

## Semester 2 – Week 4 - Class 8

### WHEN GRACE BECOMES A DISGRACE

In our last class we saw all throughout the Bible a beautiful harmonious chain of many Bible verses clearly establishing God's Ten-Commandment law as the highest standard of morality in the world. We also saw that it is our Christian duty to obey this law from a heart of love to Jesus Christ, and we noted especially as we went to the book of Revelation, that Revelation's saints are known because they are Commandment-keeping people.

Revelation 14:12 **"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."**

Next we saw a very sad situation in Matthew 7, and that is the fact that the vast majority of religious people are going to be lost when Jesus comes. Many of those are good moral people. It even said they were preaching and teaching in Jesus' name, plus they were doing wonderful works in Jesus' name. Let's review:

Matthew 7:21-22 **"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"**

But when Jesus comes, He will say to them, verse 23 **"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."**

Why were all these good religious people lost? We found out it was for one simple reason: Verse 21, they were not doing the will of the Father which is in heaven. So right away we started searching the Scriptures to find out just what the will of God was. The Scriptures revealed that God's will was to obey Him and to keep His Commandments.

Psalms 40:8 **"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart."**

Romans 2:13 **"For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified."**

I am sure you have heard of some people making the following statements: "You don't have to keep the commandments of God, because they were nailed to the cross;" or "You're under grace, not under the bondage of that law anymore;" or "Jesus fulfilled the law, therefore we don't have to obey it."

Well, what do these few texts, that seem to say God's law is done away with, mean in relation to all the other texts in the Bible that clearly establish God's law as something we should love and obey?" Remember, the Holy Spirit is the true Author of the Bible and He does not contradict Himself. We have been encouraged by scripture in 1 Thessalonians 5:21 to **"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."**

To gain an understanding of this, I want to examine these two opposing sides. 1. **"God's law is done away with"** and 2. **"No, God's law is established. If we love Jesus we'll keep His commandments."**

To do that we will go through eight Bible texts at this time.

James 2:10-12 **"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."**

We'll put James 2:10-12 on the left side.

Colossians 2:14-17 **"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross. And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. 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.”**

We'll put Colossians 2:14-17 on the right side.

**Matthew 5:17-19 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”**

We'll put Matthew 5:17-19 on the left side.

**Ephesians 2:15 “Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.”**

We'll put Ephesians 2:15 on the right side.

**Revelation 14:12 “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”**

We'll put Revelation 14:12 on the left side.

**Romans 6:14 “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”**

We'll put Romans 6:14 on the right side.

**1 John 2:3, 4 “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

We'll put 1 John 2:3, 4 on the left side.

**Galatians 3:23-25 “But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 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.”**

We'll put Galatians 3:23-25 on the right side.

At our last class we discussed the fact that we have sin in our world, and I asked everybody, "How many agree that we have sin?" Everybody should have raised their hands. Everybody knows we have sin. And therefore, we read in:

**1 John 3:4 “...for sin is the transgression of the law.”**

Today, I'm going to do something a little big unusual in reading you a quote from a great preacher that I think many of you know and respect; evangelist Billy Graham. This was from an interview::

**Question:** Some religious people I know tell me that the ten commandments are part of the law and do not apply to us today. They say that as Christians we're free from the law. Is this right?

**Answer:** No, it is not right, and I hope you will not be misled by these false opinions. It is very important to understand what the New Testament means when it says that Christians are free from the law. It certainly does not mean that they are free from the obligations of the moral law of God and are at liberty to sin. You see, the word law is used by the New Testament writers in two senses.

Sometimes it refers to the ceremonial law of the Old Testament which is concerned about ritual matters and regulations regarding food and drink and things of that kind. The ceremonial law was of a passing character and was done away with when Christ came. From this law Christians are indeed free.

But the New Testament also speaks of a moral law which is of a permanent, unchanging character and is summarized in the ten commandments. This law sets forth God's demands in human life, and man's duty to God and his neighbor. That it definitely applies to the Christian is made clear in Romans 13:8-10."

Of course, it is quite true that the Christian is not saved by his efforts to keep the law. But as one who is saved by God's mercy through faith in Christ, he is under an obligation to obey God's law.

As it has been said, in Christ we are free from sin, but not free to sin. "If you love Me" He said, "keep My commandments (John 14:15)."

**Question:** Which of the Ten Commandments applies to us today? I know that they were written thousands of years ago and times have changed, but are some of them still useful?

**Answer:** The ten Commandments are never out-of-date. They express the unchanging will of God in our lives, regardless of changes in human society. If you look at them closely, you will see that the first few Commandments deal with our relationship with God. The other Commandments deal with our relationship with other people and with things. Our lives would be happier if we follow God's prescription for sound living.

*Dallas-Times Herald* July 14, 1955. The Ten Commandments are never out of date.

