive and unfair. We think that they hinder us from being "free". One of the most popular songs of the last 40 years was "...I fought the Law and the Law won". People in our society are taught to make villains of law officers, when they are our heroes. They risk their lives to protect us. We are trained in America to be rebellious towards Law.

Let's think about the idea of being hostile towards Law in the real world. What if there were no laws to protect your personal property? Then people could take your belongings any time. What if there were no traffic laws? Imagine that for a moment. What a terrible world! It is hard enough to drive in a world where we have traffic laws. None of these laws restrict us. They protect us.

Let's think about this in terms of the laws of the United States. Do you think that the Laws of the United States are unjust and unfair? One of the laws of the United States is that you have the right to free speech and the freedom of assembly. This means you can speak your mind and you can freely assemble with your friends and church family. Do you desire to give up that freedom? Do you want the government to prevent you from speaking your mind? People fight every day just to protect that one freedom, which is defined by Law!

Freedom is defined by Law. In America, we have laws that forbid us from doing some things and tell us how to do other things. We are free to do whatever else we want! For instance, there is not a

Law against being an insurance agent, a preacher, a baker, or nearly any other profession. This is freedom. The Law of God is the same way, but even better! For some reason, we have this false concept that God's Law is bondage. Let's view some verses from the Old and New testaments to see what the Bible says about God's Law.

### **Deut. 30:11-14**

“For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

### **I John 5:2-3**

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

### **James 1:25**

“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the word, this one will be blessed in what he does”.

The Law is the perfect picture of freedom. God has some things He wants us to do, some things He does not want us to do. We are free to do the rest! There is no bureaucracy with God. There are no politicians calling the shots for us. Only one God, who is faithful and true, decides right from wrong. You may not believe this, but you follow a law. Consider the following:

- If you eat too much (of anything), then you will get sick. This means you must limit the amount of food you eat.
- Too much time in the sun causes sunburn. This means

we must restrict the amount of time we spend in the sun.

- If you stay in the cold weather too long, then we might lose feeling in our hands and feet or get sick. We must limit our time in the cold weather.

You follow laws, even if they are ones you made up. Well, God made laws that are for our good. They are easy to follow. Let's take a look at one precept of God's Law: the seventh-day Sabbath. The Sabbath was instituted by God in Genesis 2:2-3. It was instituted on the seventh day to set a precedent that we should work for six days and then rest from our labors on the seventh. This is truly the perfect picture of freedom. The God of the Universe tells us to rest on the seventh day. This means no man or any other power can force us to work! We are free! We are free from all the chores of life, our normal job, and even the burdens of everyday life that bog us down. This allows us to spend the time with God and our family, and we need it!

God wants us to live our lives in complete harmony with Him and enjoy the fullness of the life He has given us. He gave the Law for blessing! As James said, we are blessed when we obey His word! The Law is simply the rules for daily living that the Lord gave us to enjoy life without hindrances to our physical and spiritual health. They were not given for salvation because salvation can only come through the perfect sacrifice of the Messiah.

When you do not properly rest, then your body begins to break down. Your mind and emotions can break down. Then you become dependent on doctors and hospitals to treat you. At that point, you are restricted. That is the definition of bondage. The God who created all things rested on the seventh day and not any other day.

Where do people get this idea that the Law of God is restrictive? There are a few verses that are used to say that the Law of God is bondage. One particular set of verses people use to malign the Law of God are found in Acts 15 and 21: "Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: 'Unless

you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.’ This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all brothers very glad. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them. Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, ‘The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses.’ The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: ‘Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. **Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are**’ (Acts 15:1-11).

Some have said that the “yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear” is the law, but this interpretation contradicts what God said about His own Law (read the verses above). Even John, a New Testament writer, attests to the freedom that law provides: God’s commandments are not burdensome.

