

## Gleanings from the Pentateuch

Excursus:  
Theology of the Law (pt 3)

## Theology of the Law

1. The Law was fundamentally an expression of God's love
  - The Law's *primary* purpose was not condemnation
  - The Law (torah) was God's gracious provision for His people's welfare

## Theology of the Law

2. Law-keeping was a response of love to God's love
  - obedience is the outflow of love for God, not the earning of His favor
  - obedience (not perfection) is the *necessary* evidence of love for God

## Theology of the Law

3. The Law exposes the ongoing need for God's grace
  - not the primary purpose of the Law
  - the inevitable consequence of the Law given to sinful man

## Theology of the Law

### Exposure by the Law

#### 1. Testimony of the Law itself

- After Israel's failure, God declares that He is full of grace and forgiveness (Ex. 34:6-7)
- The provision of sacrifices for atonement for the people's sins (Lev. 4, 5, 16)

*How can a righteous God be so gracious?*

## Theology of the Law

### Exposure by the Law

#### ➤ *The example of David*

- A man after God's own heart who loved God's Law
- A man who grossly broke God's Law (three of the Ten Commandments!)
- A man who depended on God's grace not his own righteousness (Psalm 51)

## Theology of the Law

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### Exposure by the Law

#### 2. Testimony of Paul

➤ *Romans 7:7-25*

- The Law defines and exposes sin
- The Law makes sin “alive”
- The Law itself is good and spiritual

## Theology of the Law

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### Continuity with the New Covenant

As we seek to obey God’s  
“*commandments*” out love for Him, we  
are made aware of our ongoing need  
for God’s grace

## Theology of the Law

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### 1 John 2:3-5

And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

The one who says, “I have come to know Him” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

But whoever keeps His word, in Him the love of God has truly been perfected.

## Theology of the Law

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### 1 John 1:8-9

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

## Theology of the Law

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### 1 John 2:1-2

...And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;  
and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.