

## LAWLESSNESS

*Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

*Mat 7:22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'*

*Mat 7:23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

Since the decline of the early church and the depth of the dark ages, God has been restoring truths one by one to the church. Luther came on the scene and brought justification by faith back to the church. At the turn of the last century God restored the baptism of the Holy Spirit to the church. Later in that same century God restored healing, and then the gifts of the Spirit, and then the importance of faith and the Word. In these days God is bringing forth the revelation of grace that was given to the Apostle Paul. We are not only justified by grace through faith, but we are blessed and are to live holy by faith in grace. The Mosaic Law has been fulfilled by the perfect life and death of the Lord Jesus. [Matt. 5:17, Col. 2:14] His perfect righteousness is given by a gift from God, and it is by and through this gift that God is able to bless us and move among us unhindered. [Rom 5:17] God moves in our life based upon obedience, righteousness, and holiness, but just not *our imperfect offerings of these*. God only moves in our life based upon *perfect* obedience, righteousness, and holiness. The only one who offered these in perfection to God was Christ. It is by faith in the forgiveness of sins and in this gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ that we will receive from God in each and every circumstance of our life. Our own obedience and holiness is not the grounds for receiving from God. Jesus is! This was the gospel that Paul preached, and the message for which he was severely persecuted for teaching. Legalists would take this message and say that Paul was encouraging people to live in sin and that their behavior did not matter to God. Many unbelievers said, "Great, we can commit more sin, and God will get more glory!" Paul said to these people that their condemnation was just. [Rom 3:8] These people who misunderstood

grace and even perverted it thought that since they were free from the Law of Moses, that they were free from **all laws**. These people are called "**Antinomian- Anti-law**". When Jesus comes back to earth he will confront a rampant problem that is arising today, called **lawlessness**.

**Mat 13:41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,**

When he comes back to earth, Jesus will confront many false prophets that wore sheep's clothing. They will declare that they prophesied in His name and did many works in His name. Jesus will say that **HE NEVER KNEW** them. They never placed faith in Christ's sacrifice for their sins and received His righteousness. Jesus will say that they **PRACTICED LAWLESSNESS**. [Matt. 7:23] They were NEVER born again. Jesus **NEVER** knew them. These received and taught a dangerous message that is on the rise even in this day. It is called **Universalism**. This teaching proclaims grace, but it is a perversion of the grace **of God**. It is actually an extreme version of Antinomianism-anti-law. Those who hold to this teaching say that Jesus fulfilled God's holy law by the death of Christ and that by his sacrifice he has saved everyone, ***even those who do not believe upon Christ, or worship other gods***. They will say that God's grace frees them from the all responsibility for their behavior. Universalism is becoming very popular in the gay community. They love a "gospel" that promises salvation, irrespective of their faith or behavior. The mistakes these deluded individuals make is that they believe that we are saved by grace alone and that this grace frees us from all law. ***This was not the message of Paul***. We are not simply saved by grace as the Universalists say. We are saved by grace **THROUGH FAITH**. [Eph. 2:8] Grace must be received by faith. We cannot obtain grace without faith. Grace is the unmerited favor **and ability of God**. God's grace does not free us to sin, but gives us **power to be free from sin**. Grace does not free us to live as we want, but frees us to live as God wants! When we place our faith in Christ then the grace that saves us will also teach us to deny ungodliness and unrighteousness! [Titus 2:11-12] Grace does not free us to live lawless, but actually saves us from lawlessness!

(Tit 2:14 NKJV) who gave Himself for us, that He **might redeem us from every lawless deed** and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

Receiving Christ not only places righteousness on our account [*imputation*], but also place righteousness IN us [*impartation*]! [Eph. 4:24, 2 Cor. 5:21] We receive a new heart at salvation. [Ezek. 36:26] The heart of a pig [that loves the mud] is replaced by a heart of a sheep [that hates the mud]!

Paul did not teach we are free from ***all law***. Paul lived without the Law of Moses **BUT HE DID NOT LIVE WITHOUT LAW.**

1Co 9:20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law;

1Co 9:21 to those *who are* without law, as without law (**not being without law toward God**, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law;

Paul said that when he was among the Gentiles, he ate what they ate, wore what they wore, and conducted himself like them [except for sinning of course]. To those without the law [Mosaic Law], he lived as without [the Mosaic Law], but he added that he was **NOT WITHOUT LAW TOWARDS GOD**. Paul was under law towards God. What law was this?

1Jn 3:23 And **this is His commandment**: that ***we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another***, as He gave us commandment.

Rom 3:27 Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by **the law of faith**.

Joh 13:34 A **new commandment I give to you**, that you **love** one another; ***as I have loved you, that you also love one another.***

Jas 2:8 If you really fulfill *the* **royal law** according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL **LOVE** YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you do well;

Paul was not under the Mosaic Law, but he realized he still was under law towards God. He was under the **Law of Faith and the Law of Love**. Paul rejected the Law of Moses as a means of becoming right before God; however, Paul lived by the law of love and the law of faith towards God. Paul was not an Antinomian! We must not be either! Those who pervert grace say that they can sin because they are “under” grace. If they were under grace then sin would not have dominion over them. Paul declared that when we are under grace, then sin will not have dominion over us! [Romans 6:14]

**Living in sin is actually lawlessness!**

1Jn 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness.**

***Sin is lawlessness.*** Sin is the rejection and breaking of the Law of Moses but **also** it is the rejection of ***God's Law of Love and Faith***. If you walk in faith in Christ and walk in His love then you will **NOT SIN!** When we place our faith in Christ, then the Spirit of Love will empower us to love others. When we believe in Christ and love others we will not break any of God's laws. Walking in faith and love is the fulfilling the Law of God. [Gal. 5:14, James 2:8]

Lawlessness is rampant today and is masquerading as grace. This makes preaching the genuine grace of God difficult.

Mat 24:12 And because **lawlessness will abound**, the love of many will grow cold.

Jesus foretold about our day. He said that in these days, that lawlessness will abound. Because of this, the love of many will grow cold. Lawlessness produces **unbelief** and **cold love**. **This is because the law of love and faith are being rejected and not exercised!**

It is possible even to do outward religious things and be lawless. Religious people break both the Mosaic Law [no one keeps the Mosaic Law] **and the law of faith and love**. Therefore, they are lawless!

Mat 23:28 Even so you also **outwardly appear righteous to men**, but **inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.**

You don't have to have faith or love to be religious! Often the most religious are the most unbelieving and unloving people around! We should have nothing to do with lawlessness. We must reject it whenever and wherever we see it!

**2Co 6:14** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

Jesus hates lawlessness and so should we!

**Heb 1:9** YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS MORE THAN YOUR COMPANIONS."

In this day God is reviving the revelation of the genuine grace of God in truth. [Col. 1:6] However, Satan is and will continue to come against this move of God with his false version of grace which is lawlessness/Universalism.

**2Th 2:7** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way.

It is important to realize this and be ready for it. We must be able to accurately teach the grace of God and avoid the errors regarding it. We ***must also not shy away from preaching and teaching the grace of God*** because many who teach lawlessness will bring the teaching of grace into disrepute. People who do not understand grace will try to lump you into the same category with those who preach lawlessness. Do not be swayed by this. Keep teaching the truth. The elect will hear you and receive it. Those who are unbelieving and perverted will never believe anyway no matter what you say. Will you be a herald of the grace of God? Time is short. Be faithful to the end.