The question that the apostles and elders met to consider was whether or not circumcision was a requirement for Gentiles to be saved. The “yoke” that Peter refers to is the yoke of trying to be saved by works alone. If circumcision was a necessary requirement for salvation, then we could earn our salvation. That would make the sacrifice of Christ of none effect. In Ezekiel 20, God rebukes the Israelites for being disobedient to His laws and com-

mandments, and He said, **“I also gave them over to statutes that were not good and laws they could not live by”** (verse 35). The laws that were not good that the Israelites could not live by were man-made rules. Because they refused to listen to God’s rules which were good for them and easy to live by, they were given over to rules that were bondage.

When the apostles conferred to decide how to handle this question, they decided that “...we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead, we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. For **Moses** has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the **synagogues** on every **Sabbath**” (Acts 15:20-21). These four commands are the minimum requirements for Gentiles so that they could **attend** the Synagogue and learn the law on the Sabbath. Notice that the Apostles even specify what they want Gentile converts to learn (Moses), where they want them to learn it (Synagogue), and when they want them to learn it (Sabbath)! Some have said that these four requirements are the only four things that Gentile believers in Jesus should obey, but this interpretation has problems because lying, stealing, coveting, idol worship, and a host of other sins are not listed either. Thus, the apostles are establishing a minimum level for Gentiles so that they can attend church and hear the Word of God.

This same command is repeated to believers in Judea in Acts 21:17-26. In this second mentioning of this decision, we learn something very important about the life of Paul, God’s chosen instrument to carry the gospel to the Gentiles. “When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers received us warmly. The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present. Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. When they heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: ‘You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law. They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, tell-

ing them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs. What shall we do? They will certainly hear that you have come, so do what we tell you. There are four men with us who have made a vow. Take these men, join in their purification rites and pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved. Then everybody will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself are living in obedience to the law. As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they should abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality.’ The next day Paul took the men and purified himself along with them. Then he went to the temple to give notice of the date when their days of purification would end and the offering would be made for each of them.” Paul, God’s chosen instrument to carry the gospel to the Gentiles, was questioned by his Jewish friends. Reports came about that claimed he was teaching Gentiles to turn away from the law. Paul is then tested by his fellow brothers: If he participates in the purification vows of the men, then he will show that the reports are not true and that he is obedient to the law. In the latter half of this passage, Paul partakes in the purification vows of these men in the temple area and shows them that he does not teach against the Law of Moses or break the Law of Moses himself.

For Gentile converts, the only way to hear the Word of God was to go to a Synagogue and the only day for them to hear the word of God is on the Sabbath. Requiring converts to be circumcised or be completely obedient to Torah before even entering the synagogue might have made new converts think that salvation came by works. In fact, many Gentiles might have been discouraged by this because it takes time to learn God’s ways and walk them out. Realizing this, the apostles made the requirements simple. When Gentiles enter into the synagogues and other places of worship, they can learn with everyone else as long as they follow those four precepts.

A second place that is used to say that the law is bondage is Galatians 5:1-5. In these verses, Paul wrote, “Stand fast therefore in

the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled **again** with the **yoke of bondage**. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.”

Many people say that the letter to the Galatians was written to a group of Jews “going back to keeping the law”. These people also say that the yoke of bondage Paul refers to is the commandments of God. This is easily disproved. One of the issues in the Galatian church was whether circumcision was a necessary requirement for salvation. If the Galatians were all Jews, then they would already be circumcised. Galatia was a region composed of mostly Gentiles. In Galatians 1:15-16, Paul affirms himself as an apostle to the Gentiles.

Paul quotes a verse from Deuteronomy 30:11-14 (above) to describe OUR faith in Christ! In Romans 10:8, he wrote, “But what saith it? ‘The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;’ ” Our Faith is that the Law and Word of God is easy to obey. It is in our heart and on our mouths. It’s as easy as a word we speak and a feeling we hold in our heart. The word of God is near us because we are given power from God to obey it. The Law of God is the rules for basic human living so that we can live a healthy, prosperous life.

