

# BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

## *The Grace of God: The Law of God*

December 11, 2024

### Preliminary

Note: The Law was given because of the Sovereign God's right – as He is the Creator.

Texts: Gen 2:16, 17; Ex 20:1-17

➤ To govern Creation and follow all of God's will.

Heb 8:10b; Ezek 11:19, 20 = *I will put my laws into their minds and hearts*

Rectification: As the perfect God, He is not accountable to His own Law – God is the author of the Law

➤ OT: The Decalogue summarize the whole law... Ex 20:1-17; Mt 22:37-40

NT: The Bible declares all of God's laws... 2 Tim 3:16

Review: Reformation was founded on the understanding of salvation by grace and not salvation according to the Law

(a) Antinomianism = Overemphasis on grace and disregard for obedience to the Law

➤ The Law of God is ignored due to a misunderstanding of grace... Rom 6:1f

(b) Legalism = Overemphasis on the Law rather than grace

➤ The Law becomes the basis for salvation... cf. Eph 2:8,9; Gal 2:16

Point: Although the law cannot save man, it must still be valued... Gal 3:24; Rom 3:20

### The Threefold Uses of the Law

#### 1. As a Mirror

Note: It is the Law's duty to expose the sinner and their sins

➤ Looking at the Law is like looking in a mirror where one sees themselves

James 1:23 = *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror*

Point: The law is the schoolmaster for understanding sin and having wisdom in

Christ as the sinner's sole hope

Romans 3:20 = *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin*

➤ The law reveals who God is and His character

➤ It declares God's holiness and righteousness

➤ It is meant to convict the sinner

➤ It declares our total dependence on God's grace.

➤ It declares the need for Christ and His finished work.

#### 2. As a Restraint Against Evil

Note: The Law restrains sin and the doing of evil, both for personal and community purposes... 1 Tim 1:9

Rectification: While the Law restrains sin, the Law does not sanctify the sinner – sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit.

##### (a) Governmental Law

➤ God has appointed governing authorities to enforce the law for peace and order in the community... Rom 13:1-7; (4)

##### (b) The law placed in the heart of man

Note: God has put His law in the minds and hearts of man as guidance...

Texts: Heb 8:10b; Ezek 11:19, 20; Rom 2:14-15; 3:19-20

#### 3. As a Revelation of God's Will

Note: The believer saved by grace through the gospel is now guided by the Law for their ongoing sanctification

Titus 2:11-14 (v.12) = [The Word/Law] *training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age*

Point: The law reveals God's righteousness and what pleases Him... Eph 2:10

➤ The believer delights in God's law... Rom 7:22

➤ It serves as a guide in striving to bring glory and honor to God ... Ps 1:2; 119:16, 92-94, 174, Jos 1:8

➤ Obeying the Law is a revelation of love for God... Jn 14:15

➤ The law is not burdensome... 1 Jn 5:3

Challenge: Giving pleasure to God is a natural work for His children

### Additional Corrections

Thought 1: No one is perfect, God does not expect us to perfectly obey all the Laws.

Warning: Failing to strive to obey God's Law will result in a curse ...

Galatians 3:10 = *Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them*

Point: While no one is perfect, we are still commanded to strive to obey the law...

➤ Read: Mt 5:48; 1 Pt 1:16

Thought 2: *"I am righteous, because I don't hurt or trample on others."*

Note: Sin against one law is a violation of all the law...

Texts: James 2:10; Mt 5:21-22, 27-28; Mk 7:21-23; Jer 17:9

Point: The Law judges not only the external but also the internal condition of man

***Obeying the law does not save, but it is the evidence of salvation***