



# Romans 14 – Law Reveals Sin

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Romans 3:9-20

# Prologue: Jewish *Separation*

- Purpose of God in calling out the Hebrews {Jews} to be His Chosen People – Separation via civil/ceremonial laws preparing the nations for Jesus' coming
  - Mandatory circumcision of all males on 8<sup>th</sup> day of life
  - Long forelocks; other rules about hair and beards
  - Dietary rules designating clean and unclean foods
  - Clothing rules about which materials to use and mix

# Prologue: Jews–Witness for God

- God spoke and wrote His moral code, Ten Words, then gave His legal and ceremonial system through Moses {Pentateuch} essence of God – Light to Gentiles
- Cultures in contact with Jews exposed to God’s words – Example: Queen of Sheba came to hear Solomon (1Ki 10:1-9)
- Nations began moving from cultural nomism to indiv. moral responsibility, Zoroastrianism {Axial Age}

# Prologue: Jewish Contradiction

- Judaism clung to cultural nomism, worshiping idols; even turned the Law into cultural nomism (2Ch 34:14-21)
- Jews preserved God's words containing God's essence {λόγια}; yet, a few did live by faith (1Ki 19:14-18; He 3:15-19)
- Those who lived by faith did not receive New Covenant salvation but looked forward to Christ's coming (Je 31:31-34; He 11:13-16, 39-40)
- Prophets did not clearly understand all God spoke through them; yet, they believed (1Pe 1:10-12; 2Pe 1:20-21)

# Did Law Make Jews Better?

- Though the Jews preserved the essence of God, His words, did they develop personal moral responsibility?
  - Prevailing Jewish attitude: They were better than goyim because they had, and lived, the Law; they thought
  - Paul already proved the Jews did not keep the Law {Ten Words}; cultural nomism failed (Ja 2:10, 22-26)
  - Gentiles own cultural nomism, idolatry, also failed them

# All Sinners Behave the Same

- Mark of equality: Same works means same nature: Sin
- Paul quotes from the Scriptures proving all sinners equally guilty before God: Same character (Ps 12:6; Pr 25:11)
  - Scriptures foundation of apologia, defense of the faith
  - With or without the Law, Jews and Gentiles were the same proving the Scriptures true
  - Without the Spirit, Scriptures of no avail to Jews (1Co 2:14)

# Character of Sinners

- God declared nearly 1,000 years before Christ that no flesh was righteousness: No, not one (Ps 14:1-3; 53:1-3)
  - No one understands God's truth
  - No one seeks God
  - All have turned aside {Definition of sin: Miss the mark}
  - All are worthless, corrupted by sin, incapable of good
  - Thus, Christ could say, ...only God is good... (Lk 18:19)

# Words of Sinners Are Weapons

- Regardless of culture, societal position or religion: the methodology remains the same for Satan and sinners: Their words are lies that kill (Ps 5:9; Jo 8:44)
  - Their throats {intonation} are open graves (Mt 23:27-28)
  - Their tongues, major speech organ, deceive
  - Poison of asps is under their lips (Ps 140:3; Is 66:24; Mk 9:47-48; Re 12:9)
  - Mouths reflect their heart: Cursings and bitterness (Ps 10:7; Mt 15:10-20)



# Works of Sinners

- The results of all sinners is two-fold because their character forms their words which defines their results  
(Pr 1:10-16; Is 59:7-8; Jo 8:44)
- Sinners can only produce death like their father Satan, a murderer and liar from the beginning of his sin (Ez 28:15-16)
- They never make peace for they do not know the ways of peace *with God* (Ro 5:6-11)

# Law Applies to Mankind

- Gentiles had the truth of the moral law written on their hearts and the Jews had the written law for 1400 years to learn of God; both failed
  - Purpose of the Law: Teach Jews truth of God so they could teach Gentiles of God's salvation (Ga 4:1-9)
  - Sinners reject God's truth; Jews twisted the Law into cultural nomism pretending they could keep the Law rather than realize their sinfulness and helplessness

