

LAW OR GRACE ... FLESH OR SPIRIT

A great debate rages on. Torah Observers seek to honor God by observing (as much as possible) the Torah (commonly known as the Law) while the average Christian Believer seeks to honor God by living in accordance with the leading of the Holy Spirit. Both groups equally and sincerely think that they are obeying what the Bible Says. The question is ... which group is correct or are either of them correct? This writing will attempt to provide some answers to that question.

The title of this writing should make it obvious that the writer believes that the two "philosophies" of Christian Living mentioned in the opening paragraph are "diametrically opposed" to one another. At the same time, it should be noted that a battle has raged in the writer's heart and mind for a long time about which way was the right way. The reason for this battle was that the writer spent over 35 years believing that living by faith through Grace and following the Leading of the Holy Spirit was the Bible way. But then things slowly began to change in a dramatic way.

Over the course of 3 to 4 years, the writer began to see "much error" in the way many (if not most) Churches preached and practiced "Christian Living". The more the writer looked, the more he realized that much of what is practiced and preached in modern churches today cannot be found in the bible. Yet, most churches claim that what they teach and do is all based on the bible. It is admitted here that just because something is not in the Bible does not mean it is wrong. At the same time, if the "churches" claim that what they practice is based on the Bible, then shouldn't we be able to find what they practice or preach in the bible? Here is a common example: The general pattern of most church services is: 3 or 4 songs are sung, some announcements are made, a sermon is preached, an invitation is given and an offering is taken somewhere in that mix. Yet ... this pattern or practice is NOT found anywhere in the Bible. This does NOT make it wrong but it is not in the bible. What is in the Bible (for example) is that Jesus and Paul assembled together with other believers and many times, (if not most times) no sermon was preached, no offering was taken and no invitation was given, but, instead, a discussion was had about some spiritual "issue" of that day. The writer has NEVER seen a "discussion" occur in any church worship service or bible study. In most Sunday school classes, this writer rarely saw a discussion occur and it was rare to see an opportunity be given to ask questions. (In Adult classes)

After 2-4 years of God revealing these types of things along with many other things in todays "church", it came to the point that the writer had to abandon the "organized church system" and begin to diligently seek God for what the real truth is. Believing that the current church system is wrong in many ways, alternatives were sought out. One of the first alternatives that was considered was the "torah observant" movement. Was it possible that being "torah observant" was what God really wanted all along? With all of this in mind, the writer had to find out. Thus, this study of the Law began.

A proper study of the matter required some ground rules to be set in order to help prevent biases and pre-dispositions from skewing the results of the study. Thus, the writer set these rules for himself:

1. As much as humanly possible, "un-learn or forget" everything I had ever been previously taught about the Bible.
2. Study with this one primary standard - "**the Bible says what it means and means what it says.**"
3. The use of Two or Three (or more) biblical "Witnesses" would be required to prove a point. For the purpose of this study, the writer will try to prove all "assertions" using at least 2 or 3 or more bible texts.

#2 (above) is paramount in any study of the Bible. For over 35 years the writer was taught many times that (for example) a particular word really meant something else, OR a particular verse or story really did not apply in these modern times. Well, during the 2-4 year period that God worked to show me the fallacy of the modern church system, he also showed me that such teachings deny the truth of what the Bible actually says. If a believer cannot believe that **the Bible says what it means and means what it says** then, as Paul said, "we are of all men most miserable". (1 Corinthians 15:19 KJV).

MAIN OBJECTIVE: To prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that God wants us to "obey the law" (Torah) after we are saved.

METHODOLOGY - To look at every instance of the word “LAW(s)” (225 times) in the New Testament and apply them IN CONTEXT to the believer. At the same time, consider other applicable scriptures that “come up” during the course of the study of the Word Law. The study of the word Law was limited to the NT because there is little doubt that the nation of Israel in the OT was required to “keep the law”.

At the very beginning of this study a potential problem arose. While there is only one Old Testament Torah, the New Testament mentions at least eleven different “laws”: (NOT including the Law of Moses). Listed in “biblical” order, they are:

1. The Law of Faith.	Romans 3:27
2. The Law of Her Husband.	Romans 7:2
3. The Law of God	Romans 7:22, Romans 7:25, Romans 8:7
4. The Law of my mind	Romans 7:23, Romans 7:25
5. The Law of Sin	Romans 7:23
6. The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus	Romans 8:2
7. The Law of Sin and Death	Romans 8:2
8. The Law of Righteousness	Romans 9:31
9. The Law of Christ	Galatians 6:2
10. The Law of the Commandments	Ephesians 2:15, Hebrews 7:16
11. The Law of Liberty	James 2:12

(It is interesting to note that Chiastic order in which these laws first appear in the NT (ie ... pair 1 & 11, 2 & 10, 3 & 9 ... etc)

Given the 11 laws, several questions came to mind: Are all 11 of these different laws actually part of the same law? How should these 11 different laws be applied or integrated into this study of the “NT word “Law”? How many of these different laws or which of these laws apply to the New Testament Believer or do they apply to the believer at all? It seemed logical to the writer to allow the progressive study of the word Law to answer these questions and to determine how many of these 11 laws may or may not apply to the “premise” and purpose of this study.

Here are a three other obvious questions and answers that also came to mind at the beginning of this study:

1. What was the purpose of the Mosaic Law? As it turns out, the Law serves **many** purposes:

A. The Law distinguished Israel from all other nations.	Exodus 19:5-6, Deuteronomy 4:5-8
B. The Law made Israel “wise above other nations.”	Deuteronomy 4:6-7, Psalm 19:7
C. The Law teaches us that we are sinners.	Romans 4:15, Romans 5:20, Galatians 3:19
D. The Law is a shadow.	Colossians 2:16-17, Hebrews 8:4-5, Hebrews 10:1
E. The Law is a figure(s)	Romans 5:14, Hebrews 9:9 & 24, 1 Peter 3:20-21,
F. The Law is a Light	Psalm 119:105, Proverbs 6:23
G. The Law is Prophecy	Matthew 11:13, Luke 24:4, John 5:46, Romans 3:21
H. Added because of transgressions till the seed should come	Galatians 3:19, Romans 4:14, Romans 5:20-21 1 Timothy 1:8-9
I. That every mouth might be stopped, and all the world become guilty before God	Romans 3:19, Psalm 107:42, Ezekiel 16:63 Romans 3:23

2. To whom was the Mosaic Law given? - It was given to the Jews. Acts 7:38, Romans 3:1-2

3. What Parts of the Torah are we supposed to keep? **This question remains unanswered!** The writer spent several days perusing many different “torah observant” related websites. Of all of the websites that the writer looked at, (probably 20-25 or more) ONLY one of the websites even attempted to explain which parts of the Torah must still be kept. The fact that virtually all of the websites leave this question unanswered is puzzling to the writer. As a result of this seemingly futile search, the writer concluded that those who are Torah Observant may also not know which laws are to be kept. Based on this fruitless research, the writer openly admits that he still does NOT know exactly what the Torah Observant people believe.

From these three questions we can already draw a two conclusions:

1. The first purpose of the law listed above would indeed limit the law to just the Jews and NOT the Gentiles ... but ... the Last seven purposes of the law would allow the law to be applied to everyone ... Jew or Gentile.
2. The Law STILL has a purpose in today's world. It seems obvious to the writer that, at the very least, the Law is still needed to show the people of the world that they are sinners. Additionally, the Law ultimately “prophesied” that Christ would come to save us from our sins. In other words, the law is a witness to the people that dwell on the earth that they need a “Saviour” and that Saviour is Christ Jesus.

The New Testament tells us many times that we are to “keep the commandments.” (See: Matthew 5:19, Matthew 19:17, John 14:15, John 15:10 & others) This fact brings out another difficult question: Which and (or) Whose commandments are we supposed to obey? In answering this question, Consider the following three bible verses”

John 14:15 - **If you love me, keep my Commandments**

1 Corinthians 14:37 - If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that **the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.** (written by Paul)

2 Peter 3:2 - That ye may be mindful of the words **which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles** of the Lord and Saviour: (written by Peter)

From these verses it seems clear that ,not only are we supposed to keep Christ's commandments, but we should also obey the commandments of Paul and the commandments of the other apostles. But, what are the commandments of the Paul and the other Apostles? The logical conclusion is that God has given to us His “completed” word and that every command that God would have us obey is in the our Bible. This still does not solve the problem of keeping Old Testament commandments that cannot be kept because the temple no longer exists and “Levitical priesthood” seems to be defunct.

It MUST BE noted here that the bible NEVER says that: (for example) because the temple no longer exists, that we can ignore any portion of the Torah that requires the temple to exist in order to obey that law. The Bible NEVER says that if we CANNOT keep the law then we don't have to. The Old Testament and the New Testament tell us many times that we are supposed to “keep all of the commandments”. NO “exceptions are ever given. The Bible clearly states that if we are going to obey the law, then when must obey every law: James 2:10 - “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” This adage is repeated throughout the New Testament. So ... are we supposed to keep all of the commandments even though it is impossible to do so?

Consider all of this information and all of these questions written up to this point and then consider the following statement as being a brief conclusion of this study about the law and its application to the New Testament believer. Simply put: this

study has led to the conclusion that **we all must still keep the Law** ... BUT ... not in the way that most (including those who are Torah Observant) would think. PLEASE ... continue reading to understand what is meant by this conclusion.

It has been clearly shown that we CANNOT keep the law because of circumstances that are literally beyond our control. This being the case, some might conclude that God is unjust or unfair in requiring us to keep laws that we cannot keep or do not know. God would not do that to his children. It would require writing a book to explain all that the writer has found regarding the law and how it applies to the believer today. That potential book will now be briefly summarized with five primary questions about the law along with the writer's answers.