Notice the word AGAIN in Galatians 5:1. The Galatians were in danger of going back to serving other gods, which bind us to sin! The Galatians were in danger of going back to worshipping other gods. You see, the gentile religions of this world believe in self-affliction as a means of atonement for sin. This is why in many ancient cultures the people walked over hot coals, walked over boards of nails, or struck themselves to purify themselves from sin. Some Catholic priests do this to this day. Christ took the beating so that we do not have to beat ourselves up! Paul is saying

that if we think our works will save us (in this case, the act of circumcision), then Christ means nothing to us. Paul also discusses justification.

The Law, and no law, can justify us. Justification means a cleansing from past sin. In other words, how do we come back to God now that we have sinned? If our works alone can do this, then we do not need Jesus. Only the blood of Jesus can justify or wipe out our past sins so that we are declared innocent before God (Romans 5:9-11). Even if we were to only sin once and be perfect the rest of our lives, we would still be guilty in a court of law because of that one sin. Paul tells the Galatians that if they believe circumcision will save them, then they are a debtor to obey the entire law. This means that they must obey the entire law without ever breaking it again.

Paul's issue is not circumcision because He circumcised Timothy himself (Acts 16:1-3). The intent of the Galatian believers for being circumcised was the issue. They thought it was for their salvation and justification before God. Paul then concludes this part of the chapter by saying that through God's Spirit we wait for the righteousness for which we hope. Paul defines righteousness as keeping God's commandments in Romans 2:12-14. He told the Galatians that their desire to keep the righteousness of the Law was a good thing. However, the righteous requirements of the Law are something we should hope for, but we should do so through the Spirit of God. In other words, our obedience to the Law should spring out of the leading of God's Spirit and faith in Christ to lead us in obedience to them.

The Law is our expression of thankfulness to Christ for what He has done for us. He did something for us that we could not do for ourselves – reconcile us back to God the Father. The commandments are just our response to His tremendous sacrifice.

## The Old Covenant and The New Covenant

Many people think that the Old Covenant is the Law. This is not true. The Law and the Old Covenant are two different things. A covenant is simply an agreement between two parties where one individual promises to do something as long as the other individual promises to do something else. The Old Covenant was an agreement between Ancient Israel and Jesus Christ. In Exodus 19:4-6, the Old Covenant is found:

### Exodus 19:4-6

“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

God promised the Israelites that they would become the chief of all the nations on the earth. They would be His representatives on planet earth for every nation. They would be His holy nation. So, God’s part of the covenant was to make them a holy people on earth and His representatives. He would protect them from their enemies. Their part of the covenant was to obey His voice. In Exodus 20-23 and other places in the first five books of the Bible, God spoke to them the Law of God. These came from the very mouth of God.

The Law was not the covenant. The Law was the terms and conditions of the covenant. The people disobeyed God and did not live up to His standards. They did not fulfill their end of the covenant. God always fulfilled His end of the bargain!

The book of Hebrews describes the transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. In Hebrews 8:6-12, we read, “**6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was estab-**

**lished on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. 8 Because finding fault with them,** He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 9 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

I have highlighted the key part of these verses. God sought to establish the New Covenant because He found fault with the people! So, the problem was not what God said! The problem was not with the Law! It is falsely taught today that the Law was the problem and Jesus took it away. The people hardened their hearts so that God could not manifest the Law in their lives.

Notice in verse 6 that the New Covenant is a better covenant founded on better promises. The old Covenant was a physical covenant with a physical people. Its promises were physical. The New Covenant has promises of eternal life, which were not found in the Old Covenant. While we have better promises, the conditions of this covenant never changed!

So, in establishing this NEW covenant, God writes the Law on our hearts and minds. This means we as believers should have a spontaneous desire to live by the laws and commandments of God. We should desire to enter into His Sabbath rest. We should desire to not steal any longer. Even more so, we should desire to give!

