

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
“The Power Of The Law”
Galatians 4:4-5

Introduction:

1. Let's Begin Our Time In God's Word Tonight:
 - By Turning To:
 - Galatians 4:4-5 - Where We Read These Evangelical Words!
 - Or - Words Full Of Gospel & Grace!
 - “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, / To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons!”
2. Not Only Do These Verses:
 - Reveal Jesus - As:
 - A Special Solution:
 - Who Came - “To Redeem!” (4:5)
 - They Also Reveal:
 - A Special Problem:
 - To Be Overcome **By** His Coming!
 - Two Times:
 - We Read This Phrase:
 - “Under The Law!”
 - Jesus Was Made;
 - “Under The Law!”
 - So That He Could:
 - “Redeem Them That Were Under The Law!”
3. What Does It Mean:
 - To Be “Under The Law”?
 - It Means That There Is:
 - A Certain Kind Of Strength & Power:
 - To The Law Of God!
 - It Means That:
 - The Law Is Like A Great Weight:
 - That Crushes All Who Are:
 - Under Its Dominion!
 - **IE:** Have You Ever Been Buried In The Sand On A Day At The Beach? I Mean - Really Buried! Never Liked It - Because - When Properly Done - You Can't Move! You Can't Get Out - Without Some Help! To Be “Under The Law” Is Like:
 - Being Buried Alive “Under” The Ground!
 - With Each Shovel-Ful Of Dirt:
 - The Weight & Pressure Of The Earth Compounds - Until You Realize There Is No Way Out!
 - To Be “Under The Law” Is Not Merely A Feeling:
 - But The Fact - That You Are Completely Desperate:
 - For The Help Of God:
 - Through His Mercy & His Grace!
 - So - Even Though - In Romans 8:3:
 - Paul Describes God's Law:
 - As “Weak” - And - “Weak Through The Flesh!”
 - There Still Is A Strength & Power To God's Law!
4. There Is Power:
 - Because Of The Law's Designer!
 - Because It Comes From God:
 - Who Is The Great Law-Giver!
 - And - The Law - In A Special Way:
 - Reflects:
 - God's Own Character!
 - And - Reveals:

- God's Own Will!

5. There Is Also Power In The Law:

- Because Of The Law's Design!

- Paul Called It "Weak" In Romans:

- Because God's Law Was Never Designed:

- To **Produce** Righteousness & Holiness!

- In Fact - It **Can't!**

- Because - Even If You Keep All Of God's Laws:

- Except One - You Are Just As Guilty:

- Before God - As If You Broke:

- Them All!

- James 2:10 - "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all!"

- This Is Because - God's Law:

- Is Woven Together Like A Tapestry Or A Blanket:

- Made Out Of Wool!

- Not Only That:

- But - No One Can Keep God's Law:

- In The Way He Intended:

- From The Heart!

- Keeping Both The Letter & The Spirit Of His Law!

- In Your Deeds & From The Depth Of Your Heart!

- So - Yes - When The Law Is Seen & Used:

- As A Means Of Righteousness & Salvation:

- It Is Very, Very Weak!

- **But** - When God's Law:

- Fulfills Its True Function:

- It Is Powerful & It Is Strong!

- As Paul Put It In:

- 1 Corinthians 15:56 - "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law!"

6. So - What Is The Power Of God's Law?

- This Will Be Our Focus Tonight!

- Because - First - As We Saw Last Week:

- The Law Is Powerful:

1. **To Confront Sinners With Their Sin!**

- Never Forget - That God's Law:

- Really Does Reflect God's Nature!

- And:

- Since God Is Light:

- His Law Is Light:

- And Will Confront & Expose:

- The Darkness Of Your Heart!

- Since God Is Truth:

- His Law Is Truth:

- And Will Confront & Expose:

- The Deceitfulness Of Your Heart!

- Jeremiah 17:9 - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

- And:

- Since God Is Life:

- His Law Has A Quality Of Life In It:

- That Will Confront & Expose:

- The Deadness Of Your Heart!

- Remember - God's Law:

- Cannot Change Your Heart:

- As A Sinner!

- It Can Only Confront & Expose You:

- For Who You Really Are!