1. Has the TORAH been replaced by a new law? YES! The Bible speaks much about a "new testament" or a "new covenant." A new covenant was NECESSARY, because without the temple or the priesthood, we CANNOT keep the old covenant which is also called "the law" or the "Torah". The Apostle Paul clearly shows us in the book of Galatians and in the book of Hebrews that the old law was replaced with a new law.

NOTE: Virtually all of the Torah Observant websites the writer visited quote Matthew 5:17-18: ... **Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**" The question that they all failed to address is: Which Law is this verse talking about? Remember, there are at least 12 different laws (or sets of laws) mentioned in the Bible. They all come from God. Even if the Torah Observers believe Christ was talking about the OT Law, they all fail to distinguish which part of the OT Law we are supposed to obey. They also fail to justify, with the bible, their premise that we do not have to obey all of the Torah because we can't. They all also fail to mention that Christ has already Fulfilled ALL OF THE LAW.

Galatians 4:21- 31 - Paul gives us an allegory about the law. With this allegory, Paul is clearly saying that the OT Law was cast out just like the bondwoman of Abraham was cast out. He says "Agar is mount Sinai ... and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage ..." What is this allegory? It is that Sinai represents the OT Law. Paul continues: "... but Jerusalem which is above is free". Sinai (the Law) represents the bondwoman and the OT law and Jerusalem represents "the Promise" and the NT "law of liberty." (James 1:25 & James 2:12) The Law given at Sinai has not, cannot and will not "disannul" the promises given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (Galatians 3:17) (More on this later)

At this point these questions must also be asked: Is the "Torah" bondage? Did God bring Israel out of the Bondage of Egypt and into the Bondage of the Law? Many will disagree but the simple answer is ... Yes! The obvious question then becomes: Why? ... Because Israel's deliverance from the bondage of Egypt was a picture of Salvation and Israel's subjection to the Law is a picture of God's requirement for the believer to "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." (Titus 2:12) Paul said: "the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin." (Romans 7:14 ... See also Psalm 51:6 & Hebrews 4:12). The same is true for Israel and it is also true for us. The bondage of Israel in Egypt was "physical" bondage and the Law given to Israel at Mount Sinai was a "spiritual" bondage. This spiritual bondage remained on the nation of Israel until God replaced the OT law with the Law of Liberty. God makes this fact perfectly clear in these verses: Jeremiah 31:31 - Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Jeremiah 32:40 - And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Ezekiel 37:26 - Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

God also hints at this fact in Leviticus 19:18, Deuteronomy 6:5, Deuteronomy 30:6 and in Psalm 51:6. Christ also illustrates this fact in the sermon on the mount where He takes some of the OT laws and shows us their spiritual application. (more on this later)

The book of Hebrews also makes it clear that the OT Law was replaced with a new law: Read the following quote from Hebrews 8:5-13 - "Who [the priests] serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people."

The following is a brief explanation of Hebrews 8:5-13:

Verse 5 - When speaking about the OT priests, the Bible says they were a "Shadow of heavenly things". The OT Priesthood was replaced by Christ who came down from Heaven as THE (eternal) HIGH PRIEST.

Verse 6 - When speaking about Christ, the Bible says he "is the mediator of a better covenant". This verse says Christ "IS" the mediator of a better covenant. The word "IS" is in the present tense. The "better covenant" is NOW in effect. "Better" clearly means that the old covenant was NOT good "enough".

Verse 7 - Says the 1st covenant had faults so a 2nd covenant was established. (NOTE: the fault of the first covenant was NOT God's fault ... The fault was the weakness of man's flesh. (See Isaiah 24:5-6, Romans 8:3)

Verse 8-13 - Speaks again of a new covenant in a quote from Jeremiah 31:31-34. This is the "better covenant".

Verse 9 - Says "not according to the covenant ... made with their fathers ... because they continued not in my covenant". The "better" and NEW covenant is NOT LIKE the old covenant.. It is far different.

Verse 10 - This new covenant is not written on tables of stone but it is put in our minds and written on our hearts.

Verse 13 - "In that he saith" ... Who said it? God. What did he say? He said He made the first covenant old by making the new covenant and that the old covenant" is ready to vanish away." NOTE: This is Quoting what God said. Some say that this is proof that the Old covenant is still in effect. NO ... that is not what it says. The writer AGREES that the old covenant still has a purpose today. (more on this later) However, the NEW covenant is the covenant that is currently in effect. An earthly example of this would be like someone buying a new car but keeping the old one. The new car would be the primary vehicle that would be used and the old car would be there in case someone else "needed" to use it. In many, if not most cases, (at least in the U.S.A) when a new car is purchased, the old car is either traded in as part of the deal, or the old car may be given to someone else in the family or maybe to a needy family. The point is, that when the Old Covenant was replaced by the new covenant, the Old Covenant still had and has a purpose here on this earth. So now the question is ... What is the purpose of the Old Covenant now ... given that the New Covenant is now in effect. The answer to this question should be obvious.

The Old Covenant is ONLY for those who have NOT agreed to the new Covenant. (Remember: a covenant requires an agreement between at least two different individuals or groups.). Earlier in this writing, it was said that Abraham was a type of Christ and that the deliverance from the Bondage of Egypt was (and still is) a picture of Salvation and that the Old

Testament Law (Sinai) was a type of spiritual bondage. If Galatians 4 is taken in context and compared with Hebrews 8, then it becomes clear that the Old Covenant is ONLY for those who have not agreed with the new Covenant. The old covenant is only for those who have not accepted God's deliverance from the Spiritual bondage of the OT Law. In other words, the OT Law is only for those who Have NOT been saved.

Another proof of this fact comes clearly from 1 Timothy 1:9 - "Knowing this, that **the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient ...**" Who is the righteous man? Anyone who has accepted God's Salvation by grace thru faith and (as a result) has received the imputed righteousness of Christ. A saved person is a righteous person. Anyone who has not accepted Christ's gift of salvation is considered lawless and disobedient.

One can also look at Hebrews 9 for more evidence of the New Covenant (testament) replacing the Old. This chapter begins by talking about the ceremonies and sacrifices that were conducted in the "earthly sanctuary". (a.k.a. - the tabernacle that God commanded Moses to build or Solomon's Temple or the Temple that was built in the days of Ezra.) In Hebrews 9:6-7, Paul talks about the priest going into the first and second tabernacle. In doing this, verse 8 says that the Holy Ghost signified "that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing" It is a fact that the first tabernacle, the 1st temple, and the 2nd temple are all no longer standing. (Herod's temple was not a 3rd temple. It was a remodeled and expanded version of the temple that was built in the days of Ezra) This is important because the 2nd temple was not destroyed until after the The New Covenant came into effect. To put it biblically, the 2nd temple was not destroyed unit after the "death of the testator." (See Hebrews 9:16). In other words, when God established (instituted) the New Covenant, He then made it impossible to Keep the Old Covenant by allowing (or even ordaining?) the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. Hebrews 9:9, while speaking about the tabernacle (that Moses made), says that the temple was "a figure for the time then present ...". That time is now in the past ... that time is no longer present. That tabernacle (which no longer exists) was a "figure" of the "new tabernacle" (the believer is the new tabernacle) that God would create through Christ. (See also 2 Corinthians 5:1, 4 and 2 Peter 2:14). This should be a clear sign to anyone that God has given us a "better" way. Then in verse 15, he says again that Christ "IS" the mediator of the new testament ... for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament." Hebrews 9:15 makes it perfectly clear that Christ died to REDEEM believers from any transgression of the old covenant.

Hebrews Chapter 10 provides even more evidence that the Old covenant has been replaced. The writer (Paul) reemphasizes that the Old Covenant was a "shadow" or a figure of things to come. (see Hebrews 8:5, 9:9, 10:1) Verses 1-8 of Hebrews 10 speak of the inadequacies of the OT sacrificial laws. Then in verses 9, quoting Christ, Paul says: "Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second." Let the last part of that verse be repeated: "**He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.**" It cannot be more clear than that. God took away the 1st covenant so that He could establish a 2nd covenant.

But there is even more evidence that the New Covenant has replaced the Old Covenant. Galatians 3:6-17 - "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, **that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law,** which was four hundred and thirty years after, **cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.**" The promise made to Abraham cannot (and has not been) disannulled by the Old Covenant of the Law given at Mount Sinai. What was this promise and why was this promise given to Abraham? The promise was that all the nations of the world would be blessed through Abraham's seed and the promise was made to Abraham by God because Abraham believed and his faith was counted as righteousness. This promise was carried down to Abraham's son because Abraham obeyed God. (Genesis 26:4-5) Yet, even though Abraham's blessing was passed down to Isaac because he obeyed God, God gave Abraham the

original promise because of his Faith ... not because of his obedience. (Genesis 15:6) (See also Romans 4:6-11) The same is true today and it has always been true. God's dealing with men is first determined by their faith, not by their obedience. This does NOT mean or even imply that obedience to God is not necessary after salvation. (more on that later).

In addition to all of the above evidence showing that the OLD TESTAMENT LAW has been replaced, much more could be said about:

- A. the "curse" that Law brings and the fact that we have been redeemed from this curse (Galatians 3 & 4),
- B. the requirement to obey "ALL" of the law, (Deuteronomy 27:26; Matthew 5:18-19; Romans 10:5-6,
Galatians 3:10& 12)
- C. the fact that obeying the "law" is NOT "faith" (Galatians 3:12, Romans 4, Romans 9, and Romans 14:23)
- D. The law (our schoolmaster) has been replaced by faith in Christ (Galatians 3:24-25)

2. What is The New Covenant that is now in effect?

When a person "believes" ("is born again" ... "is saved"), many things happen at that moment of Salvation. The saved person is immediately Justified by God. (Romans 5:10, Romans 10:9-13) The saved person is immediately made "new", (Ezekiel 36:26, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 6:15) The saved person is immediately "in-dwelt" by the Holy Spirit of God. From that point on, the new believer is lead and taught by the Holy Ghost. (Isaiah 48:17, 1 John 2:27). The believers life is delivered from the bondage of "sin and death" (Romans 8:2) and is led into a life of freedom in Christ. Notice what 2 Corinthians 3:17 says: "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Believers have liberty in Christ. It must again be stressed that this does NOT give the believer the right or liberty to live a life full of worldliness and sin. A "true" believer will have an earnest desire to live a life that is pleasing to God. The Holy Spirit will enable and lead a believer to do that as they willingly listen to and yield to what the Spirit tells them. The Spirit instructs us by abiding in us (1 John 2:27) and also by his "words" that abide in us. (John 15:7) Many think that this freedom comes from not having to obey the law but the reality is that our freedom comes from the fact that the burden (condemnation) of sin has been cast away "as far as the east is from the west". (Psalm 103:12)

It was shown earlier, that there are at least 11 different "laws" Mentioned in the New Testament. It was also noted that the 11 laws appeared in an organized pattern where the 1st law that is mentioned is easily paired (or related to) with the last and the 2nd one mentioned is easily paired with the 2nd to the last law that is mentioned in the NT. Given that there are 11 laws mentioned, and that 10 of those laws can be paired together, (related) this leaves one law standing alone by itself.

