

## Revering and Loving the Law

We have seen that the Old Covenant Mosaic Law has been fulfilled in Christ and replaced by the New Covenant. The **Old Covenant has fulfilled its place in the history of redemption** and has laid the **necessary groundwork** for the Messiah to come and bring in the **New Covenant age of Messianic Salvation**. Moreover, we have acknowledged that the Law continues to fulfill some very important roles for us as a **curb, mirror, and guide** (pgs 12-13). Now in acknowledging these roles of the Law for us, let us understand and affirm that the Old Covenant Law is in fact the very words of God, along with all of the Old Testament, and it holds the **highest place** of reverence for us along with all of **the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments**. We are not to think that the Old Testament has somehow been relegated to a lesser place in our hearts and minds, but does in fact hold the highest place of reverence as it is in fact God's very words, and a clear declaration for us of His character and nature, as well as a solid guide into His will and His ways and His plans for redemptive history. We simply must understand how to read and apply the Law, in light of the fact that the Messiah has come and fulfilled it and given much instruction, along with the Apostles, on how to rightly understand, interpret and apply it. This we are going to learn in further detail as we begin to look at the New Testament passages that deal with the Law in the coming weeks. But let us understand that the Law should uphold and support in our hearts as a mighty foundation, the very throne of the great King Jesus, and as such, should be the object of much of our attention and affection. It should serve as a bright and shining light in showing and teaching us about our holy God and His ways. Let us use it therefore, for the things that God intended it for. If the Law makes us conscious of sin, then let it therefore do its work. As we read it and meditate on it, let it make our sin manifest to us and convict us. Let it be that schoolmaster that continually reminds us of our great need for Christ.

**Romans 3:20** - 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; **for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.** NASB

**Galatians 3:24** - 24 Therefore **the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.** NASB

Of course the great good news is, as we read the Law and learn again of our sin, we rejoice in the greatness of the salvation of God in Christ which has delivered us from the terror of the Law and made us sons and daughters in God's family, forgiven and blessed forever. The Law then motivates greater faith and gratitude, as we see its holy terrors and realize even more how blessed we are to be forgiven and adopted! We can then learn to love the Law, and the conviction it brings, as it will do its work in teaching who God is and in learning his ways. It should occupy, along with the prophets much of our love and affection. We can learn to delight in the conviction it brings, and even long to be conformed to its holy standard, even as our precious Lord was perfectly conformed to it.

**Psalm 1:2** - 2 But **his delight is in the law of the Lord.** And in His law he meditates day and night. NASB The Law's own testimony is that it is perfect and sure, giving wisdom and restoring the soul. Its precepts are right and bring joy even as its commandments are pure and give light to the eyes. It is clean and enduring, and its judgments are true and altogether righteous. Yes the Law is sweeter than honey and more desirable than fine gold.

**Psalm 19:7-10** - 7 The **law of the Lord is perfect**, restoring the soul; The **testimony of the Lord is sure**, making wise the simple. 8 The **precepts of the Lord are right**, rejoicing the heart; **The commandment of the Lord is pure**, enlightening the eyes. 9 **The fear of the Lord is clean**, enduring forever; **The judgments of the Lord are true**; they are righteous altogether. 10 **They are more desirable than gold**, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. NASB

It is not that the Law is able to save sinners, only Jesus can do that. But it surely can enlighten us and teach us about our glorious God and impart His wisdom and knowledge to us. This is what we love about the Law. We love how it shows us the holiness of God. We love the way it convicts us as if to drive the sin out of our hearts and minds as we learn what pleases and displeases our God and Father. We treasure the Law for these reasons and we therefore allow it to work its God intended good work in us!

**Psalm 119:1-12** - 119 How blessed are those whose way is **blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord.** 2 How blessed are those **who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart.** 3 They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in **His ways.** 4 Thou hast ordained **Thy precepts,** That we should keep them diligently. 5 Oh that **my ways may be established To keep Thy statutes!** 6 Then I **shall not be ashamed When I look upon all Thy commandments.** 7 I shall give thanks to Thee with uprightness of heart, When I **learn Thy righteous judgments.** 8 I shall keep Thy statutes; Do not forsake me utterly! 9 **How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word.** 10 **With all my heart I have sought Thee;** Do not let me wander from Thy commandments. 11 **Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee.** 12 Blessed art Thou, O Lord; Teach me Thy statutes. NASB

The **Lutheran Formula of Concord** is absolutely right in when it says, “*We believe, teach, and confess that the preaching of the Law is to be urged with diligence, not only upon the unbelieving and impenitent, but also upon true believers, who are truly converted, regenerate, and justified by faith*” (Epitome 6.2). Preachers must preach the Law without embarrassment. Parents must insist on obedience to its moral aspects without shame. The Law can, and should, be urged upon true believers—not to condemn, but to correct and promote Christlikeness. Both the indicatives of Scripture and the imperatives are from God, for our good, and given in grace. You see then that there is much profit even for us born again New Covenant believers in reading and studying and preaching the Law. The **Belgic Confession** says about the law, “*we continue to use the witnesses drawn from the law and prophets to confirm us in the gospel and to regulate our lives with full integrity for the glory of God, according to his will*” (Art. 25) This is why Paul says...

**Romans 3:31** - 31 Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, **we establish the Law.** NASB

Through the moral aspects of the Law, we establish the goodness of God and the holiness of God in our hearts and minds so that we may learn of our shortcomings and sin, acknowledge the goodness of God and seek to conform to it. As we see God’s goodness, we long to be like Him as the Spirit creates this godly desire in us. As we see our sin, we loathe and hate it and long to put it off. But this leads us to deeper faith in Christ as we realize our utter inability to conform to it and therefore run for refuge to our Savior, who has covered and washed and atoned for all of our failures. We therefore rejoice in the great salvation that Christ is for us and this cycle sanctifies us in greater and greater measure as the Spirit slowly but surely changes us from glory to glory. This is exactly how Paul reasons in Romans 7 and 2 Corinthians 3.

**Romans 7:12** - 12 So then, **the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.**

**Romans 7:14 -18** - 14 For we know that **the Law is spiritual;** but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15 For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for **I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.** 16 But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, **I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good.** 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; **for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.** NASB

**Romans 7:22-25** - 22 **For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,** 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 25 **Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. NASB

**2 Corinthians 3:18** - 18 But we all, with unveiled face **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,** just as from the Lord, the Spirit. NASB