

Law and Grace

S.R. Deut. 5:31 - 33

2 – 18 – 2024

Introduction

- A. Give me the Bible - lyrics
- B. Ten Words – Ten Commandments Ex. 20:1 – 17; cf. Deut. 5
- C. Great law – Deut. 4:8 – 10

I. Background of Deliverance and the Re forming of Relationship.

- A. The high cost of Freedom – Alamo – Pearl Harbor – Iwa Jima
- B. The pledge of allegiance reminds us that we owe a duty to an authority higher than ourselves.
- C. In less than two months they have left Egypt and slavery.
- D. **Remember Egypt** – Before Israel can pledge allegiance to Yahweh alone, she must recall her costly deliverance.
 - 1. Not just leaving behind the land, but also the ways of Egypt.
 - 2. Each plague was a defeat of an Egyptian deity
 - 3. One God toppling all rivals.
- E. *I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt.*
 - 1. God indicates: “Before you can obey me as the God of the Ten Words of life, you must revere me as the God of the ten plagues of death.”
 - 2. Conclusion: “*You shall have no other God’s before me.*” (No rivals)
 - 3. Remember your costly deliverance. Pledge allegiance to me alone.
- F. The idolatry that plagued Israel for generations was not that she ceased the worship of God entirely, but that she ceases worship of God *alone*.

II. Law and Grace

- A. Have you heard “Christianity isn’t about rules, it’s about relationship.”

- B. Law and grace have come to be pitted against one another as enemies, in fact – they are friends.
 - 1. “We have come to believe that rules prevent relationship.”
- C. So is Christianity about rules or relationship?
 - 1. Christianity is unapologetically about rules – rules show us how to live in relationship.
 - 2. John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”
- D. We delight in the Law of the Lord because of who wrote it and why (Psalm 1, 119)
 - 1. We love the law of God because we love Jesus and He loved the law (Heb. 10:7) “I have come to do Your will.”
 - 2. Law can be used to produce a lawlessness – twisting law for personal benefit.
- E. When the Scriptures condemn lawlessness they condemn both the one who ignores the law and the one who embraces it for self – righteous ends.
- F. LawFULLness is ChristLIKEness.
 - 1. To obey the law is to look like Jesus. (Heb. 5:7 – 9)
 - 2. Obedience to law builds righteousness and sanctification.
 - a. **Grace and mercy understood is holiness desired.**
 - 3. (Titus 2:14).
 - 4. We serve and obey not out of **Dread to Earn** His favor, but **out of Delight** because we have it in Christ. (Romans 5:1) “no condemnation”

III. Worship and Feast in the Wilderness

- A. Before God speaks the law to Israel at Sinai, he speaks Deliverance to Moses from the burning bush.
 - 1. Four hundred years in Egypt rendered them slaves with no hope of freedom.
- B. “Let us go.”
 - 1. Seven times Moses says to Pharaoh; “Let my people go that they may serve me, that they may make a feast (worship) to me in the wilderness” (**Ex. 5:1**; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3).

- C. God breaks the rod of Pharaoh and delivers Israel through passageways of blood (10th plague) and water (Red Sea).
- D. Before the feast and worship come **hunger and thirst** and grumbling against God. (Deut. 8:3)
- E. Jesus is the new Moses that instructs us to hunger and thirst for righteousness
 - 1. (Jn. 8:36; Gal. 5:1; Col. 1:13 – 14; Rom. 6:19)
 - 2. "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free" (Gal. 5:1)
- F. The Law is graciously given to set us apart and point the way to love God and love neighbor. (Deut. 5:15) You shall **remember** that you were a slave – now Sabbath – God gives rest.
 - 1. Deut. 6:24 – 25
 - 2. **For the believer, the law becomes a means of grace.**

IV. Encouraging Words

- A. Rules enable Relationship. (Lk 10:27)
- B. The Great Commandment is the underlying principle for all right living.
- C. May we, like Jesus, delight to do God's will (Psalm 40:8)
- D. Romans 15:4 "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."
- E. The ancient words – recorded by Michael W. Smith
 - 1. Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.
 - 2. Words of Life, words of Hope
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us Home.

V. Conclusion:

- A. Law and Grace are both given by God to work together to rescue His people.
- B. Worship of and Sacrifice to God and Feasting with God draws us nearer to Him.
- C. These wonderful words of life from the Mouth of God encourage and protect us.