The Bible is divinely inspired and is written in a "divine order" for a purpose. Many times, simple word studies in the Bible reveal great truths based on the order and the context in which certain words or phrases appear. This list of 11 laws is no different. In this study, it was found that there is one law that cannot be paired, one law that is left "standing alone" and this one law appears (chronologically) exactly in the middle of the other 10. The law left standing alone is "The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus" and this law can be found in Romans 8:2. This law is a clear description of the life of the believer and the role that the Holy Spirit plays in the believers life. It is THE CENTRAL TENANT that every believer ought to live by. The Spirit leads the believer into a "life in Christ" (see John 15:4-10 about abiding in Christ or a "life in Christ"). The Holy Spirit sets the believer free from the condemnation and "the bondage of "sin and death." Paul, while speaking about the "law" in Galatians 3 & 4, says in Galatians 5:1 - "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." The book of Galatians makes it clear that The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ is closely related to the Law of Liberty.

3.What is the Law of Liberty? One way to begin answering this question is to discuss in more detail what the purpose of the Law was. The writer is convinced (though he does not know) that those who are Torah Observant do not fully understand why God gave the law to the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai. One of the best texts in the Bible to answer this question is found in the infamous “Sermon On The Mount” that is found in Matthew’s Gospel. (Chapters 5-7) In this dissertation to His disciples, Christ instructs His disciples about “practical living”. The key to understanding this sermon is found in its first 10 verses which is commonly known as “the Be-attitudes”. (Matthew 5:3-12)

In these first 10 verses, Christ clearly explains what “Christian Living” is all about. All 10 of these verses talk about the “attitudes” that we ought to have in our daily lives. What is just as interesting is the order in which these “attitudes” are given. The first says that we are to be poor in spirit. In a nutshell that means we are to be “humble” and NOT proud. It would be “impossible” to consistently exhibit any of the other “Be-attitudes” without first diligently seeking to be humble in spirit. A proud person primarily acts and reacts based on what is best for that person rather than basing their actions on what is best for anyone else beside themselves. Without some semblance of humility the 2nd Be-attitude would be nearly impossible because a proud person cannot “genuinely” mourn for another person that is hurting in some way. Coming to the 3rd Be-attitude we would find that it is impossible to be meek if you are proud (pride and meekness are virtual opposites) and if you are unable to consider the feelings (hurting) of other people. The 4th beatitude cannot be lived out in a person’s life because a proud, person could not or would not mourn over his own sin. This relationship between each beatitude can be carried down through all 9 “Be-attitudes” The summary of these 10 verses is that Christ is telling His disciples that the “attitude” of the believer is just as important as the “actions” of the believer. This is clearly shown by what Christ says in the rest of the Sermon.

Christ then gives us the reason why He gave us the “be-attitudes.” The reason is that “we are the salt of the earth” and we are “the light of the world”. In a nutshell Christ is saying that our “attitude” is Paramount if we are to have a good testimony in this world. A person that claims to be a “believer” but struts around this earth like he or she is better than anyone else will NOT have a good testimony in the eyes of others. A classic example of this is the “proud Pharisees.” A person who claims to be a believer but then complains about doing what God has asked them to do will not have a good testimony in the eyes of others. There is absolutely no doubt that our ACTIONS matter and that they play an important role in how the world sees us ... But ... having “good actions” with “bad attitudes” is no better than having bad actions. Christ addresses this fact in Matthew 21:28-31 where we find that the first son said he would not obey but then he “repented” and obeyed. To repent means to have a change of mind [= attitude] that results in a change of action. The 2nd son said he would obey but then he did not obey. The 1st son ultimately had a good attitude and a good action while the 2nd son ultimately had a bad attitude (as demonstrated by his dis-obedience) and a bad action.

The relationship between attitudes and actions is also alluded to in the OT where God provided “cities of refuge” for those who accidentally killed a person. God knows that there are times when believers unintentionally disobey and it is in these cases where “attitudes” become MUCH MORE IMPORTANT than actions. This is a demonstration of God’s MERCY! (NOTE: Mercy will be discussed later on in this section.)

Christ goes on to explain that He did not come “to destroy the law ... but to fulfil”. Torah keepers misunderstand this: “one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled”. (Matthew 5:18) Christ HAS already fulfilled the law completely. (John 17:4, John 19:28, John 19:30, Acts 13:29) There are those who would dispute this, but in God’s eyes, the law was fulfilled by Christ (see Romans 4:17) before the foundation of the world. (See Matthew 25:34, Luke 11:50,

Romans 4:17, Hebrews 4:3, 1 Peter 1:20) God's point of view is not the same as man's point of view. In God's eyes all things have already been accomplished.

Throughout the rest of the sermon on the mount, Christ shows us how attitudes mean as much or more than actions. In the remaining part of Chapter 5, Christ goes on to explain the real intent of 6 of the 10 OT commandments that were given to Moses on the tables of stone. In each case, these 6 laws were as much about Attitude as they were about action. "Thou shalt not kill" is about not being angry with your brothers and sisters. Not having lust in your heart is what "thou shalt not commit adultery" is all about. Much more could be said about what Christ said about a believer's attitude but the few examples given should be sufficient. A primary emphasis of Christ's sermon on the mount is that it explains how our attitudes matter as much or more than our actions. This makes perfect sense because right attitudes typically produce right actions and bad attitudes just about always produce wrong actions. The fact of the matter is, a bad attitude is a bad action.

The original premise of this whole section is that Torah Keepers misunderstand the purpose and intent of the OT law. Many people would say that "there is NOTHING WRONG with trying to honor God by trying to keep the law". The writer disagrees. It would be wrong to make that assertion for at least two reasons: 1. the book of James says that "whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in ONE point, he is guilty of all". Any attempt to "Obey the Law" in the flesh makes one guilty "AGAIN" of disobeying the whole law. Remember, as a believer, you have already been washed and cleansed from this Guilt by the Blood of Christ. 2. Paul says in Galatians: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse". Any attempt at obedience to the law puts the believer back under the curse. Why would anyone want to commit either of these acts of self condemnation after they have already been redeemed?

It is the writer's understanding that those who are Torah Observant do NOT try to obey the law as a way to Salvation. AMEN!! We agree agree that Salvation CANNOT BE by works. At the same time, any righteousness in Christ after Salvation is received in the same way that it was received for Salvation ... and that is BY FAITH and FAITH alone. The following verses should be sufficient to prove this point:

Romans 8:3-4 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: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 10:3-4 - For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

1Corinthians1:30 - But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Philippians 3:9 - And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Galatians 5:5 - For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

So, it is grace through faith Faith that saves us and it is this same grace and faith that will lead us to "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" (Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 2:12) The righteous living of a believer does not merit any righteousness yet righteous living is mandated and necessary so the believer can be a "light" in a world filled with darkness. Isaiah said "all our ourrighteousnesses are a filthy rags." Isaiah 64:6. (see also: Isaiah 6:5, Isaiah 53:6; Job 14:4, Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23) Any attempt at Obedience to the OT Law after trusting in Christ leads to condemnation and a curse. (Galatians 3:10, 3:13, Romans 3:19-20, 6:23; James 2:9-11)

Paul chastises the Jews in the book of Romans for not seeking "righteousness" by faith." (Romans 9:30-32) Jesus condemns the Pharisees several times for being critical of the "good works" of healing that Christ did on the Sabbath Day. Jesus said in Mark 2:27-28: ... "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." What does all of this mean to the believer? These statements show us again that our "attitude" is just as important as our actions. This is a clear implication that, (for example) while the one day of physical rest that was commanded in the OT is "physically (and spiritually) good for man", the reality is that our ultimate REST is in Christ and Christ alone. Our hope, our desires, our energy, our very being should all REST on the completed work of Christ ... not in an attempted fleshly obedience to the OT law of the Sabbath or any other law. There is no "physical rest" or physical work that can overcome a lack of faith in Christ's finished work. (See Isaiah 11:10, Matthew 11:28, Hebrews 3:17-4:1)

The title of this section is "what is the law of liberty?" The answer to this question began with the lengthy conversation about what the intent of the OT law was and still is. A misunderstanding of the purpose and intent of the OT law seems to have led those who are Torah Observant to misunderstand the proper application of the OT law today. Simply put, the NT clearly indicates that the OT law does NOT apply to the believer today. That is NOT to say that the OT law serves no purpose today. Indeed, the OT still serves a great purpose but that purpose is ONLY for the unbeliever. The following two bible passages (also quoted earlier) make this very clear:

1Timothy 1:9 -10 "Knowing this, **that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless** and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; ..."