The Greek word for “New” in the phrase “New Covenant” means “re-newed”. It does not mean brand new. God re-newed the covenant. The conditions remain the same, but He renewed its meaning! One of the Law’s requirements is circumcision. In Christ, we are still circumcised, but the circumcision is of our heart (Romans 2:28-29). Another requirement is a sacrifice for sin. Christ is our one and only sacrifice. Another requirement of the law is stoning. There is still a stoning today!

Paul wrote, “For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (Romans 8:13). God took a community responsibility of stoning and now applies this to the individual. This does not change the condition; it simply puts accountability on the individual. Why is this? In the Old Testament, the Presence of God dwelt in the camp (Numb 5:1-3). Only a few people had the Spirit of God inside of them. Today, all those in the New Covenant have the Holy Spirit. We are to use that Spirit to put to death the things inside of us that rebel against God’s laws and commandments. God always desired the heart of a person. He desired the heart of Israel to be inclined to Him, but they refused. In the New Covenant, God is writing the Law on our hearts so that our hearts will desire His ways. In the New Covenant, God is simply bringing about what He desired in the first place: a people who genuinely want to Love Him and His Ways. “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart” (Deut. 6:6). The Lord has always desired a people that had circumcised hearts: “Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer” (Deut. 10:16).

“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deut. 10:12). God wanted man to love and fear him. The Law is a written code of conduct for us to check ourselves against our hearts turning away from God.

In the New Covenant, we are to obey through the Holy Spirit of God. As aforementioned, this creates a spontaneous desire in us to obey. This bears witness in the New Testament. Paul wrote in Romans 2:12-15, “All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature the things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.” Justification comes through the blood of Christ. It wipes out our past sins. It declares us innocent. Righteousness, or right living, comes through obeying God’s commandments. Paul even says that those who sin apart from the law will perish.

The phrase “apart from the Law” means lawlessly – without God’s Law as a standard. Why will these people perish? The Law gives us a provision to return back to God as long as we have a sacrifice. When a person does away with God’s Law, they are doing away with God’s provision to come back to Him through a sacrifice – which for us is the sacrifice of Christ. Part of the purpose of the sacrifices in the Old Testament was to show us that there was a cost involved with sin. The greatest cost of all was the life of the perfect Son of God. Those who sin in the Law will be judged by the Law. In other words, those who sin in the confines of the law will be judged by that standard, which allows you to return to Him with a sacrifice!

Paul then goes on to say that those who obey the law will be declared righteous. He then gives examples of Gentiles who have the Spirit of God who are obeying God’s Law without having the head knowledge of what it says! This means they were spontaneously not stealing, lying, or committing adultery. They were keeping the Sabbath, tithing, etc. Paul does this to show us that righteousness comes when we obey the Law through the leading

of God's Spirit. This will not contradict the written word, but will uphold it. The Spirit does not change the parameters of God's Law; it allows us to stay within them. The Spirit will also show us how to honor and celebrate it the way it is intended.

## Chapter 3

### The Love of God

In this chapter, we are going to answer one of the greatest questions in the Bible: Why was the Law given? To answer this question, we must go back to the very beginning! In the very beginning (before creation), the Bible says there were only the Word and the Father (John 1:1-2). The Word is also known as Jesus. Before static matter was created or there were angels, these two beings existed. They existed in a state of harmony and love.

Love is simply defined as out flowing concern for the well-being of another. Since they were Spirit beings at this beginning stage, it is normally impossible for us as natural humans to understand the love they expressed towards each other. They expressed a spiritual love to each other in pure spiritual form.

The Law of God is a revelation of the love that the Father and the Son shared with each other in the beginning. The Law is a revelation of how their spiritual love would flow if manifested in the natural realm. This was the only way to communicate this spiritual love to natural beings. The intricate details and statutes of the Law show us the intensity of the love they shared in the beginning.

This is why Paul makes the statement in Romans 7:14, “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.” Because the law is spiritual, we are naturally hostile to it. Why is this? We are made of matter. We are natural beings. We have five senses that learn from a natural world. The spiritual realm is something foreign to our understanding unless we have the Spirit of God and submit fully to that Spirit.

