

Righteousness, the Law, and the New Testament.

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This is a compilation of teachings I shared between August and October 2020 with some young Christians; concerning the topics of Righteousness, the Law, and the New Testament.

There seems to be a lot of misunderstandings in these areas. And for sure, this study was of a great blessing to us. The Lord was surely with us! And I believe that this compilation will be of a great blessing to you, just as it was to us.

God bless!

Episode 1

When we say we are a people of the new testament, folks usually misunderstand. They think we're choosing some portions of the Bible over others. Well, first of all, it is not us who brought the notion of “new testament”. It is Jesus.

And he [Jesus] said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

—Mark 14:24

The word “testament” means “covenant, agreement, or deal”. So when we say, “new testament”, what we're saying is, “new agreement between God and mankind”. Here is an example:

And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be cloven-footed, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.

—Leviticus 11:7

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

—Colossians 2:16

The one in Leviticus is saying don't eat pigs. But the one in Colossians, just like in Romans chapter 14, is saying it doesn't matter what you eat. As a matter of fact, it is even not counting the Sabbath day as important.

Why do these portions seem to disagree? Well, because they exist in two different testaments!

Friends, there is a new testament! And in this testament, things don't go the way they used to in the old one.

God's perfect will is the new testament. The old testament was given to prepare a way for the new testament. It was but a shadow of the new testament. The NIV makes it so clear.

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

—Colossians 2:16, 17 (NIV)

The sacrifices people offered in the old testament were a shadow of Jesus; who is a sacrifice for our sins. The Sabbath day was a shadow of the rest we experience in Jesus. Etcetera, etcetera.

This doesn't mean we don't read the old testament books. No! It simply means we don't interpret them literally, but rather as a shadow, symbols and signs of this new testament.

Friends, I therefore want you to understand, that as we talk about righteousness on this group, we'll not be talking

of the righteousness of the Law (old testament), but that of Christ (new testament), as written in the book of Romans.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

—Romans 10:4

Amen.

Episode 2

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

—Galatians 3:24, 25

Some people think that the Law is still valid today. That the coming of Jesus didn't do away with the Law. And that we still have to live our lives according to the Law. Well, the scriptures above answers it all.

The Bible is saying that the Law was a schoolmaster. And it is also saying that we're no longer under a schoolmaster. I think that should mean we're no longer under the Law. Right?

You remember the time you were learning to count? You probably were using fingers. That doesn't mean the teacher's goal was to make you count using your fingers

forever. No! It was simply a way to bring your mind to a point where it can do the calculations internally. And that's exactly what the Law was! A schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ.

Hallelujah!

Episode 3

In the new testament, it is incorrect to teach people to abstain from certain foods as a means of going to heaven.

You can be a vegetarian. You can abstain from certain foods out of personal preference. It's all fine, as long as it is not a means of attaining salvation.

But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.

—1 Corinthians 8:8

For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.

—Romans 14:20

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

—Colossians 2:16

Three different verses from three different books. I hope this ministers something to us.

Amen.

Episode 4

The book of Acts details the works of the Apostles after Jesus left Earth. And it is interesting to note that the disciples of Jesus never observed any Sabbath. These folks gathered every day.

And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

—Acts 5:42

Yeah. They gathered daily. And nowhere in the Bible does it condemn them. So, let no man fool us about observing the Sabbath in the new testament. It was simply a shadow of the rest we experience in Christ.

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

—Colossians 2:16

This final verse is pretty much straight forward.

Amen.

Episode 5

Sunday is not a new Sabbath day. All Sabbath days have been canceled!

Sunday is just a day Christians worldwide meet. Apart from that it is the day the Lord Jesus rose from the dead, it has nothing special.

Christians had to choose a day to meet. It would have been Monday, Tuesday, or any other day. Apparently, that day was Sunday.

I don't worship Sunday, I worship God. I love God the same way all week. Sunday is just a day I meet fellow believers.

Again, Sunday is **NOT** “another” Sabbath day. Christians don't observe any Sabbath days.

Episode 6

So far, we've covered that there are two testaments (covenants). The old covenant, and the new covenant.

Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

—Galatians 4:24

One that was given on mount Sinai (the Law), and one that was sealed by the blood of Jesus.

And he [Jesus] said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

—Mark 14:24

We also saw that the old covenant was given as a shadow of—to make way for—the new covenant.