Gal 3:24 -25 Wherefore **the law was our schoolmaster** to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. **But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.**

These verses are repeated because all but one Torah Observant Web Site the writer viewed never mentioned these two Bible texts that are cited above. **The Law is for the Lawless.** The Law is the Schoolmaster. **After faith comes, we are no longer under the schoolmaster.** This is black and white. There is no disputing the meaning of these passages. It is an honorable (but WRONG) thing that Torah Observant believers desire so much to please God that they try to obey the OT law. However, the reality is, that believers who put themselves under the law again "[trod] under foot the Son of God", and "[count] the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? Hebrews 10:29.

So what is the law of liberty? It is the same as "law of the Spirit of Life in Christ". The Law of the Spirit of life in Christ has made us FREE from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2 The law of liberty is allowing the Holy Spirit to guide oneself in every aspect of daily living. A life lived "in the Spirit" frees a person from many things. It frees the believer from the burden of sin. 1 John 3:9 says: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." That "seed" is the Holy Spirit. John goes on to say in 1 John 5:18: "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not ... " When John says that we do not and cannot sin he is speaking of the Spiritual Man. The carnal man will always sin. The person who lives in the Spirit cannot sin. The moment a person ignores the leading of the Holy Spirit and does what his (or her) flesh tells him to do, that person begins to sin again. This is why it is IMPERATIVE that we be filled with the Spirit and consistently and constantly live in the Spirit. It is also imperative that we do NOT quench the Spirit. The law of liberty also frees the believer from the burden of trying to obey all 613 OT laws. (some of which are now IMPOSSIBLE to keep) The law of liberty frees a believer to speak with God directly thus allowing us to have a deep

relationship with Christ. The Law of Liberty brings peace that passes all understanding to any believer who casts all their cares on Him. Lastly, the law of liberty brings the mercy of God to the forefront of the life of the believer which completely removes the fear of condemnation from the believers life. (NOTE: Chastisement is NOT Condemnation)

MERCY - Because "all have sinned", God has both the power and authority to condemn every person that has ever lived on this earth. (except Christ because he was "without sin".) Hebrews 4:15, 9:28 Every person has sinned against God. (Romans 3:10, 3:23) Yet GOD, in his infinite love, has seen fit to show mercy to those who Trust in the finished work of Christ. Mercy is the forgiving of sin instead of rendering a just punishment. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23) We all deserve to die ... both physically and spiritually ... yet God grants mercy and eternal life to those who believe and live in the Spirit. God's mercy is "from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 103:17) ... It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. (Lamentations 3:22) It is God's mercy that gives us liberty. It is Christ's forgiveness (=Mercy) that allows the believer to live a life of Spirit led liberty. 2 Corinthians 3:17 - Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Praise God for His liberating Mercy!

On the top of Page 4 of this writing it was said that the summary of this study of the Law is this: "the conclusion is that we still MUST keep the Law ... BUT ... not in the way that most (including those who are Torah Observant) would think." Having concluded that we must now obey the Law of Liberty by Living under the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ, the writer will now explain what that means to the believer. The explanation is really quite simple yet so profound that Only God could have designed such a plan for His children.

It has been stated in this writing that we cannot obey ALL of the OT testament law because the Temple has been destroyed and the Levitical Priesthood no longer exists. This makes these OT laws impossible to obey. So what are we supposed to do? As we have already stated ... we are supposed to obey the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ, yet this Law is also not specifically 'defined' in the bible but it is CLEARLY illustrated many many times in the New Testament.

The clearest passage on this "law of the the Spirit of Life in Christ" is found in Galatians 5:16-18: "This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But **if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.**" Paul goes on to list things that are manifested by living under the law of the flesh and then he also listed the "fruit" of the Spirit" that is manifested by those who live in the Spirit. Paul concludes this discussion of the flesh and spirit with this profound statement: (vs 25) "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

The writer believes, based on Pauls statement in Galatians 5:25, that a believer can live in the Spirit and yet not walk in the Spirit. In essence, everyone that is "born again" lives "in the Spirit" because The Holy Spirit indwells every believer at the moment of Salvation ... But ... not all believers "walk in the Spirit" after they are saved. Instead, many believers continue walk "in the flesh" after they are saved despite the fact that the Holy Spirit of God is leading them to "live righteously." Virtually the entire book of 1 Corinthians addresses this issue.

There are many reasons why new believers continue walk in the flesh, but the writer believes that the principle reason is because modern evangelism teaches "easy beliefism" or ... as DeitrichBonhoffer calls it .. "cheap grace". Bonhoffer defines cheap grace in his book "The Cost of Discipleship" where he says: "Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

In other words, cheap grace is the belief that people can continue to live as they please after salvation. This is exactly what many (or even most) believers are taught today. This is commonly called easy believism. Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14- "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Some believe this passage is talking about the way to salvation, others believe it is talking about the "narrowness" of the truth of God. When taken in context with all that is said in the Sermon on the Mount, one can easily see that Matthew 7:13-14 could also be talking about how we should live after we are saved. This is made clear when Jesus says in Matthew 7:14: "narrow is the way, which leads unto life". In the book Pilgrim's Progress, John Bunyan illustrates the "narrow way" clearly throughout the book by illustrating the "unfruitful" results that "Christian" experienced every time he strayed from the "narrow way". Just to be clear: Entering the gate is a picture of "salvation" but "narrow is the way" is referring to "a way" that leads to a life that is pleasing to God. This premise is reinforced throughout the bible. (See Matthew 16:24-25; Proverbs 4:26-27; Isaiah 30:21, Isaiah 35:8, Isaiah 57:14; Jeremiah 6:16; Mark 8:34)

John the Baptist preached: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." (Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4) John The Baptist also preached about repentance. (Matthew 3:8, Mark 1:4, Luke 3:3) A study of the Greek words for repent and repentance (Strong's G3340 & 3341) shows us that repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of action. This change of action is equivalent to a change from the "old way" to the new "narrow way" (path) that a believer is expected (by God) to follow. A change of mind without a change of action is not repentance. Acts 8:17-24 also gives us good illustration about repentance. In this passage, Simon wanted to "buy" the power to lay hands on people to give them the holy ghost. Part of Peter's response to Simon's request was: "thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the though of thine heart may be forgiven thee." So, in this case "repentance would be a "change in the thoughts of Simon's heart. A change of heart would, no doubt, lead to both, a change of mind and a change of action.

When the bible says "the LORD repented", The LORD changed his actions. For example, in Exodus 32:14 -God did NOT kill all of Israel; in 1 Samuel 15:35 - God ordained a new King; in 2 Samuel 24:16 - God told the angel to stop killing the people. Other examples can be found in Genesis 6:6, Johan 3:10, Jeremiah 26:19, Amos 7:3, Amos 7:6) In short, it is obvious, that when a person gets saved, there ought be a distinct change in the new believer's actions and attitudes. (2 Corinthians 5:17) These new attitudes and actions are evidence (and a Light to the World - Matthew 5:14-16) of repentance in the believers life.

4. How is obeying the Law of Liberty by living according to the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ manifested in the Christian life? In other words, how will others know that we have been saved? What will convince the world that we are "a peculiar" people? The simple answer to this question has already been given in the previous two paragraphs. The change in the actions and attitudes of the believer is the evidence to the world that God's Salvation has brought a change to the believer's life. This change ought to be evident to even the biggest skeptics of Christianity. Look at the change that occurred in the lives and attitudes and actions of the disciples or in the life of Paul when "Christ" called them to serve. Peter, Andrew, James and John all gave up their fishing business to follow Christ. Levi "left all" (Luke 5:8) of his Tax money behind to serve the Lord. Paul never again persecuted the church after "seeing the light". Acts 9:3 This is clear evidence of the change that every new believer should experience in their life after surrendering to Christ. Some lives will be changed faster and more dramatically than others but a true "faith" in Christ will cause a change in "the way" every believer lives after being saved.

This change in attitude and action will manifest itself through the “fruit of the Spirit. Notice Seven specific things that Paul says in In Galatians 5:

- Vs. 1 - Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.
- Vs. 6 - For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availethany thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. (NOTE: In Verse 11 Paul implies that he suffered persecution for NOT preaching “circumcision”)
- Vs. 13 - For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
- Vs. 14 - For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
- Vs. 16 - *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
- Vs. 18 - But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.
- Vs. 22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

More specifically, notice the relationship in the above verses between love, liberty, Faith and Spirit. They ALL work together in the life of the believer. Faith works with love, liberty allows the believer to love and serve others, and it is the Spirit that leads the believer in a life of liberty, love and faith. It is also made clear by Paul that a life lived in The Spirit by faith takes the believer out from under the burden and curse of the law.

In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul lists the nine manifestations of the fruit of the Spirit. It is interesting that Love is the first of the nine manifestations of the “fruit” of the Spirit. It is also interesting to note that, just as in the Be-attitudes, we can see that without the first manifestation of fruit of the Spirit, the 2nd manifestation would likely not exist. Thus, without love, there would likely be no joy, and without love or joy, there would likely be no peace, and without peace, there would likely be no longsuffering ... etc. (See also 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13)

5. Are new testament believers still supposed to obey the OT Law? This question addresses the writer’s key purpose of this study. The answer is Yes, but not in the way many may think. NT believers can completely obey the OT law with one simple action and attitude: **LOVE!!!** The Bible says that ALL OF THE LAW is based upon Loving God and Loving your neighbor as yourself. The writer believes this to mean, that so long as a person loves God and loves his neighbor, that same person would not want to hurt or offend God or offend his neighbor. If a person loves God, that person would not have any other God or worship any false idols. If a person loves his neighbor, that person would not lie to, steal from, try to kill his neighbor or covet his neighbors wife. Thus, a true love for God and one’s neighbor will prevent a person from breaking all of the Ten Commandments as well as fulfill all of the law.

The NT clearly states AT LEAST FIVE TIMES that love fulfills the WHOLE LAW. It also clearly alludes to this principle many other times. Consider the following bible passages about how the law is fulfilled with love:

Matthew 7:12 **Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.** (this is, in essence, loving others as yourself)

Matthew 22:35-40 Then one of them, *which was a lawyer*, asked *him a question*, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God** with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. **This is the first and great commandment.** And the second *is like unto it*, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** **On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

Matthew 12:28-31 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, **The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** There is none other commandment greater than these.

