

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

Excursus: Theology of the Law (pt 4)

Theology of the Law

Summary:

- The Law is essentially an expression of God's love for the good of His people
- Law-keeping was never to be a means of salvation but the evidence of love for God
- The Law revealed the ongoing need for God's grace

Theology of the Law

Summary:

➤ *A Correct View of the Law...*

- is consistent with not contrary to the gospel of grace
- establishes salvation by grace through faith alone

Theology of the Law

"...you are not under Law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:14)

"...a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the Law" (Rom. 3:28)

"...the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones" (2 Cor. 3:7)

"as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse..." (Gal. 3:10)

"the Law is not of faith..." (Gal. 3:12)

Paul's Use of the Law

Law verses Gospel

1. Faith/grace verses a wrong use of the Law (works-righteousness)
2. The Mosaic Covenant contrasted with the New Covenant

Paul's Use of the Law

Wrong Use of the Law

1. Romans 3:19-31

➤ *the issue:* the means of "justification"

- justification is not by "works of the Law"
- justification is by grace through faith alone based on the redemptive death of Jesus

Justification by faith establishes the Law!

Paul's Use of the Law

Wrong Use of the Law

2. Romans 9:30-10:4

- *the issue*: the Gentiles' salvation verses Israel's rejection
 - Israel pursued the righteousness of the Law by works not by faith
 - "as though" – not what the Law taught but their wrong view of the Law

Paul's Use of the Law

Wrong Use of the Law

3. Galatians 3:10-22

- *the issue*: Paul is condemning those who teach justification by law-keeping
 - (v10) "of the works of the Law" – those pursuing justification through Law-keeping
 - (v12) *The Law* (i.e. works of the Law) is not of faith (opposite of faith)

Paul's Use of the Law

Wrong Use of the Law

3. Galatians 3:10-22

- *the issue*: Paul is condemning those who teach justification by law-keeping
 - (v17) The Law does not nullify the promise given to Abraham (received by faith)
 - (v21) The Law was never given as a means to earn God's promised inheritance

Paul's Use of the Law

Conclusion:

- Under both covenants (Old and New), God has set forth salvation by grace through faith alone