

What Does Love for the Law Yield? (Psalm 119:161-168)
July 21, 2019, Grace Covenant Church, Morning Worship

Introduction

- A. The tension between faith and good works is solved by Jesus' words: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (Jn 14:15)
 - B. Psalm 119 is an acrostic probably authored by David, which celebrates the Law of God
 - C. The psalm uses six synonyms to describe the Law of God: Words (162), Law (163, 165), Righteous rules (164), Commandments (166), Testimonies (167, 168), Precepts (168)
- I. How Shall I Understand "Law" in Psalm 119 as a New Covenant Christian?
- A. Hermeneutical Lenses: First and Second Horizon (Rom 15:14)
 - 1. OT as Light. Jesus as Diamond. NT as OT refracted through the diamond of Christ
 - 2. OT is **First horizon**=original setting, audience, and intention.
 - 3. NT is **Second horizon**=how the coming of Christ transforms and reinterprets our understanding of the first horizon and how it is relevant for us today
 - 4. Example: Israel (OT) as Jesus, the True Israel (NT): Hosea 11:1 and Matt 2:15
 - 5. **Hermeneutical Principle:** The original event of the Exodus gets refracted through the person and work of Jesus Christ and reinterpreted to show the true meaning of the original for the people of God today.
 - B. First and Second Horizons and the Law in Psalm 119
 - 1. **First horizon**=Mosaic Law (Moral, Civil, Ceremonial)
 - 2. **Second horizon**=Moral Law of God (The Ten Commandments)
 - a. All of law is fulfilled in Christ for our justification
 - b. The ceremonial and civil laws are abrogated (brought to an end) by Christ for our sanctification
 - c. Ten Commandments (moral law) as given by the hand of Christ, not the hand of Moses, are the relevant law for the Christian today
 - d. Prophecies of New Covenant confirm that the law written on our hearts is the Ten Commandments (Ezek 36:23–29; Jer 31:31ff; Cf. Heb 8–10)
 - e. Christ and his apostles either repeated or reinterpreted all ten commandments in the New Testament
 - f. Jesus sums up the Ten Commandments with two (Matt 22:36–40): Love God and Love your neighbor
- II. God's Law Yields Humility, not Hubris, in the Life of the Christian (v. 161)
- A. The first and most important use of the law is to foster humility and fear in the life of the Christian (v. 161)
 - B. A prideful Christian is an oxymoron
 - C. The law is our tutor which leads us to Christ (Gal 3:24)
 - D. A high view of the law leads to tenderness and humility when dealing with the sins of others (Gal 6:1)
 - E. A high view of the law leads to a high view of Christ (Gal 4:5–7)