Thus, the Law is a body of rules governing the natural, but reflecting spiritual principles that point us to the love of the Father and the Son in the beginning. In Leviticus 18:5, God said, “Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a

man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.” Since the Father and Son – are, were, and will be life – they exist as life. Therefore, doing anything contrary to the Love they showed each other in the beginning would result in the opposite, which is death. This explains Leviticus 18:5. Their love for each other was so intense that it had to be expressed in a way of life that was very specific and so inclusive that it governed all aspects of human behavior.

There are even parts of the Law that govern our inward behavior. In Leviticus 19:17-18b, God said, “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people...” Some of these commandments are inward – do not hate or have a grudge. There are plenty of other similar examples.

The written Law is a sample of the way God wants us to live – it is a portion of the limitless expressions of Love that we can express to others and God. There are only a few “do nots” and a few “dos”. You are free to do anything else! The rest of the Bible is a further explanation of how we live out God’s awesome way of life!

## 5 Common Misconceptions about God's Law

**Misconception #1:** Every transgression of the Law resulted in death by stoning.

**The Truth:** Not true.

There are transgressions of Law that did not result in stoning. Stealing is one of them. When a person stole, they just had to repay twice, four, or five times as much as what they stole (the amount depended on the item that was stolen). If they did not have the money to repay, then they had to work as a servant until the debt was paid. See Exodus 22:1-4 as an example.

**Misconception #2:** People were constantly getting stoned for sin; this caused people to live in constant fear.

**The Truth:** Very few people were ever stoned in the Bible.

How many people were legitimately stoned for sin in the Bible? Only about 3 or 4 people were recorded as being stoned for sin (see Leviticus 24:23, Numbers 15:36, Joshua 7:25). Some of the prophets were stoned, but not for sin. The Israelites simply did not like their message.

To actually stone someone for sin, you had to have two and sometimes three credible witnesses. These witnesses were thoroughly examined by the priests. Any time a witness lied, that person was punished in the same manner that he or she was trying to bring on the other person. Also, the people who saw the person sin in this way had to be the first ones in putting that person to death. See Deut. 19:15-21, 17:2-7.

Thus, there were many cases where you did not have enough witnesses to prosecute a matter. At other times, people may have seen a person sin in a way which brought stoning, but they did not want to see that person die. For the aforementioned reasons, it did not happen often.

**Misconception #3:** Paul said that we are no longer under the Law, but under grace. This means the Law no longer applies.

**The Truth:** The phrase “under the Law” refers to being under the penalty of the Law.

In Romans 6:14, Paul wrote: “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.” This is one verse used by many to say that the requirements of God’s Law, especially the Ten Commandments, are no longer necessary. The key with this verse, and all verses, is the context. In the next two verses, Paul wrote, “What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” One definition of sin in the Bible is transgression of God’s Law (I John 3:4). In Galatians 4:4-5, Paul wrote: “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (KJV). If the phrase “under the law” in Romans 6:14 means obeying the Law, then Paul said in Galatians that Christ only came to redeem those that were obeying the Law. We know that is not true! Christ came to redeem all mankind (John 1:29, 3:16). The phrase “under the law” means under the penalty of the Law. Christ was born under the penalty of the law to free those who were under its penalty – which is all of us! All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Later in Romans, Paul wrote that the Law is holy, righteous and good (Romans 7:12-14). In Romans 8:7, Paul explains that the sinful mind is hostile to God’s Law and refuses to submit to it. Being under grace means that when we make a mistake, God is not going to stone us or strike us dead. We have a grace period to learn right from wrong. We are not under the law’s penalty, but we are not free from its requirements because grace is not a license to sin or transgress God’s Law. Our goal and aim is to let the Holy Spirit of God guide us in obedience to the commandments of God. Since we are under grace, we are alive in Christ and enabled to obey the Law of Life

(see also Deut. 30:11-15).

