

Notes
Excavating the Epistles series
Romans Part 1: The Law and Grace
Geoffrey Cohen
August 3, 2012

Torah Portion

Deuteronomy 27:26 (NIV)

²⁶ "Cursed is anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out."
Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

Galatians 3:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

Galatians 3:10 (The Living Bible)

Yes, and those who depend on the Jewish laws to save them are under G-d's curse, for the Scriptures point out very clearly, "Cursed is everyone who at any time breaks a single one of these laws that are written in G-d's Book of the Law."

Service Portion

1) The Law is good and holy

Romans 7:9 – 12 (NIV)

⁹ Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. ¹⁰ I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. ¹¹ For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. ¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

Matthew 5:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

The Law represents the perfect nature, standards and holiness of G-d, a G-d who has never known or tasted sin and never will.

G-d cannot and never will lower His standards of perfect righteousness, even if He wanted to he cannot compromise Himself, the essence of who He is, He is holy.

Then He goes on to say to us, "Be Holy as I am holy" in I Peter 1:16 quoting Leviticus 11:44. This creates a problem, not for Him but for us!

2) We uphold the Law by faith

Romans 3:27 - 31

²⁷ Where is the boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. ²⁹ Or is He the G-d of the Jews only? Is He not also the G-d of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, ³⁰ since there is one G-d who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

Romans 4:3

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed G-d, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Romans 4:10 - 11

How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised but while uncircumcised.

¹¹ And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also

Romans 4:5 - 8

But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, ⁶ just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom G-d imputes righteousness apart from works:

⁷ "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,

And whose sins are covered;

⁸ Blessed is the man to whom the L-RD shall not impute sin."

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of G-d in Him.

3) We are not under the law

Romans 2:12 – 15 (NIV)

¹² 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. ¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in G-d's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

¹⁴(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, ¹⁵ They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times defending them.)

4) We are under grace

Romans 6:12 – 14

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to G-d as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to G-d. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

It is easier not to sin being under grace and not under the law

Romans 8:3-4

For what the Law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, G-d did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled (fully met) in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Galatians 5:18

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

Galatians 4:4 - 5

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, G-d sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

1 Corinthians 15:55 – 56 (NIV)

55 "Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.