# Christ Taught Them the Law

- The first portion of Jesus' ministry was to teach the Jews how what they did not understand about the Law (Mt 5:17-20)
  - Beatitudes illustrate the character both of Christ and those who believed in Him {New Covenant} (Mt 5:3-12)
  - Christ then interpreted the Law showing them their utter lack of understanding of their failure to keep the Law requiring a Messiah to save them (Mt 5:21-30)

# Faithfulness of God Revealed

- God gave Ten Words and the Sabbath to meditate on the impossibility of living them; yet, they developed self-righteousness: Talmud, Mishna, Midrash
  - Some learned their helplessness and turned to God for salvation: David, Prophets and unnamed multitude (He 11)
  - Christ's *Sermon on the Mount* encapsulated their failure to understand the Law and their utter sinfulness; which they rejected because...mind of sin

# Beatitudes: Submission to God

- Impossibility of achieving peace with God by the Law was to drive one in *humble submission* to God for mercy; Christ came as the *humble slave* of God demonstrating this truth (Is 53:1-3)
- Each of these points were contained in their Bible but their sin nature could not submit since by definition sin is prideful rebellion

# Beatitudes Produce Humility

- First three beatitudes focus on the humility of the *new heart* (Ez 11:17-21)
  - *Poor in spirit* – Realization of absolute need for Christ and Spirit (He 11:6)
  - Those who *mourn* – Realization someone must die for my sin; no forgiveness without shedding of blood (HE 9:)
  - *Meek* – Only those who wait on the Lord have strength (Is 40:29-31)

# Beatitudes Change Behavior

- With a changed heart comes changed behaviors
  - Hunger and thirst for righteousness – Wants to do the will of the Father (Jo 4:31-34)
  - Merciful – Showing mercy comes only from the Father as sinners have no mercy; thus, the Law (Ro 2:1-5)
  - Pure in heart – This is the Christ-likeness developed in the saved (2Co 3:18; Ph 4:8)

# Beatitudes Christ-likeness to Others

- As the Beatitudes changes one's character inwardly to produce changed thoughts and words so also it produces changed relationship with others
  - Peacemakers – Fights against spiritual powers, not people (Ep 6:12-13)
  - However, sinners hate God's truth and seek to remove believers whose very existence condemns their lies; why do the nations rage? They are sinners hating God (Ps 2:1)



# Precept of Moral Law: Death

- Christ taught the Jews that they did not understand what the Ten Words were designed to teach them  
(Mt 5:21-30)
  - Murder Not – This begin the second portion of the Ten Words and was the first sin recorded of man against man, Cain and Hebel {Abel} (Ge 4:1-8)
  - Gospels detail the *False* Jews hatred of Jesus culminating in His murder – This Word showed their utter inability to understand and keep the Law; highlighted their sin

# Precept of Moral Law: Love

- The Law was to point the Jews to *loving* their enemies since they were not fighting against people but against spiritual power of Lucifer
  - If one loves only those who love them, they have done nothing but what the lost oft do
  - They were to pray for those who persecuted them which is against the pride of the flesh
  - God gives peace and we also should be sources of peace

# Knowledge Missed by the Jews

- Paul reveals knowledge the Jews could have gained if they had used the Sabbath to understand God's Ten Words rather than devise useless rules
  - The flesh could never be justified by works, it was tainted at conception and could only produce sin
  - This would have led them to understand the extent of their corruption and absolute need for God to save them

# Epilogue: Contrast Flesh and Law

- The flesh rejects God and His truth (Ro 8:7)
  - The flesh expresses itself in blood and war (Ja 4:1-4)
  - Very words of the flesh follows its father, the Devil (Jo 8:44)
  - The flesh never submits to God
  - Flesh clothes itself in godliness, but rejects its truth (2Ti 3:2-5)
  - The one concept all sinners agree is the elimination of God's rule, Christ's stauros and believers' lives (Ps 2:2-9)

# Sin's Character Never Changes

- The same remains true today (2Th 2:9-12)
  - Nations still rage against God and Christians
  - Sinners spew poisoned words ensnaring others
  - Goal is always death and rejection of God's peace
- Christians, maturing in Christ, will show Beatitudes in their thoughts, words and deeds even during persecution which is coming on all who trust God (1Pe 4:12-17)