

Why then the Law?

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 5:6-21

At the start of the of the passage God reminds us who He is and what He has done. In verse 6 God reminds the Israelites that they had been set free from slavery in Egypt. Like them, we too have been set free.

The question is why the commandments?

- Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:17-18 ***Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.*** ¹⁸ ***For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not ^[a]the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.***
- This tells us that God is not yet done. His Word continues to be relevant today as it was 2000 years ago.
- Jesus Himself tells us in Romans 8:1-4 that He came to fulfill the law
- We have all been set free in Christ Jesus, if you have not been set free then you continue to live in condemnation and therefore the wages for your sin is death.
- There are many commandments and we cannot fulfill all those commands all of the time. Jesus in Matthew 23:34-39 summarizes the commandments into just 2: ***YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.*** ³⁸ ***This is the great and ^[b]foremost commandment.*** ³⁹ ***The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'***
- Similarly, the first four commandments is focused on our relationship with God and on how God wants us to relate to Him. The remaining six were given to teach us how to relate to others.
- But then we are unable to completely keep the commandments to gain righteousness and that is why Jesus had to come in order to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law and we find our righteousness in Him.

Why then is there a need for the commandments?

- Romans 3:19-20 says ***Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are ^[a]under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;***
- We need to be held accountable to love God and to love others
- The law is there so that we become knowledgeable of sin, we become conscious of sin and then become accountable
- When we realize how sinful we are, we will then realize how much we have been forgiven
- Galatians 3:10-11 ***For as many as are of the works of ^[a]the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."*** ¹¹ ***Now that no one is justified ^[b]by ^[c]the Law before God is evident; for, ^[d]THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."***
- Many believe that they can achieve righteousness based on their own efforts or performance but this would mean that we are able to obey all of the laws all of the time because God demands perfection
- Verse 11 reminds us that we have been justified by the law before God through Jesus Christ, and that righteousness was given to us through Him. Our righteousness therefore is no longer based on our ability to obey the law but rather it is based on the grace we have received through faith in Jesus Christ
- Galatians 3:19 says ***Why the Law then? It was added ^[ac]because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the ^[ad]agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.***
- The law is put to effect to point us to Christ on the cross. After Christ, grace then points us back to Christ on the cross. It is on the cross that we see justice, mercy and grace completed and fulfilled.
 - Justice – is getting what we deserve
 - Mercy – is not getting what we deserve
 - Grace – is getting something we do not deserve

- Romans 6:14 tells us that ***For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.***
- The question is: Why then do we continue to live under the bondage of the law forgetting that we have been given grace, unmerited favor, a blessing that came at the cross at the expense of the life of Jesus Christ which was given to us freely but cost the Father dearly
- Grace is: **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**
- Unfortunately some people made the practice of the law a religion becoming legalistic, this is true today as it was 2000 years ago. (Acts 15)
- Others on the other hand, think that grace is a license to continue to sin. (Romans 6:15-16 and Jude 1:1-4)
- We cannot claim to be a child of God and continue to live a life of sin. This would only prove that we remain the masters of our life and that we continue to be slaves to sin. . . Our faith then becomes mere lip service since Jesus is not yet Lord and Master of our lives
- The law was put in place for a purpose, God did not set it aside instead Jesus came to fulfill the requirements of the law so that we can achieve righteousness and freedom
- We should no longer live a defeated life but rather live in freedom and victory under grace, living our life as true followers and imitators of Jesus Christ

How do we do this?

- A. First we have to test ourselves. (2 Corinthians 13:5; James 1:22-25)
 - It is not our role to test others, but rather our role is to check ourselves
 - Examine our life, our attitude, our priorities, our relationships
 - Resist the temptation to compare ourselves with others but rather let us compare ourselves with Christ
- B. Be in a discipleship relationship (Hebrews 12:15; James 5:19-20)
 - It is in this kind of relationship that we can find encouragement to help us strengthen our walk
 - It is also in this relationship that we can be kept in check, held accountable





OBSERVATION:

Study the passage. What details stand out to you the most? You can also re-write the passage in your own words to make it more personal.

1. Read the bible verses cited above. Which bible verse spoke to you the most?
2. How can you practice the application points in your life?

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	Personal: Read 2 Corinthians 13:5, James 1:22-25, Hebrews 12:15 and James 5:19-20 Looking at our life, at our choices – are we living a life that has been set free or do we continue to live in bondage if sin? Is Jesus really Lord and Master of our lives?
	Family: As a family, how have you become witnesses for God? Do the people around you see Jesus in your lives? Are we able to accept feedback about how we are as followers of Christ? How are we living out our faith? How are we living out our life of grace?
	Discipleship: Do people around you see the love of Jesus? How do you share or emulate the love of Jesus to others? By looking at your life – your words and actions, can they tell you are a follower of Jesus?
	Church/ Ministry: Is God prompting you to work in His ministry? How can you best be a witness of God's grace and love? How do intend to show that you are a follower of Jesus? (Be specific)

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.