- However - Even That Exposure:

- To God's Light & Truth & Life:
 - Is Ignored By Sinners:
 - Unless & Until - It Is Accompanied By The Quickening Power Of The Holy Spirit!
- But - The Law Is Still Powerful & Strong! Also:

2. ***To Control Sinners By Their Sin!***

- Turn Back With Me To:
 - Romans 7:7-9 - "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. / But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. / For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died!"
 - Here - Paul Explains How:
 - God's Law Actually:
 - ***Stirred Up:***
 - What Was Really In His Heart!
 - The Law Of God:
 - Does Not Cause Sin:
 - But - It Does - In The Words Of 7:8:
 - Provide The "Occasion" Of Sin!
 - This Means That It Will:
- Reveal Your True Affections:
 - And - What You Really ***Want*** To Do:
 - From Your Heart!
 - ***IE:*** Like A Sign You Might See - "Do Not Touch!" - Or - "Do Not Trespass!"
 - When You Are Told - "Don't Do This" - And - "Don't Do That!"
 - Many Times - What Do You Want To Do?
 - All Of Us Have:
 - From The Very Beginning Of Our Lives:
 - The Heart Of A Rebel!
 - ***IE:*** Don't You Find It Interesting That God - In Proverbs 22:6 - Tells Us To - "Train Up A Child In The Way He ***Should*** Go!"
 - It's Because - No Child:
 - Needs To Be Trained:
 - In The Way He Or She ***Should Not*** Go!
 - It Comes Naturally To Them! Just Like It Came Naturally To You!
 - It Is Because - Sin Always Wants:
 - To Defy God & His Law!
 - And So - It Will Also:
- Reveal Your True Allegiance!
 - Remember What Jesus Said:
 - In John 8:44 - "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it!"
 - The Reason A Person:
 - Hates & Even Lies - Is Because:
 - His Heart Belongs To The Devil!
 - And - When God's Law Comes On The Scene:
 - ***IE:*** It Is Like An Occupying Power That Is Trying To Take Over & Control The Government Of Another Country & The People Of Another King!
 - And The "Loyalists" Will Resist As Much As They Can! They Will Do Anything To Displease And Discredit And Even Sabotage Their New Master!
- So It Is With God's Law!
 - It's Power & Strength & Weight:
 - Becomes Even Greater!
 - Because - As It Reveals To Sinners:
 - That Which Honors & Pleases God:
 - Sinners Also Discover What He Hates & What Will Displease Him

More!

- The Law Is Powerful:
 - To Confront Sinners With Their Sin!
 - To Control Sinners By Their Sin!
 - Also:

3. To Condemn Sinners By Their Sin!

- Now - Turn Over With Me To:
 - Romans 3:19-20 - Where Paul Writes:
 - “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. / Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin!”
 - **IE:** Just Like When A Criminal Is Arrested And Brought Before A Judge - The First Thing That Takes Place:
 - Is An Arraignment!
 - That Is - An Official Charge Is Brought Against The Suspect! And The Charge Must Be According To The Law! What Law Did He Break?
 - Without A Law - Under Normal Circumstances - There Can Be No Charge!
 - This Is What God’s Law Does:
 - To Sinners! It Brings Forward:
 - A Righteous Charge:
 - Against Us!
 - After All - 1 John 3:4 - “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law!”
 - So Now - With The Written Laws Of God:
 - On Record:
 - Romans 3:19 - “Every Mouth [Is] Stopped!”
 - And That Leads To:
 - A Righteous Conviction:
 - Of Crimes Against God!
 - Romans 3:19 - “All The World [Is] Guilty Before God!”
 - You & I - Apart From Christ - Have:
 - No Answer!
 - No Defense!
 - No Excuse!
 - You Are Guilty As Charged!
 - John Gill - The Law Of God:
 - “Charges [Us] With Sin, And Convicts [Us] Of It, Both Of Its Pollution And Guilt!”
 - And - The Consequence:
 - Of The Righteous Charge:
 - And - The Righteous Conviction:
 - By The Law Of God:
 - Is - The Righteous Condemnation By God Himself:
 - As The “Judge Of All The Earth” - Who Can Only - “Do Right!” (Genesis18:25)
 - And The Power & Strength & Weight:
 - Of God’s Law Becomes Even Greater!
 - As Shovel-Ful After Shovel-Ful:
 - Of Guilt - Is Dumped:
 - On The “Soul That Sinneth, [Who] Will Die!” (Ezekiel 18:4)

* But So - Even More - The Law Is Powerful:

4. To Curse Sinners In Their Sin!

- In Galatians 3:10 - Paul Writes:
 - “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them!”
 - By Referring Back To The Book Of Deuteronomy:

- He Reminds Us That:
 - There Is A Punishment:
 - For Sin & Rebellion Against God & His Law!
- The “Curse” Is The Sentence Of Death!
 - Not Just Physical Death:
 - But Spiritual Death:
 - And Eternal Separation From God In A Place Of Fiery Torment!
- The “Curse” Is Also Described:
 - As The “Wrath Of God” That:
 - Abideth On Those Who Do Not Believe On God’s Son, The Lord Jesus Christ! (John 3;36)
- It Is Also Described:
 - As The “Second Death” - In Revelation 21:8:
 - “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death!”
- And When A Sinner Experiences:
 - The Curse Of God:
 - The Full Weight & Power Of God’s Law:
 - Will Be Felt!
 - And - There Can Be No Escape & There Will Be No Relief!