Luke 10:25-28 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt **love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.** And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live

Romans 13:8-10 Owe no man any thing, but to **love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.** For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: **therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.**

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but **faith which worketh by love.** (NOTE: in other words, keeping the law is to no avail ... it is all about faith that is based on love)

Galatians 5:13-14 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. **For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

Galatians 6:2 **Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.**

1 Timothy 1:5 -9 Now **the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart**, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that **the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, ...**"

James 2:8-10 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself**, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

Also, consider all of the following other bible texts that support the truth that "love fulfills ALL of the Law:

Deuteronomy 6:5-6, 10:12, Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 5:17-18, 22:36-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:25-28,
Acts 13:38-39, 1 Corinthians 13, Hebrews 10:24, 1 Peter 4:8, 1 John 3:23, 1 John 4:21

Lastly, please consider what 1 Corinthians 13 says about love (charity) and what Galatians 5 says the fruit of the Spirit:

The attributes of love as seen in 1 Corinthians 13

the fruit of Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23

Charity suffereth long, and is kind;
charity envieth not;
charity vaunteth not itself,
[charity] is not puffed up,
[charity] Doth not behave itself unseemly,
[charity] seeketh not her own,
[charity] is not easily provoked,
[charity] thinketh no evil;

love
joy
peace
long-suffering
gentleness
goodness

[charity] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
[charity]. Beareth all things,
[charity] believeth all things,
[charity] hopeth all things,
[charity] endureth all things.
Charity never faileth:

faith
meekness
temperance

The evidence is overwhelming and undeniable. The plethora of bible texts listed above (as well as in many other bible texts that are listed in the writers notes at the end of this study) clearly prove that the Law is fulfilled by love and that the the "law" is as much about attitude as it is about action.

This fact is also backed up by the fact that the whole Bible has a HUGE emphasis on "the heart". The words "love" and "loved" can be found just over 400 times in the KJV bible but the words "heart" and "hearts" can be found OVER 900 times in the KJV bible. That means that the Bible speaks of the heart in 4 out every 5 chapters. (on average) That also means that the Bible speaks more about the heart than it does about the law or the commandments because the words law (523), laws. (20), commandment (177), and commandments (171) all together appear in the Bible less than 900 times. The word Heart is the 22nd most popular Noun word in the Bible. (see: <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Top-100-Bible-Nouns.php>) The point is that God is concerned about our "hearts" (attitude) as much or more than He is concerned about our actions. There is as much evidence of this fact in the OT as there is in the NT.

For example: The first time the word "heart occurs in the Bible is in Genesis 6:5: "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." God destroyed the earth with a flood because of man's evil heart. The first time the word Heart occurs in the NT is in Matthew 5:5: "Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God." The two greatest commandments speak about loving God and our neighbors from the heart. God so loved the world that He sent His Son to die for sinners. Jesus spoke about the heart 40 times in the the Gospels. Salvation comes from believing with the the heart. (Romans 10:9-10) The writer can list a multitude of examples of God's desire is that a man's heart by right with him. The obvious reason for this because a clean heart will typically lead to "clean" (God honoring) actions.

Please also consider these 10 bible texts about the **heart**. (Note: also notice the **Spirit** is closely related to the heart)

Exodus 35:5 ... whosoever is of a willing **heart**, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; ...

Deuteronomy 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy **heart** all the days of thy life:

Psalms 34:18 (KJV) The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken **heart**; and saveth such as be of a contrite **spirit**.

Psalms 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my **heart**.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean **heart**, O God; and renew a right **spirit**within me.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken **spirit**: a broken and a contrite **heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalms 143:4 Therefore is my **spirit** overwhelmed within me; my **heart** within me is desolate.

Psalms 78:8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their **heart** aright, and whose **spirit** was not stedfast with God.

Romans 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the **heart**, in the **spirit**, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the **heart**;

Colossians 3:22-23 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it **heartily**, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Consider the following facts about the heart and its relation to love and service.

A common cliche states that “love comes from the heart”. This cliche is alluded to in the Bible: Deuteronomy 30:6. - And the **LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart**, and the heart of thy seed, to **love the LORD thy God with all thine heart**, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. God has given believers the ability to Love God so we can “live”. It is also interesting to note that the bible also commands the believer to circumcise their own hearts to avoid being stiff-necked and evil. Deuteronomy 10:16 & Jeremiah 4:4.

The bible says seven times that we should LOVE the Lord with all of our heart. (See Deuteronomy 6:5, 13:13, 30:6, Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, 12:33, Luke 10:27.) The bible also tells us six times to that we should SERVE the Lord with all of our heart. Deuteronomy 10:12, 11:13, Joshua 22:5, 1 Samuel 12:20, 12:24, 1 Chronicles 28:9. It is also interesting to note that the Bible tells us that we should serve “by love”. Galatians 5:13

The evidence is overwhelming and undeniable. Look what God has made man capable of through the love that God has put into our hearts. The plethora of bible texts listed above (as well as in many other bible texts) clearly prove that the Law is fulfilled by love and that love comes from the heart because God puts it there.

The sum total of all that the writer has written thus far should lead the reader to these conclusions:

1. The OT Law no longer applies to the believer but it is it does still apply to the lawless. (the unbelievers)
2. For the believer, the Law is fulfilled by a life lived in the Spirit by faith and through love. Galatians 6:2, 5:14)
3. The believer lives a life filled with love from the heart by the spirit and this is evidenced in the way believers love and serve others.

Naysayers of this study might be inclined to ask these 5 questions:

1. Didn't Jesus tell us to keep His commandments and didn't John also tells us the same thing in 1 John? ANSWER: Yes!! (See John 14:15, 15:10, and 1 John 2:3, 3:22, 5:2-3) Some would then ask: Isn't He talking about the OT commandments? ANSWER: No!!

Most people think that Jesus' commandments are the commandments in the Old Testament. This is far from the truth. Christ's commandments are the WORD's that Christ spoke in the New Testament. This is clearly proven in John 14:21-24. Comparing verses 21, 23 and 24 where it can be clearly seen that Christ equates His “commandments” with His “words” and with His “sayings”. So, Christ's commandments are his words and His sayings and NOT the OT commandments. In keeping with the writer's 3rd rule (found on page 1), we find that this assertion can also be seen in Jeremiah 6:19. Notice how God (through Jeremiah) distinguishes (separates) His Words from His law. This fact is further backed up by the fact that Jesus never told anyone to keep the first four of the ten commandments but he did instruct some to obey the last six commandments. The point is, if the OT Law and Christ's commandments (words & sayings) were the same thing, then why didn't Christ also tell someone to keep the first four of the OT 10 commandments. The answer is simple: By loving God and by Loving our neighbors, we keep all of the ten commandments because ALL OF THE LAW is based on LOVE. In the book of 1 John, John reaffirms the fact of what Christ's “commandments” are:

1 John 3:23 “And this is **his** commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.”

1 John 4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

It is clear that the OT Law is NOT what Christ was talking about when he said “keep my commandments”.

2. What about the dietary laws ... don't they still apply to the believer? ANSWER: No, they no longer apply to the believer.

The following NT verses clearly explain and make it abundantly clear that the OT dietary laws no longer apply to Believers:

Genesis 9:3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

Romans 14:3-4 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

Romans 14:14-17 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 8:8-9 But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

Colossians 2:20-23 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

1 Timothy 4:3-5 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Hebrews 13:9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them ...

It should be noted that several of the above texts clearly indicate that believers should not use their liberty to freely eat anything if it will offend another believer or cause someone who is weak to stumble. They also clearly indicate that if one "esteeems something to be unclean" then, to that person, it is unclean and should not be eaten. The writer knows several people who believe that the LORD has led them to eat only those meats that are listed as "clean" in the OT law yet they still believe that there is nothing wrong with other people eating things that are outlawed in the OT if God allows them to do so. Lastly, these verses clearly say that believers should not "judge" others by what God has allowed them to eat or not eat.

Finally, in regards to the OT Dietary laws, Christ said that we cannot be "defiled" by what we eat:

Matthew 15:11 - Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

Matthew 15:17 - Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

3. Shouldn't we still keep the Sabbath because it is a Statute "forever"? ANSWER: No ... for 3 reasons.

1. Christ is our Rest. Matthew 11:28-29

2. Christ or Paul or anyone in the NT ever commanded anyone to keep the sabbath.

3. We are commanded to enter into Christ's rest. The Sabbath day was a shadow of this rest Colossians 2:16-17
Resting in Christ's finished work by faith is how the believer keeps the Sabbath - Hebrews, Chapters 3 & 4

4. Didn't Paul keep the Law? ANSWER: yes, no, maybe?

Paul said that he was "made all things to all men, that I[he] might by all means save some." 1 Corinthians 9:22 This would seem to indicate that there were times when Paul did keep the law and that there were also times when he did not keep the law. However, In Acts 24:14 Paul said: "But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:" It is obvious from what Paul said in Acts 24:14 that what Paul believed about the law was contrary to what Tertullus (and the Jews) (See Acts 24:1-9). believed about the law. In other words, Paul's method of "obeying the law" was very different and disagreeable to the Jewish rulers of the day and therefore they continually persecuted Paul and wanted to have him killed. Read Paul's testimony (2 Corinthians 11:18-28). about some of the sufferings that came about as result of what Paul believed, taught and practiced. Paul speaks about the "letter of the law" three times (Romans 2:29, 7:6, 2 Corinthians 3:6) and then contrasts the "letter of the law" with "spirit living". After Paul got saved, it seems like he may have endeavored to keep the law but, given the continued persecution by the Jews, he obviously did not keep the "letter of the law". Another possibility is that, as stated earlier, what the Jews believed the law to mean was not the way Paul taught and practiced the law. This seems to validate the writer's conclusion that the law is as much about attitude as it is about actions.