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

—Colossians 2:16, 17

We also covered one of the most hugely debated questions of the new testament, “**is the Law still relevant in nowadays?**”. And the answer is **NO!** Again, the Law was there to point us to Christ, now that Christ is come, it has successfully served its purpose.

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

—Galatians 3:24, 25

Clear as crystal!

This is why, as we have seen explicitly, that believers in the new testament are allowed to do somethings that were not allowed in the old testament like eating whatever they want, not being bound to the Sabbath day, etc.

But this doctrine brings in big questions! “**Does this mean the new testament permits us to 'sin'? i.e. to do whatever we please**”. “**And if there is no law, how will God judge us on the final day? And what about all those verses in the new testament text that seem to suggest that we have to obey the commandments of God?**”. Well, thank God you're on this group, because we are going to cover those things!

But as we finish today, one thing to remember is that we also covered that the new testament doesn't nullify the old testament books (Genesis to Malachi). But rather that it actually reveals what was already written and hidden in them. God miraculously hid the new testament in the old testament! And so we can actually get the new testament revelation from the old testament books! Hallelujah!

Thanks for reading.

Amen.

Episode 7

There is a difference between old testament books, and the old testament. The old testament was a covenant between man and God where man had to gain his righteousness by fulfilling the Law. The old testament books are simply books written before Jesus.

If you read most of the old testament books literally,

what you'll get is the old covenant (the Law). If you read the new testament books, what you'll get is pure new testament (new covenant). However, God miraculously hid the new covenant in the old covenant, so if you read the old testament books by the Spirit, you'll actually get the new testament.

You see, the old testament books actually wrote about Jesus. Here's what Jesus himself said:

For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me.

—John 5:46

Yeah, Moses wrote about Jesus!

You see, the new testament doesn't really start with the book of Matthew, it starts with the death and resurrection of Jesus!

And the new testament isn't some “plan B”. No! It is the main plan! God had already promised, even before calling Moses, that He is gonna have a Jesus-based covenant with man. He promised Christ (new testament) to Abraham, that is 430 years before the Law.

16. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

17. And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot

disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

18. *For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.*

19. *Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.*

—Galatians 3:16-19

So it turns out that the new testament is actually God's original plan. What we call "old testament" or "old covenant" was simply added just to take us to the original plan. Hallelujah!

Episode 8

The thing about the Law is: the more you try to keep it, the more you fail to keep it. The Bible says that the strength of sin is the Law. (Can you imagine that?)

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

—1 Corinthians 15:56

That means the Law "empowers" sin; it makes you sin. As long as one is under the Law, he'll always sin. You see, the Bible says the Law was not made for a righteous man, but for a sinner; so that it can show him his sin [and make him sin more so that grace may abound] (1 Tim. 1:9). But

now that we are born again, we have been justified (made righteous) by the blood of Jesus, and therefore, we are no longer under the Law.

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

—Romans 6:14

The above verse clearly proclaims why sin shall not have dominion over us: because we are not under the Law! The more you try to put yourself under the Law, the more you sin.

Secondly brethren, I want us to understand that the new testament (new covenant) is a Jesus-based covenant. That means we are who we are based on Jesus. We are not righteous because of what we do, we're righteous because we're in Christ. The Bible says, "***if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature***" (2 Cor. 5:17). That type of righteousness based on what we do; was canceled.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

—Romans 10:4

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

—John 3:15

Friend, if you believe in Jesus, you're righteous!

A Christian might steal bread, but he will still be righteous. You see, he is righteous not because of what he does, he is righteous because he has Christ. The good thing though is that, when you have truly given your life to Christ, your desire to sin begins to die. Slowly, you begin to love the righteousness of the Lord! And that is exactly what God designed Christianity to be.

Hallelujah!

Episode 9

Last time, we saw that the new testament is a Jesus-based testament. That means, we are who we are to God; the Father, because of Jesus Christ. So we're righteous and we'll go to heaven because we've believe in Jesus. But it doesn't end there: God also answers our prayers because of Jesus Christ.

23. And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

...

26. At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

27. For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

—John 16:23, 26, 27.

Look at verse 27! It says the Father loves us because we

have loved Jesus. (Some people think God loves all people the same way. Well, this verse shows us that that is not true. He loves everybody; yes [John 3:16], but He loves those who have believed His record .i.e. Jesus, than those who haven't.)

