

VI. Although true believers be not under the law, as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified, or condemned; yet is it of great use to them, as well as to others; in that, as a rule of life informing them of the will of God, and their duty, it directs and binds them to walk accordingly; discovering also the sinful pollutions of their nature, hearts and lives; so as, examining themselves thereby, they may come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against sin, together with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ, and the perfection of His obedience. It is likewise of use to the regenerate, to restrain their corruptions, in that it forbids sin: and the threatenings of it serve to show what even their sins deserve; and what afflictions, in this life, they may expect for them, although freed from the curse thereof threatened in the law. The promises of it, in like manner, show them God's approbation of obedience, and what blessings they may expect upon the performance thereof: although not as due to them by the law as a covenant of works. So as, a man's doing good, and refraining from evil, because the law encourages to the one and deters from the other, is no evidence of his being under the law: and not under grace.

A. true believers be not under the law, as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified, or condemned; - Now they clearly understood the Gospel in that we are not *“justified”* by the works of the Law but rather by faith in Christ.

Romans 3:20-24 - 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. 21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe**; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 **being justified as a gift by His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; NASB

Romans 3:28 - 28 For we maintain that **a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law**. NASB
Galatians 2:16 - 16 nevertheless knowing that **a man is not justified by the works of the Law** but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since **by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified**. NASB

Moreover, that as *“true believers”* we are not *“condemned”* by the Law.

Romans 8:1-2 - 1 **There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus **has set you free** from the law of sin and of death. NASB

These great promises are ours because we are no longer *“under the Law”* because *“faith has come”* and delivered *“under grace.”* We have been delivered from the power of sin and death by Christ and stand in Him free from the condemnation of the Law.

Romans 6:11-14 - 11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body** that you should obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, **for you are not under law, but under grace**. NASB

Galatians 3:22-25 - 22 But the Scripture has shut up all men under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 **But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed**. 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. 25 But **now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor**. NASB

Galatians 5:18 - 18 **But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law**. NASB

B. great use to them, as well as to others; in that, as a rule of life informing them of the will of God it directs and binds them to walk accordingly; - See here how they understand that even though we are not *“under the Law to be justified or condemned,”* the Law has *“great use”* to us believers, as well as to others (unbelievers...to curb them for public order). This *“great use”* is *“as a rule of life informing them of the will of God.”* A *“rule”* here meaning

how we **measure** what “*God’s will*” (or general desire for us as His image bearers) is. As we understand and are “*informed*” what God’s desire for how we should live is through the moral Law, we then are “*directed and bound to walk accordingly.*” See here the **imperatives** (binding commandments) that come with the **indicatives** (free promises) in the Gospel of New Testament. The Apostles made it abundantly clear that we are indeed bound to “*walk according*” to the commandments of the moral Law, now having that Law written on our hearts.

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Romans 8:12-13 - 12 So then, brethren, **we are under obligation, not to the flesh,** to live according to the flesh, 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. NASB

1 John 2:3-6 - 3 And by this **we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.** 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and **does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;** 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. NASB

- C. **discovering also the sinful pollutions of their nature, hearts and lives; come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against sin, together with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ, and the perfection of His obedience.** – They knew that the Law showed us the “*sinful pollutions*” of our own “*nature, hearts and lives.*” Because the Law is an expression of true moral virtue as it reflects God’s character and nature, it therefore gives very specific definition to what sin is, or what violates God’s nature. Therefore the Law gives us clear insight into our own sinful nature, making us conscious of sin in our hearts and lives, serving as a **mirror** for us to clearly see ourselves according to the “*rule of life*” or measurement of true righteousness expressed in the Law.

Romans 3:19-20 - 19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may become accountable to God; 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

Romans 7:7-13 - 7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, **I would not have come to know sin except through the Law;** for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "You shall not covet." 8 **But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind;** for apart from the Law sin is dead. 9 And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; 11 **for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me.** 12 **So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.** NASB

Romans 7:22-24 - 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? NASB

Together with the Law, the Spirit therefore brings conviction of sin, so we “*come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against sin.*” For what true believer is not **convicted** of and **humbled** by his/her own sin, coming to a **hatred** of it? This causing us to see even clearer the manifold scope of the grace of God is saving us, and so together with conviction of sin we gain “*a clearer sight of the need*” we “*have of Christ,*” and realize “*the*