Ultimately, the writer concludes that there is NO definitive bible text (that the writer knows of) that could prove whether or not Paul kept the law. The writer certainly leans towards saying that Paul did keep the law with the important caveat that Paul's method of keeping the law was VERY different from what the rulers of the day practiced. It is also important to note, that while Paul may have tried to keep the law, He did it ONLY to help him win the Jews to Christ. With that in mind, these questions must be asked:

- (A.). If Paul kept the letter of the law all of the time, then why did the rulers of that day (High priests, Pharisees, Saducees... etc) continually persecute Paul and want Paul dead?
- (B.). If Paul was adamant about keeping the letter of the law (as some say he was) then why did he not take the opportunity during his meeting with the apostles and elders in Acts 15 to tell the apostles and elders there that they should teach everyone to "keep the letter of the law"?
- (C.). If Paul was adamant about keeping the letter of the law, then why did Paul say in Galatians 5:11: And I, brethren, **if** I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution?" Notice he said "IF I preach circumcision" ... Paul specifically says that Titus did NOT get circumcised because it would have brought him into "bondage". Galatians 2:3
- (D.) If keeping the letter of the Law was so important to Paul, then why did he say in [Galatians 5:6] and Galatians 6: 15 "For in [Jesus] Christ neither circumcision availethany thing, nor uncircumcision but ..."? Circumcision is part of the law and yet Paul said it does not matter if you get circumcised or not ... BUT ... Paul did say that "FAITH which worketh by love" matters. (Galatians 5:6)
- (E.) If Paul taught that believers should keep the letter of the law, then why did the Jews say this about Paul: "This *fellow*persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law." (See Acts 18:13)

The are many other questions that could be asked that would seem to clearly indicate that Paul did not always keep the law. Some refer to Acts 26:5 or Philippians 3:6 as proof text that Paul kept the law. In regards to being "blameless": in context Paul was speaking about the time in the past when he was a Pharisee. In Acts 26:5, Paul was also speaking in the past tense. Paul also clearly stated that "righteousness in the law" is achieved by faith and NOT by keeping the law. (Philippians 3:6-9). (See also Romans, Chapters 9 & 10). In the end, It must be remembered that it has already been proven that, ultimately, the Law is all about LOVE.

5. Since the Bible defines sin as “the transgression of the law”, shouldn’t we keep the law so we won’t sin? ANSWER: No. We would still be “sinners” because it is “IMPOSSIBLE” to be “perfect” in regards to keeping the law. The Torah Observers fail to realize (or admit) that John said: (TWICE) that the born again believer “does not sin” and “cannot sin”. In context, John is talking about the spiritual man. It has already been said (on page 9) by the writer, that when a believer “walks in the flesh” he commits sin, but when a believer “lives and walks in the Spirit”, he cannot sin.

LASTLY:

The following pages contain notes that the writer made prior to writing out this study. The pages mostly contain bible verses that the writer studied or found as part of this study. Individually, these 200+ verses do not prove the writers conclusion. But as a body, “fitly joined together” (See Ephesians 4:16 - results in LOVE) it becomes very clear that the writers conclusion is correct. It should also be restated that this study focused on the use of the word “law” only in the New Testament. Thus, the majority of the Bible texts cited in the notes are from the NT. However, as you will see, there are still a good number of bible texts in the notes from the Old Testament that also lead the writer to the stated conclusion. The writer is certain that a study of the “Law” in the OT would yield the same conclusion because the Bible Cannot and will not contradict itself.

These notes are **unedited** except to put them in the order that the Bible texts appear in the bible.

VERSES FROM PAUL - ABOUT OBEYING THE LAW

Acts 13:42, 14:12-18, 15:22-31, 17:2, 18:4, 18:18,
20:16, 21:23-24, 21:27-29, 23:5, 24:14

Romans 3:31, 13:8-9, 16:25-27

1 Corinthians 5:8, 11:1, 12:3, 14:21

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, 13:1

Ephesians 4:25, 6:1-2

1 Timothy 1:8-11, 4:13, 5:17, 6:3

2 Timothy 2:15, 3:8, 15-16, 4:3

Hebrews 1:2

Premise - *1. two witnesses required. Deu 17:6, Deu 19:15; 1Ki 21:10; Mat 18:16; 2Co 13:1; Heb 10:28; 1Jn 5:9; Rev 11:3

*2. To prove that obedience to the law is required after salvation

Methodology - reviewing every instance of the word LAW in the NT AND SOME IN THE OLD

*3. The Purpose of the Law

The Law distinguished Israel from the nations. It pointed the way to the Creator ... A.K.A. ... the Messiah.

The Law teaches us that we are sinners. Romans 4:15, Romans 5:20, Galatians 3:19

The Law is a shadow. Col 2:16-17, Hebrews 8:4-5, Hebrews 10:1

The Law is a figure(s) ??? - romans 5:14, Hebrews 9:9 & 24, 1 Peter 3:20-21,

The Law is a Light - The entrance of thy word bringeth light ... Thy word is lamp and light

Thy word have i hid in mine heart=spirit

*4. The Law was replaced (updated) by Christ Himself (New), Galatians 4 (allegory)

Because the “everlasting covenant was broken by man. Isaiah 24:5-6

New Testament Commands should be obeyed?? Jeremiah 31:31, 2 For 3:6, Heb 8:6-13, Heb 9:15,

Heb 10:16-17, Heb 12:24, Heb 13:20

5. The Law is fulfilled in ONE WORD ... love thy neighbor as thyself. Galatians 5:14

- *6. The Law is Spiritual and Must be kept "in the spirit" ... the law failed because of the flesh. Romans 8:1-3
Walk in the spirit. (Galatians 5)
- 7. JESUS NEVER ONCE said "keep the Law" .. he said keep HIS commandments which are not the Law.
- *8. the WHOLE law must be obeyed. (James 2:10, Galatians 3:10-12, 5:3, Deut 27:26, Jer 11:3-5)
- 9. Believers CANNOT SIN if they walk in the Spirit ... 1 John 3:9, 5:18
- 10. Justification vs. Sanctification - The Just Shall live by faith ... NOT by the law
which gives us Gods / Christ's righteousness.
Philippians 3:9, Romans 4:5, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38, 11:7
Rom 3:22; 1Co 1:30; 2Co 5:21
- 11. Christians should live righteously ... Titus 2:12, Romans 6:12-13, 19, Romans 12:1-2, Gal 5:13, 18, 24,
James 1:22
- 12. NOT ONCE in the NT are believers told to Obey the Law? ... in the OT, Israel is told to obey the law and to
keep the commandments many times
- 13. Most physical things in the world have a spiritual equal

* ARGUMENTS - For ever - a law of God that is said to be "for ever" is NOT negated because we CANNOT do it.
Deut 4:2, 12:32, 13:18
many "for ever" things in the Bible that APPEAR to have ended ... Is God a liar. NO.
Laws that can be done are not done ... ie ... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/613_commandments

OT - commandment does NOT = law Joshua 22:5, 2 Kings 17:34, 2 Chronicles 19:10, Proverbs 6:23, Genesis 26:5
Exodus 16:28
Reconcile above verses with Exodus 34:32 and Deuteronomy 33:2

NT - commandment = law. Hebrews 7:5, Hebrews 7:16, Matthew 22:36,

The word LAW does NOT occur in the book of Mark, 2 Corinthians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 2 Timothy,
Philemon, 1 & 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, Jude, Revelation

LAW KEEPERS ASK:

Could I demonstrate where the dietary laws came to an end in the Bible? yes - it is what comes out of the
mouth that defiles ... not what goes in

Could I demonstrate when the Sabbath was done away with in the Bible? Yes - rest

Could I demonstrate when the feasts were done away with in the Bible? Yes - shadow - the first 4 for sure

How does the Bible define sin? -

MY RESPONSE -

1. can the law keepers show me in the Bible which parts of the Law we still have to keep and which
ones we don't? If not, then we have to keep the whole law (James 2:22) or none of it.
Just because you can't do it does not mean the requirement no longer exists.
2. If Paul kept the Law ... then why was he called a heretic and why did they try to kill him.
See Acts 24 why did he say that his circumcision was his "liberty"
why did he give "NO SUCH commandment to the Gentiles

Genesis 26:5 - Abraham kept God's charge, commandments, statutes &LAWs BEFORE THE LAW WAS GIVEN.
(see also Deuteronomy 11:1, Romans 7:12) (there was NO Sabbath to keep, no sacrifices
to give, & no commandment to tithe). Abraham believed and it was counted as righteousness.

See also Exodus 12:49, 13:9, 16:4 & 28, Exodus 18:16 & 20 (ALL BEFORE THE LAW WAS GIVEN)

Exodus 20. - Were the first 5 of the 10 Commandments all about staying in the promised land?

Exodus 31:14 Keep the Sabbath OR DIE!! Torah observers do NOT keep that part of the law.

Exodus 31:16-17 - The sabbath is ONLY for the Children of Israel because it is a sign between them and God

Deut 4:6-7 - And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. HOW ... by writing the Law of God on our Hearts?

Deut 6:1-3 - Purpose of the law = to prosper and keep the promised land?

Deut 6:24-25 for their good

that God might preserve them alive

for their righteousness

Deut 10:12. - what does the LORD require of Israel? - Fear God, walk in HIS ways, Love God, Serve God, keep HIS commandments and statutes

Deut 10:16 - AND to "Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart". (Jer 4:4) **IT IS ABOUT THE HEART.** See Gen 6:5 (See "heart" in Deut). Lev 26:41, Ps 40:8,95:10, Deut 6:5-6, Ex 35:5, Deut 4:9, 29, Eph 6:6-7, Col 3:22-23, Gen 20:5-6

Psalms speaks of both the spirit and the heart 7 times. Psalm 34:18, 51:10, 51:17, 77:6, 78:8,143.4, Jer. 12:11

Deut 30:6. - And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. We CANNOT live without a "circumcised heart".