Now look at the reason why God will answer our prayers! It says it's because we have believed in Jesus. Some expect God to answer their prayers because they go to church, or because they fast or keep the Law. No wonder nothing happens to them! They literately quote old testament text where people reminded God of their good works, and still nothing happens to them.

Friend, this is a Jesus-based testament. Jesus said, "***I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***" Friend, if you wanna go to the Father, whether in a prayer request; repentance; or whatever, you gotta go through Jesus. The things you do for God, they are not worthy to make God answer your prayers. They are too low. Only Jesus is worthy! (Even Paul, the great apostle, considered not his own works, but prayed in the name of Jesus!)

So God answers our prayers because we believe in Jesus. Fasting is good, going to church is good. But you should do these things because you love God, not because you're trying to make God do things for you.

This is why we pray in the name of Jesus. Because we're recognizing that the only way to get access to the

Father is through Jesus. We don't pray in the name and blood of Jesus; we pray in the name of Jesus. It is not the blood that represents us to the Father, it is Jesus himself. Hallelujah!

He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

—Galatians 3:5

Finally brethren, Paul is asking in the above verse if God does miracles in our midst because we keep the Law, or because of our faith in Jesus. You know the answer! No wonder churches that believe in keeping the Law never experience any miracles.

God bless!

Episode 10

Does God punish a Christian when he sins? No! Jesus already bore the punishment, and therefore God can't punish somebody who has already been punished. You see, Jesus died 2000 years ago, that is before all of us were born. How is it then that His blood still saves people from their sins? The thing is: He didn't just die for the sins that were committed before Him, He died for all sins that could be committed.

Neither did He just die for the sins you commit before being born again, He died for all sins. He doesn't just wash

you and dump you, He washes you and keeps you. It doesn't end with salvation; it starts with salvation. The Bible says, "***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***" (2 Cor. 5:17).

If you're born again, you're in Christ. And if you're in Christ, you have life. And if you have life, you'll never come into condemnation.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

—John 5:24

If you're in Christ, and God still punishes you for what you do, that's condemnation. And if He is condemning you, then He is breaking His own word. And we know that God cannot and does not break His own word.

Now, if a Christian continues in sin for a long time, Jesus spews him out of Himself (Rev. 3:16). And that's where the danger is, because everyone who is in Christ is not condemned, and everyone not in Christ is condemned.

He that believeth on him [Jesus] is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

—John 3:18

So stop attributing bad things you're going through to God's punishment. Most of the problems Christians go through are a product of ignorance, and thus the devil takes advantage of them. Friends, the blessing of the Lord doesn't bring bad things!

The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

—Proverbs 10:22

If somebody told you that salvation comes with poverty and sorrow, you might have to show them this verse.

That said, the Bible also says, “***the wages of sin is death***” (Rom. 6:23). That means: sin always brings in negative results. So if a Christian commits fornication and ends up getting Syphilis, or went stealing and got his hand chopped off, it's not that God is punishing Him; it's just that sin brings “death”.

So let's be conscious of the righteousness freely given to us through our faith in Jesus, but let us also be conscious of following God's will, always.

Amen.

Episode 11

I wanna finish this series by looking at what sin is in the new testament.

Now, sin is defined as transgression of the Law. But we know that the new-testament believer hasn't been given the Law to live by. And therefore, there is no law for him to transgress. The question that comes up then is: what is sin in the new testament? Well, first of all, we need to understand that a new-testament believer cannot sin that type of old-testament sin.

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

—1 John 3:9

Look, it says that whosoever is born of God **does not commit sin**, and **cannot sin**. This doesn't mean a believer can't mess up! No! But rather that, even when he messes up, it won't be considered sin unto God.

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

—Romans 4:8 (Psalm 32:2)

Notice the Bible does **NOT** say, "***Blessed is the man who will not sin***". It says, "***Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute (attribute) sin***". The "***will not***" is not talking about the man, it is talking about the Lord. It is not describing a work the man will not do, but rather a work the Lord will not do.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them

which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

—Romans 8:1

Brethren, God has declared that whosoever is in Christ, He will not condemn, even when they mess up. That is why the Bible says, “**Whosoever is born of God cannot sin**”. Not because he can't mess up, but because the Father will not impute sin on him.

(Don't confuse a new-testament believer to a church goer. A new-testament believer is someone who has truly submitted his life to Christ, not someone trying to get something from God [Rom. 10:9]. So what we're talking about here is something to do with true believers, not necessarily church goers).

