

GSM

THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE LAW

I. The Whole Law

A. **James 2:10**- The Law is seen by God as a whole, not individual commandments. There were over 600 individual commandments that comprised the WHOLE law.

1. The Law was like a pane of glass- a breaking of any place in the glass ruined it all.
2. Being guilty of one point was being guilty of all
3. Those that preach law today think that God accepts their best. One of our problems is that we don't always do our best even if we declare we do!

B. **Galatians 5:3**- Those that put themselves under the Law must keep the whole law

1. God does not grade on a curve- His passing grade is 100%!
2. Legalists think that all God requires of us is to attempt to keep the whole law.
3. If you are going to approach God by way of Law then you **MUST** keep the WHOLE Law- not attempt to keep it.

C. **2 Chron. 33:8**- Israel would be rejected out of the land unless they kept the whole law

D. **Deut 28**- The blessings rest upon if ALL God's commandments are kept

E. Three sections of the Law

- A. Moral
- B. Levitical- sacrificial system and laws of the Levites
- C. Civil

D. Many legalists today preach that we are under the Law and all they preach is the moral law. God did not leave that option. He commanded that the whole law be kept to receive blessing and to live. The Levitical and civil laws are to be kept as well.

E. Once Jesus came God did not intend that the Jews live under the Law. He wanted them to receive grace through Jesus Christ, so He made it impossible to keep the Law when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

F. Under Law you were to go to Jerusalem for yearly feasts and sacrifice in the temple. When the temple was destroyed this was made impossible and still is impossible today!

G. Not only is keeping the letter of the Law impossible by effort but it is a physical impossibility.

H. **Romans 3:19**- The Law was never given to the Gentiles at all. Why then are many gentiles trying to be justified by it?

I. The Law was a test case for Israel to show the world it was hopeless to be saved by performance.

II. What the Law could not do

A. **Acts 13:39**- The Law could not justify. It could not make you make you as you ought to be.

B. **Galatians 3:21**- The Law could not impart life. We were spiritually dead. The Law could just maintain your life. Lev. 18:5

C. **Hebrews 10:1**- The Law demanded you be perfect but it could not make you perfect

D. **Hebrews 10:11**- It could not remove sins. It could only cover sins.

E. **Romans 8:3**- It could not condemn sin. It only could condemn sinners. By what Jesus did on the cross He condemned sin and freed us from it's authority and control.

III. What the Law could do

A. **Romans 3:19**- It could hold you guilty

B. **2 Cor. 3:6**- The Law pronounces death sentence

C. **2 Cor. 3:9**- It condemns you

D. **Romans 3:20**- The Law gives you the knowledge of sin

E. **Romans 5:20**- It makes offense increase

F. **1 Cor. 15:56**- It strengthens sin against you, not you against sin

G. **Romans 7:8**- It stirs up the desires of the flesh

H. **Galatians 3:22-25**- It teaches us about Christ and leads us to Christ and to faith

IV. The purpose of the Law

A. God did not ever give the Law to bless people with but to condemn them with it.

B. God did not give the Law to make people righteous but to show them they were unrighteous

C. The Law was given to show people sins so they would come to a realization they were sinners.

D. God wanted to show man his heart was desperately evil and wrong and they needed a new heart

E. **Ezek. 18:29-32**- God tells them to get a new heart and a new spirit

F. **Isaiah 1:16**- Make yourself clean and wash yourselves

G. **Jer. 13:23**- Man cannot change His nature

H. The Law was given to show man his sins to reveal he was a sinner and to teach about Jesus Christ our Righteousness!