Deu 30:14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

Joshua 24:14 - Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity (heart) and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood (before the flood - before the law?)

1 Kings 2:3 - Charges, ways, statutes, commandments, judgments & testimonies are all written in the LAW of Moses.

Psalm 19:7. The LAW was to Israel to make them wise above other nations. Deut 4:6-7

Psalm 40:8 - "Thy Law is within my heart"

Psalm 95:10. - God's problem with Israel was that they Erred in their heart ... Isa 63:17; Heb 3:10, Heb 3:17 as a result they could not enter into rest , Psalm 147:19-20, Hebrews 3:10

Psa 119:44 So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.

Psa 119:45 And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.

Pro 15:13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Isaiah 42:21 - He will magnify the LAW and make it honourable

Isaiah 58 - Israel asked for and kept the ordinances yet God said that is not what he wanted.

Jer 6:19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

Eze 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: Eze 36:26, 18:31

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Matt 5:17-19 - Jesus came to fulfill the LAW.

The law will not pass until all is fulfilled. (IT WAS FULFILLED BY CHRIST)

The doers of the law shall be great in the kingdom

Matt 5:18. Till all be fulfilled? Did The theLAW pass because Jesus fulfilled it? COMPARE WITH Luke 16:17

Matt 7:12 - The LAW is doing unto others as unto yourself. See TSK

Matt 11:13 - The LAW is prophetic., John 1:45 John 12:34, 15:25, Acts 28:23

But after John the Baptist, the law no longer prophesies - Because CHRIST FULFILLED THE LAW!

Because the Law was about CHRIST!!

Matt 12:1-8 - The priests broke the LAW on every sabbath ... yet they were blameless Jesus picked corn on the Sabbath

Mat 12:33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. Mat 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Matt 19:18 - Jesus never told the rich young man to keep the Sabbath or the 1st 3 commandments. He added "love thy neighbor as thyself".
Jesus' commandments to the young man **omitted** the 1st 4 in Exodus 20

Matt 22:36-40 - All of the LAW is based on two commandments ... love God & love one another.

Matt 23:23 - Judgment, mercy & faith are the "weightier" matters of the LAW. FAITH!!!

(FAITH is a fruit of the Spirit ... Judgement and Mercy are fulfilled in the Spirit & akin to fruits of the Spirit
Jesus consistently condemned the Pharisees who were adamant LAW keepers.

The LAW is WEIGHTIER! Christ's Commandments are NOT ... See 1 John 5:3. (Strong's G926)

The Law and Christ's commandments are two different things.

Mar 2:27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: See Luke 14:1-6, 13:15,

Luke 2:22-24, 27, 39 - Jesus' parents kept the Law when Jesus was born:

1. Mary was "purified" VS. 22
2. Jesus (THE FIRST BORN) was called Holy VS. 23 -
3. A sacrifice was made VS. 24
4. Fulfilled all the related laws - VS. 39. - QUESTION: do Torah keepers do these 4 things?

Luke 5:17 - There was "power of the Lord" present to heal the Pharisees Doctors of the LAW.

Luke 10:25-28 - A LAWyer quotes Love God & love one another when he is asked about his understanding of the LAW.

Jesus said he was correct!!! Deu 6:5, Deu 10:12, Lev 19:18

Luke 12:1 "...Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."

Luke 16:16 - 17 - ??? LAW preached ONLY UNTIL JOHN ... NOW - the the kingdom of God. IS PREACHED

Luke 16:17 - IT IS EASIER for heaven and earth to pass than one tittle of the law to fail. ... compare Matt 5:16

Luke 24:44 - ??? Jesus fulfilled all that was written about HIM in the LAW, and in the prophecies and in the psalms.

Now they preach repentance and remission, NOT THE LAW vs. 47

John 1:16-17 - We have received of His Fulness and Grace for Grace ... implies Grace and Truth have replaced the LAW

John 1:45 - Jesus was written about by Moses in the Law (See Luke 24:44)

??? John 3:17 James came Not to Condemn world but to condemn sin -

??? Rom 8:3-4 Christ condemned sin in the flesh

John 4:22-24 - worship is spirit and in truth ... not by obeying the law (but ... the spirit will lead us to obey God)

John 7:19 - 23 Jesus accuses the Jews of hypocrisy for NOT keeping the LAW and accusing him of not keeping the LAW

John 7:49 - chief priests and Pharisees say they who know not the LAW are cursed

John 8:5 - the Scribes & Pharisees use the law to condemn the adulteress woman but fail to condemn the adulteress man

John 8:11 - Jesus gave grace to the adulterous woman ... instead of enforcing the LAW

John 8:17 the law requires two witnesses

John 10:34 - Jesus quotes Psalm 82 and says it is part of the YOUR LAW

John 14:15. - If you love me, keep my Commandments., John 14:21-23 - Jesus' WORDS are his commands 1 John 2:3-4

John 14:21-24 - He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: If a man love me, he will keep my words: ... He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings .. CHRIST'S "words" are HIS "commandments

SEE Jeremiah 6:19 & John 6:63, 1 Cor 14:37, 2 Peter 3:2

John 19:7 - The Chief Priests falsely condemned Christ with the LAW

*Acts 6:13-14 - false witnesses claimed Stephen spoke blasphemous words against the holy place and against the Law and that Jesus would change the customs which Moses delivered & that Stephen preached against the law

Acts 13:15, 39 - they read the law and then ... Paul says "ye could not be justified by the LAW of Moses"

Act 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the LAW of Moses.

Acts 13:43 - Paul persuades the Gentiles to continue in the grace of God

Acts 15:5-35 - The apostles STRICTLY forbade burdening "converts" (disciples) with keeping the LAW

a sect of the Pharisees said it was needful to "keep the LAW of Moses" Yet, Peter, in the presence of Paul, asked "why tempt ye God, to put a YOKE upon the neck of the disciples?" He also said that "through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved." James then said "trouble not them" but only tell them to abstain from idols, fornication, things strangled, and from blood. Then he said Moses is read in the synagogues every sabbath BUT then the apostles wrote that they did NOT command circumcision or LAW keeping. (vs. 24) If the Gentile MUST keep the Law Then why did Paul stay in town and he "preached the word of the LORD" ... not the LAW?

Acts 18:13 - Paul accused of persuading men to worship God contrary to the LAW.

*Acts 21:20 - 28 - thousands of Jews are save and are "zealous of the LAW" These same Jews were informed that Paul taught all Jews WHICH WERE AMONG THE GENTILES to Forsake Moses , not circumcise Children or walk after the customs. It is then said that what Paul said was "nothing" but that Paul walked orderly and KEPT THE LAW. BUT THEN ... concerning the Gentiles which believed, it was written and concluded that they (the Gentiles) observe no such thing. Paul is then accused of teaching "all men every where against the people and the LAW and this place (the temple) ... In verse 27, Paul is again accused of teaching "all men every where against the law and this place ... " (this place = the temple) So if the law must be kept, it according Paul, it is only for the Jews.

Acts 22:3-5 Paul says, (that before he got save) he persecuted unto death those Christians who did not obey the LAW

*Acts 22:12. - Ananias was "a devout man according to the LAW"

*Acts 24:14 - Why was Paul called a heretic ? Paul believes "all things which are written in the LAW and the prophets" and had a conscience void of offense toward God ... yet he said he worshipped God in a way that the rulers called Heresy. HERESY - means contrary established doctrine or Law.

RECONCILE Acts 24:14 with Acts 25:8

*Acts 25:8 - Paul says "Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all.

Acts 28:23 - Paul used the LAW and the prophets to expound about the kingdom of God and Jesus

Romans 1:5 - Paul receive Grace and Apostleship because of his obedience to the faith ... NOT obedience to the law.

Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH ... NOT BY THE LAW.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; His wrath is revealed against those who "hold the truth in unrighteousness" which will result in the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men

Romans 2:12 - The Gentiles are without LAW ... see vs. 14 ... so ... those who lived before the LAW was given to Moses perish because of sin even though there was no LAW ... See Romans 5:13-14)

Rom 2:13 While we may try to keep the law (or be a "doer of the law") ... ultimately we are all guilty of not obeying the whole law ... Romans 3:19-20, Romans 4:13-16, Romans 5:1, James 2:10

Romans 2:14-15— The Gentiles are a law unto themselves because by nature we try to obey the law.

Being a law unto themselves makes Gentiles Sinners even when there was no law

This shows that God kept his promise of writing the law on our hearts. (Jeremiah 31:33,

Deu 6:5-6, 30:6; Psa 37:29-31, Psa 40:8; Pro 4:4; Psa 119:11 Isa 51:7; Heb 8:10)

Romans 2:16 - Paul explains 'the secrets of men in verses 17-23 See comments following verse 23

Romans 2:17-23 - Pauls explanation of "the secrets of men" boils down to one thing: "the hypocrisy of the Jews who "rested" in the Law while continuing to break the law AND while continuing to condemn others for

breaking the law. ... he finishes his criticism in verse 24 by saying that these hypocritical actions cause others to "blaspheme" God

Isa 52:5; Lam 2:15-16; Eze 36:20-23; Mat 18:7; 1Ti 5:14, 1Ti 6:1; Tit 2:5, Tit 2:8

Romans 2:25-29 - The Jews invalidated (nullified) their own circumcision by breaking the law while the Gentiles were "in essence" (spiritually) circumcised when by nature they fulfilled the law because "circumcision is *that of the heart*, in the spirit, and not in the letter." SEE Hebrews 3:10

Paul's summary clarifies that fact that is confirmed many times in the bible ... and that is that "the keeping of the Law" cannot be dependent upon "outward actions" unless you successfully keep the whole law ... the TRUE keeping of the law is "of the heart" and "in the spirit" ... not of "the letter" See Romans 7:6; 2 Cor 3:6 SEE ALSO Hebrews 3:10). That being said, a pure heart will lead a person to obey the Spirit of the Law.