Now, we discussed in the previous message that even when you sin, God will not condemn you. The truth of the matter is: if you're born again, you can't sin to God. That's the only reason He doesn't condemn you! Otherwise, He has to condemn you, because God always condemns sin!

That said, if you mess up, you'll still reap a negative harvest.

This is rough, right? How can someone steal bread and still not be considered sin?

But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

—1 Corinthians 8:12

There you got it! (And you're probably confused by now.) We'll start from that verse next time, this was just an introduction.

God bless!

Episode 12

Let's finish this.

In the previous post, I explained that Christians don't sin to God (because God doesn't impute [attribute, or ascribe] sin to them). But then I finished with a verse that seemed contradictory.

But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

–1 Corinthians 8:12

Notice the underline!

Friends, in my study of the scriptures, I've found out that Christians don't sin to God the Father, they sin to Christ. You see, God has put all the salvation of man in His Son; Jesus, and has commanded everyone to believe in His Son. And now, the only condemnation He holds against man is for not believing in His Son.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

—John 3:19

Look, the verse says the condemnation is that light (Jesus) has come into the world, but men loved darkness.

Notice it says, “**this is the**”, not “**this is one of**”. This is the only condemnation that is there. There is no any other condemnation.

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

—1 John 5:10-11

It is saying that those who don't believe in Jesus make God a liar. Again, that's the condemnation!

So if you believe in Jesus, you're in good terms with the Father. This is why there is no condemnation against those who believe in Christ. Hallelujah!

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

—Romans 8:1

People don't go to hell for stealing bread or not tithing, etc, etc. People go to hell for not having Christ in them. The Bible says that he that has the Son, has life. And we know

from Revelations 19:15, that those cast into the lake of fire were those not in the book of life (those without life, those without Christ).

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

–1 John 5:12

It's sad that with the abundance of scriptures in the Bible repeating these things, so many churches have come up with their own condemnation doctrines.

You see, the gospel is not about telling people to live right. The gospel is about telling people of the free gift of righteousness that is in Christ Jesus. It is the righteousness, if they receive it, that will make them want – and to – live right.

Episode 13

We've seen that when a Christian messes up, he doesn't have an issue with the Father. Rather, he has an issue with Christ Jesus, and that's to whom he has to repent. I put it to you therefore, that Isaiah 59:2 doesn't apply to those in Christ.

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

–Isaiah 59:2

Look, the sins that separate man from God; the Father, are the sins against the Father. And those in Christ don't sin against the Father, and therefore, they can't be separated from the Father.

Many Christians will be shocked to realize that God will still answer their prayers even after messing up deliberately. This has actually happened to me before.

You see, God doesn't answer our prayers because of what we do. He answers us because of Christ, that's why we pray in Jesus' name.

Friend, if you're in Christ, God will always answer your prayers! (The more you know this, the less you mess up!)

Now, in this Christ where we're not under the Law and where we can't sin to the Father, Christ through the Holy Spirit directs us towards His will. Disobeying this guidance is what is sin in the new testament. Again, it is sin against Christ, not the Father.

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

—Galatians 5:18

In the new testament, the will of God is written in our hearts (not on a stone). And it is not written down all at once, rather it is written down chunk by chunk. That is why as you grow in the Lord, you find yourself losing interest in some things you were okay with before.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

–1 Corinthians 13:11

In the new testament, you don't really go like, “I need to stop stealing”. No! You're rather just conscious of what Jesus did for you, and the desire to steal fades off. That's the will of God being written onto your heart!

Every Christian “hears” the Holy Spirit. It's not a gift some have. No! The Bible says, “***my sheep hears my voice***”! (Of course some hear Him than others. But the basic guidance voice; every Christian hears that!). You know, you just kinda feel in your spirit, that the Holy Spirit doesn't want you to do this thing.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

–John 10:27

Now, the Holy Spirit doesn't disagree with the Bible. That would be confusion, and God is not the author of confusion.

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

–1 Corinthians 14:33

That means, every feeling you have that disagrees with

the word of God, is not from the Holy Spirit. For example, the Holy Spirit can't guide you to keep the Sabbath day, because we know from the scriptures that the Sabbath day was simply a shadow of things to come. (Col. 2:16, 17). Etcetera, etcetera.

Amen!