* So - All Sinners Remain “Under” God’s Law:

- And Its Power & Strength!
 - Entirely Crushed By Its Weight!
 - Layer Upon Layer!
 - But - Once Again:
 - There Is Hope & There Is Help:
 - In Jesus Christ!
- He Alone Is Able To Dig Away Layer After Layer:
 - Of The Heavy Burden Of His Law:
 - Not Over Time:
 - But All At Once!
 - At The Moment You Believe In Him And Are Saved!
- Again - Galatians 4:4-5:
 - “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, / To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons!”
 - Yes - Jesus Was “Made Under The Law” - But:
 - The Law Was Powerless Over Him:
 - Since He “Knew No Sin!”
 - What Was A Burden:
 - To Everyone Else:
 - Was A Delight:
 - To The One Who Could Redeem Us From The Weight & Power Of The Law!

* So - In Christ:

- You Are No Longer:
 - Under The Curse:
 - From Breaking God’s Law!
- Because Jesus:
 - Took Your Curse:
 - Upon Himself!
- Galatians 3:13 - “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree!”

* Also - In Christ:

- You Are No Longer:

- Under The Condemnation:
 - Of Breaking God's Law!
- Because Jesus:
 - Condemned Sin Itself!
- So That Now:
 - Romans 8:1-3 - "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. / For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. / For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh!"

* Even More - In Christ:

- You Are No Longer:
 - Under The Control:
 - Of Your Sin - To Break God's Law!
- Because Jesus:
 - Kept & Fulfilled:
 - All The Law - For You!
- And That Is Why:
 - Romans 6:4 - "Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace!"

Conclusion:

1. If You Have Been Redeemed By The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Then - You Are No Longer "Under" The:
 - The Weight & Power Of God's Law!
 - You Are No Longer "Under" Its Conviction & Condemnation & Curse!
 - Instead - You Are Standing Under:
 - The Blue Sky Of God's Grace!
 - And Now - That Sky:
 - Is The Limit For You:
 - As God's Law Becomes The Seed Of Righteousness, Sowed In The Field Of Your Renewed Heart:
 - So That You Can Yield Unlimited Fruit After Its Kind!
2. **IE:** Imagine What It Must Have Been Like - Back In July, 2018 - If You Were One Of The Young, Teen-Aged Members Of The "Wild Boars" Soccer Team In Thailand! When You, Your Coach & 11 Other Players - Who Were Also Your Friends - Went Into A Cave To Explore!
 - But - As The Waters Inside Started To Rise - You Soon Realized That - You Were Trapped - And In A Sense:
 - Buried Alive By A Mountain Of Rock & Dirt! And There Was No Way Out!
 - For Almost 3 Weeks You Struggled In The Darkness - And Eventually Lost Any Hope For Rescue Or Survival!
 - Of Course - The End Of Their Story:
 - Is A Good Ending - As Rescuers:
 - Were Finally Able To Figure Out A Way To Get Them To The Opening Of The Cave:
 - And - Eventually - Every Last One Was Brought Out - Safe & Sound!
3. Imagine What It Must Have Been Like:
 - To See The Light At The End Of Their Tunnel:
 - As They Were Getting Closer & Closer:
 - To The Outside World!
 - How Bright It Must Have Been!
 - How Much Joy Would You Have Felt?
 - How Much Relief?
 - And How Much Gratitude For Your Rescuers?
4. This Is What:
 - The Power Of Christ Means:
 - To Those Who Were Once Under:
 - The Power Of The Law!

- His Light & His Might:

- Is What "Brought [You] Out Of An Horrible Pit, Out Of The Miry Clay, And Set [Your] Feet Upon A Rock, And Established [Your] Goings!"

- He Is The One Who:

- "Hath Put A New Song In [Your] Mouth, Even Praise Unto Our God: Many Shall See It, And Fear, And Shall Trust In The Lord!"

- Because - "Blessed Is That Man That Maketh The Lord His Trust!" (Psalm 40:2-4)

5. It Is The Power Of God's Law:

- That Led You To See:

- The Power Of The Gospel:

- And Of The Lord Jesus Christ:

- In All Of His Glorious Light!

Grace Baptist Church

Stephen Elmer, Pastor

4245 North 200 West

Greenfield, Indiana 46140

317-326-2362

www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace

www.growatgrace.org

pastor-elmer@hotmail.com