**Misconception #4:** Christ's death did away with all sacrifices.

**The Truth:** Sacrifices will resume in the Kingdom of God.

In Exodus 20-23, God's emphasis was not on sacrifices, but on obedience. It was not until after the Israelites sinned in Exodus 32 that God gave a list of sacrifices (recorded in Leviticus 1-8). We see this emphasized in the Prophets. In Jeremiah 7:22-23, God said, "For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you." (KJV)

In Ezekiel 40-48, God speaks of the Temple that will be built in the Kingdom of God. We learn very clearly that there will be sacrifices in this Temple. In Ezekiel 46:1-2, the Bible reads, "Thus saith the Lord GOD; The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the sabbath it shall be opened, and in the day of the new moon it shall be opened. And the prince shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate without, and shall stand by the post of the gate, and the priests shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings, and he shall worship at the threshold of the gate: then he shall go forth; but the gate shall not be shut until the evening." There will be sacrifices to honor the prince, who is Jesus. He is the Prince of Peace.

The sacrifices were given to show us that there was a cost involved with sin. The greatest cost of all was the life of the perfect Son of God. In the Old Testament, they were a foreshadowing of what Christ would do in the future. The sacrifices in the kingdom of God will be a memorial of what He has already done.

**Misconception #5:** People in the Old Testament were saved by works of the Law, and now people are saved by grace.  
**The Truth:** People have only been saved by Grace.

Paul wrote in Galatians 4:21-22, “Is the law, therefore opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! **For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.** But the scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe” (KJV). No one could be saved by works of the Law. If this was true, then there would be no need for a Savior. This would allow humans to boast. Abraham is called the father of our faith, and he lived long before Jesus (Galatians 3:28-29, Rom. 4:16). The Bible says that, “...Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:8). Salvation has always come by faith in the Son of God. He is the power unto salvation of ALL who believe (Rom 1:16), both in the past, now, and in the future.



## Meet the Author

Kelly McDonald Jr. is an ordained Evangelist at Hungry Hearts Ministries in Jackson, TN. For 21 years, Kelly attended Trinity Baptist Church in Bemis, TN, where he was saved in 1992. While at Trinity, a small independent Baptist church, Kelly learned boldness for the Kingdom of God and that being a Christian is an all or nothing experience. In June 2006, Kelly was called to his first ministry, going door to door in the Bemis community and inviting people to church. In September 2006, Kelly was called to begin a Christian men's group at his then college, Lambuth University. In February 2007, Kelly was called to preach. Less than a month later, he became introduced to Hungry Hearts Ministries.

Since becoming a member of Hungry Hearts, Kelly has taken on many roles to further the ministry's work, from going door-to-door to pass out booklets, preaching, administering the prison ministry, teaching Bible Studies, and starting churches. Due to his service in the ministry, he was ordained a Deacon during the Feast of Pentecost on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. His spiritual growth and desire to serve God led to his ordination as an Evangelist during the Feast of Pentecost on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Kelly has written for a local Christian magazine, *The Christian to Christian Connection*, and for the international Sabbatarian magazine, *The Sabbath Sentinel*. He currently writes for and serves as the Editor for the Ministry's magazine, *Pursuit*. Kelly has written five books on how to live a holy life. Kelly graduated *summa cum laude* from Lambuth University in Jackson, TN in 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Legal Studies. As a Torah Observant/Spirit Filled minister, Kelly has spoken at several different congregations in four different states, and is available to speak at your church upon request.



There are many misconceptions about the Law of God. Did you realize that one of the New Covenant promises for Christians is to have God's Law written on your heart? This booklet will dispel many of the myths about God's Law and help you understand its place in the life of a Christian Believer today.

This booklet is a shorter version of the full-length book "Freedom Under the Law". The book is available on [www.hungryheartsm ministry.com](http://www.hungryheartsm ministry.com) in the Resources section.



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