Proverbs 29:18 "...he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

2 Kings 21:8 "Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them." 2 Laws – God's Law and the Law of Moses.

We will consider God's Law first.

Exodus 31:18 "And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written (with what?) with the finger of God."

**GL-** God's Law was written by God. And it was written with His finger, (that's important). In Stone.

Deuteronomy 10:1, 2, 4, 5 "At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood. And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark."

Verses 4, 5 "And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the Lord spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the Lord gave them unto me. And I turned myself and came down from the mount, and put the tables in the ark which I had made; and there they be, as the Lord commanded me."

**GL-** God's Law was put in the ark. God's Law was called the Ten Commandments.

Now we will look at the Law of Moses.

Deuteronomy 31:9 "And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and unto all the elders of Israel."

**LM-** The Law of Moses was written by Moses.

Deuteronomy 31:24-26 "And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying, Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee."

**LM-** Written with Moses hand; in a book; put in the side of the ark; it was the book of the law; witness against the people.

The ark was about **55 inches long**, and **33 inches wide**. A solid gold lid called the Mercy Seat. Under that lid was where God's Ten Commandments were. And built onto the side of the ark of the covenant was this little compartment.

Leviticus 23:5-11, 13 "In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein."

But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.”

LM- Lord’s Passover; Wave Sheaf.

Verse 13 “And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, and offering made by fire unto the Lord for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.”

LM- Meat and drink offerings.

Verse 24 “Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, (Q.- Which day of the week would that be?) (A. It is an annual Sabbath so it would be on a different day each year.) a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

Verse. 27 “Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you.”

Verse 32 “It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth [day] of the month at even.”

LM- Annual ceremonial Sabbath days.

With this understanding of the two laws, we are now ready to look at some of the New Testament scriptures and determine whether he is speaking of God’s Law or the Law of Moses.

Colossians 2:14-17 “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing to his cross. And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge ye 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.

#### TWO DIFFERENT LAWS

| God’s Law                             | Law of Moses                          |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| God’s Law was written by God          | The Law of Moses was written by Moses |
| It was written with His <u>finger</u> | Written with Moses hand; handwriting. |
| Written In <u>Stone</u>               | In a book                             |
| God’s Law was put <u>in</u> the ark   | Put in the side of the ark            |
| Called the Ten Commandments           | It was the book of the law            |
|                                       | Witness against the people            |
|                                       | Lord’s Passover                       |
|                                       | Wave Sheaf                            |
|                                       | Meat and drink offerings              |
|                                       | Annual ceremonial Sabbath days        |

Colossians 2:14-17 cannot be talking about God’s Law as it had handwriting; there are no ordinances in the Ten Commandments; only the Law of Moses would witness against the people. God’s Law was written in stone showing its permanence and was put into the ark; while the Law of Moses was written in a book and placed in the side of the ark, showing it was temporary. Meat and drink offerings were in the ceremonial laws and the sabbath days were the seven annual feast days. The laws pertaining to ceremony and sacrifice were shadows pointing to Christ, while God’s seventh day Sabbath pointed back to creation.

Ephesians 2:15 **“Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances.”** Ordinances are either civil laws governing behavior or laws pertaining to ceremonies and sacrifices.

At the cross the ceremonial system of sacrifices came to an end.

Hebrews 9:8-10 **“The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.”**

1 Corinthians 5:7 **“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”**

1 Corinthians 15:3, 4 **“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”**

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 **“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.”**

Revelation 14:14-16 **“And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.”**

### **A COMPARISON BETWEEN GOD'S LAW AND MOSES' LAW**

|   | <b>God's Law</b>                                      | <b>Moses' Law</b>                                               |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | God's law is the royal law of liberty (James 2: 8-12) | Moses' law was against the people (Deut. 31:26).                |
| 2 | God's law was spoken by God (Deut. 4:12).             | Moses' law was spoken by Moses' (Leviticus 1:1-3)               |
| 3 | God's law was written by God on stone (Ex.24:12)      | Written by Moses in a book (2 Chronicles 35:12)                 |
| 4 | God's law was placed in the ark (Hebrews 9:4).        | Placed in the side of the ark (Deuteronomy 31:26).              |
| 5 | God's law was to stand forever (Psalm 111:7,8).       | Moses' law ended at the cross (Col. 2:14; Heb. 9:10)            |
| 6 | God's law gives the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20).   | Moses' law showed what to do because of sin (Heb.8:3; Heb.9:7). |
| 7 | God's law is not grievous (1 John 5:3).               | Moses' law is contrary to us (Colossians 2:14).                 |
| 8 | God's law judges all men (James 2:10-12).             | Moses' law judges no man (Colossians 2:14-17).                  |
| 9 | God's law is spiritual (Romans 7:14).                 | Moses' law is carnal (Hebrews 7:16 & 9:10).                     |

God is good (Luke 18:19).

God is holy (Isaiah 6:3).

God is just (Deuteronomy 32:4).

God is perfect (Matthew 5:48).

God is love (1 John 4:8).

God is righteous (Rev. 16:5).

God is truth (John 14:6).

God is pure (1 John 3:3).

God is spiritual (John 4:24).

God is unchangeable (James 1:17).

God stands forever (James 1:17).

His law is good (Romans 7:12).

His law is holy (Romans 7:12).

His law is just (Romans 7:12).

His law is perfect (Psalm 19:7).

His law is love (Matthew 22:37-40).

His law is righteous (Psalm 119:172).

His law is truth (Psalm 119:142).

His law is pure (Psalm 19:8).

His law is spiritual (Romans 7:14).

His law is unchangeable (Matt. 5:18).

His law stands forever (Psalm 111:7,8)

**Question:** Doesn't living under grace, by faith, make keeping God's law non-essential?

Romans 3:31 **"Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."**

**Question:** Doesn't the Bible teach that we're not under the law?

Romans 6:14, 15 **"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid."**

**Question:** What does it mean to be under law?

To be under the law means to be under the condemnation of the law. The person keeping the law is truly free.

Romans 3:19-20 **"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."**

Since I have broken God's law this means death. To be under grace means to accept God's grace as a means of salvation. By faith I accept Christ's death in place of my sins.

Romans 8:1 **"There is therefore now no condemnation [NOT—NO LAW!] to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."**

Holy Spirit filled Christians will keep God's law

Romans 5:13 **"...sin is not imputed, when there is no law."**

Galatians 3:23-25 **"But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."**

\*\*\*Speeding in Virginia.

\*\*\*Example of murderer on death row for killing a policeman being given a pardon by the governor.

Ephesians 2:8, 9 **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."**

**Question:** Does grace do away with God's law?

Romans 6:1, 2 **"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"**

Grace always leads to obedience, never to disobedience. Love always leads to obedience. Jesus always leads to obedience.

Romans 3:31 **"Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."**

Matthew 5:17 **"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."**

Does fulfill mean to do away with? NO!

When we fulfill a speed limit law, does that do away with the law? NO! We are keeping the requirements. If a man fulfilled the marriage vows, does that do away with the vows? NO! He kept the vows because he loves his wife.

Mr. Brown gave his wife total fulfillment, so did that do away with his wife because she was a fulfilled person? Fulfillment means "to fill to the full".

Matthew 3:15 **"And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him."**

Phillipians 2:2 **“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”**

Colossians 1:25 **“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God.”**

What does it mean that Jesus came to “fulfill” the law?

Isaiah 42:21 **“The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.”**

Romans 8:3, 4 **“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”**

John 14:15 **“If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”**

1 John 5:3 **“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”**

Exodus 20:2 **“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”**

Hebrews 4:2 **“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.”**

Hebrews 3:16 **“For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.”**

Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? **“Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”**

Ephesians 2:8, 9 **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”**

**Question:** Does the new covenant incorporate God's law?

Hebrews 10:16 **“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.”**

Psalms 40:8 **“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.”**

Romans 8:7 **“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”**

If there is no law, there is no sin.

If there is no sin, then there is no death.

If there is no death, then man is immortal.

If man is immortal, then man is as god.

If man is as God, then Satan did not lie in the Garden of Eden - and God is a liar.

And if you don't have LAW, you don't have SIN,

And if you don't have SIN, you don't need GRACE.

And if you don't need GRACE, you wouldn't need CHRIST.

And if you don't need CHRIST, you wouldn't have a GOSPEL.

And if you don't have a GOSPEL, you wouldn't need a PREACHER.

And if you don't need any PREACHERS, you might as well get rid of the CHURCH!!

**Does Paul say God's Law was made void?**

Romans 3:31 **“Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.”**

Romans 6:1, 2 **“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid.”**  
Romans 6:15 **“What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.”**  
Romans 7:7 **“What shall we say then? [is] the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”**

Paul plainly upheld God’s Law.

It is Satan. Not Christ who wants Christian’s to believe God’s Law ended at the cross.

Satan hates God, he hates God’s Law and in particular he hates the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment pertaining to God’s Sabbath.

Is it even possible to keep God’s Commandments?

Philippians 4:13 **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”**

Hebrews 8:10 **“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.”**

John 14:15 **“If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”** Would Jesus ask us to do something that was not possible to do?

Christ’s law compels us to serve Him.

Jesus died because of sin. He bids us, **“Go and sin no more.”**

**I would not work my soul to save,  
For this My Lord has done.  
But I would work like any slave,  
For the love of God’s dear Son.**

**End Semester 2 – Week 4 - Class 8**  
**WHEN GRACE BECOMES A DISGRACE**

*Next Class* **Semester 2 – Week 5 - Class 9 “God’s Test of Loyalty”**