Romans 3:19 - The law speaks (ONLY) to those who are under the law. (Jews, not Gentiles)

Romans 3:20 - The SOLE purpose of the LAW is to proof that all men are guilty and to give man the knowledge of sin)

Romans 3:21-22 - There is a righteousness of God WITHOUT THE LAW ... it comes by faith. (Rom 3:22)

The LAW and the Prophets ended with John the Baptist (See Matt 11:13, Luke 16:16)

Verse 21 clearly says that GOD has manifested righteousness WITHOUT the LAW. Paul again says in Chapter 10 that "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

Romans 3:27 - All boasting is eliminated because it (faith) all comes from God

Romans 3:28 - We are justified by faith WITHOUT the deeds of the law.

Romans 3:30-31 - Since all are justified by faith, the law is NOT voided but it is established. **HOW is it established?**

1. Established in that God still requires a just punishment for sin
 - a.) punishment (judgment) that is suffered in hell by those who reject Christ
 - b.) judgment that was suffered by Christ who imputes righteousness to believers
2. In that believers are led by the Spirit to love one another which fulfills the law of God
3. In that believers delight in the law after the inward man. (not the OUTWARD action)
4. In that it shows us that we are sinners ...for where no law is, there is no transgression Romans 4:15

Romans 3:31 - The Law voids faith (Romans 4:14) BUT Faith "establishes" Law

Romans 4:13-16, 8:4,10:4 - Righteousness does not come by keeping the LAW. , Galatians 2:21, 3:21 Hebrews 7:11

- The promise to Abraham was not because Abraham kept the law (But Abraham did keep A law Gen 26:5)
- but because if becoming an Heir requires one to keep the Law ... then Faith is made VOID
- the Law works wrath (Deut 11:13-17 - obedience to the law = blessings ... disobedience = wrath)
- Paul says (vs. 16) the promise (heirship) is given because of faith that it might be by grace

Rom 5:13-14 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. **But the penalty of sin was administered beginning with Adam and continued until the law was given to Moses.** Therefore there must have been some sort of Law beginning with Adam because death came upon Adam and all of his descendants before the law was given. The Flood, with all of its death came before the law. The death and destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah came before the law was given. Only Enoch escaped death. Abraham kept God's charge, commandments, statutes & LAWs BEFORE THE LAW WAS GIVEN. (Genesis 26:5) The Bible does NOT SPECIFICALLY say what Law(s) existed before Moses.

The simple explanation lies in first 2 chapters of this same book of Romans. We find the first explanation in Verses18-20 of the 1st chapter of the book of Romans. This passage clearly shows that God's divine displeasure of ungodliness and unrighteousness is manifested to mankind through his divine creation. The "invisible things" of God (including his divine law written on our hearts) are clearly seen just by looking at and into God's creation. His creation clearly shows a "divine order" that is known by all things that are "Made" (not created) by God. The invisible things (specifically his eternal power and Godhead. Romans 1:20) are clearly seen and understood by the things that are made. God made the firmament (Genesis 1:7), the "great lights" and the stars (Genesis 1:16), and the "beast of the earth" (not beastS), the cattle and everything that creepeth upon the earth.

These verses specifically speak about "the things that were made" ... not the things that were created yet it seems obvious that the things that were created also manifest a divine order that could only originate by a divine creator. God

created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1), the great whales and every living creature that moveth (in the water) and every winged fowl (Genesis 1:21), and man. (Genesis 1:27) Romans 1:18-20 ends by saying that man is “without excuse” because God’s divine order and his eternal power and Godhead is “clearly seen” in His creation. Even without a bible, mankind knows that God exists as the creator and that mankind is accountable to God.

The 2nd explanation lies in Romans chapter 2 and verse 12 which says “for as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law ...”. In context this verse is speaking about the Gentiles (see verse 14), not the Jews. It must be remembered that a Jewish nation was promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob but it did not come into existence until the covenant (the law) was given to Moses. More importantly, the promise that God would make a great nation out of his “called out” people was based on the obedience of those same people. (see Genesis 46:3 Exodus 19:5-6, Deuteronomy 26:5) Thus, God scattered (broke up) the Nation of Israel because of their disobedience ... but ... God will reunite the Nation of Israel when they turn to God in obedience to His commandment to “live by faith”. But this does NOT mean that we still have to obey the written law but rather ... we should love God and our neighbors which “fulfills the Law. Rom 13:8-10 Rom 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: “the law entered” ... 1. implies that a written law was not in place at the time Paul was referring to (prior to Moses) ... and ... 2. that an unwritten law” existed at that time but that this unwritten law had no effect in regards to making “the offense ... abound.” In making the “offence abound” ... the law Magnified and made SIN more obvious to all mankind. The Law’s SOLE purpose is show mankind their sinfulness. See Romans 7:7

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (under = subject to) faith = under the authority of Christ ... not under the law

Rom 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Paul says NO and thanks God that they had obeyed **from the heart** that form of doctrine which was delivered ... and became servants of righteousness. THE LORD IS (now) OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS and we serve HIM. and NOT obeying the law COMPARE Deuteronomy 6:25 with Jeremiah 23:6 and 33:16

Rom 6:17-18 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Romans 7:1-4 Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? BUT ... Wherefore, my brethren, **ye also are become dead to the law** by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, **even** to him who is raised from the dead

Romans 7:5-9 - For **when we were in the flesh, the** motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

“ But now **we are delivered from the LAW**, that being dead wherein we were held; that **we should serve in newness of spirit**, and not *in* the oldness of the letter.” ...the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. 2 Cor .3:6

Romans 7:10 - the commandment is found to be unto death? ...

Romans 7:12 & 16 - Wherefore the law **is** holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. The law has a purpose.

Romans 7:14 - The law is spiritual (therefore must be kept “in the spirit ... not in the flesh=death) (ie ... fruits of the spirit)

Romans 7:22-25 - Delight in the Law after the INWARD man ... - we keep the Law of God with the spirit and mind

Romans 8:2 - The Law of the Spirit of life in Christ has made us free from “the law talked about in the previous chapters. We are NOW under a NEW LAW ... the LAW OF THE SPIRIT.

Romans 8:3-4 - The LAW is weak through the flesh ...See Philippians 3:3 - no confidence in the flesh

Romans 8:7 - The CARNAL mind cannot obey the Law of God ... obedience must be IN THE SPIRIT.

Romans 9:3-4 Covenants pertain to the Israelites (Paul’s OWN flesh). (See Psalm 89:3)

Romans 9:31:32 - Israel, which followed after the LAW of righteousness, HATH NOT attained to the LAW of righteousness Romans 9:32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

Romans 10:4 - For Christ **is** the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Righteousness is NOT attained by keeping the law but by faith.

Romans 10:5 - Moses is saying that you have to keep the WHOLE LAW for it to count as righteousness. James 2:10
Romans -13 - Loving one another FULFILLS the law. vs. 9 - if there be any other commandment, it is briefly
comprehended in this saying" - all the other commandments are saying "love God & your neighbor"
1 Cor 7:18 - "... Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised." It is all about FAITH & LOVE... See vs. 19
1 Cor 7:19 "Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing"
1 Cor 7:19-20 Paul says circumcision is nothing ... Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he
was called. See Colossians 2:11 & 3:11 - "without hands". AND. Gal 5:6. & 6:15.
1 Cor 7:39 - the law of divorce and remarriage see vs. 10 & 15. & Romans 7:2-3
1 Cor. 9:19-23 - Paul was all things to all men that he might save some -
under the law only so he could win those who were under the law
NOT under the law to those who were WITHOUT the law ... but under the LAW TO CHRIST

NOTE: the law was NEVER meant for the Gentile.

1 Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.
2 Cor 3:3 - The Corinthians were "Epistles of Christ" ... NOT written with ink or in tables of stone ... but written
with the Spirit of the Living God in the fleshly tables of the heart.
2 Cor 3:6 - We are able ministers of NEW testament ... NOT of the Letter ... but of the SPIRIT ... because the letter killeth
2 For 3:7 - The commandments are "the ministration of Death"
2 Cor. 3:11 - The "ministration of death" (ie ... the law) IS done away with ...
2 Cor. 3:6 9 - the letter of the LAW killeth, but the spirit of the LAW gives life. Romans 2:29, John 6:63
2 Cor 3:14-16 - Paul said the Old Testament was & is read with a VAIL upon their heart but Christ did away with that vail
2 Cor 3:17 - The Spirit of Lord brings "liberty"
Galatians 2:3 Titus was NOT compelled (by God) to be circumcised
Galatians 2:15 - Peter lived after the manner of the Gentiles
Galatians 2:16 - Man is NOT Justified by The works of the law but by faith
Galatians 2:19 - **For I through the law am dead to the law**, that I might live unto God.
Galatians 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life **which I now live in**
the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. FAITH NOT LAW
Galatians 2:21 - Galatians 2:21 ... if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.
Our Faith is our Righteousness Romans 4:5, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 11:7, Isa 54:17
& the just shall live by Faith. Romans 1:17

Galatians 2:24. Paul & Titus (liberty from the law of circumcision)
Galatians 3:16-18 - The covenant of law CANNOT DISANNUL the promise that God gave to Abraham
Galatian 3:7 - all believers are the children of Abraham and therefore our faith is counted for righteousness
Galatians 3:9-10 - those under the works of the law are under a curse
Galatians 3:12 - the law is NOT of faith
Galatians 3:13 - Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law (Deut 27:26)
Galatians 3:17 - The law canNOT dis-annul the promise that God made to Abraham
the inheritance cannot be earned by obedience to the law (Galatians 3:18) ... Inheritance is NOT salvation
Inheritance comes by "sonship"

Galatians 3:19 - The "law was established "til the seed should come."
Galatians 3:23-25 BEFORE FAITH CAME ... "WERE kept under the law" (PAST TENSE)
The law "WAS" our schoolmaster ...
You are no longer under the schoolmaster if "faith has come to you. (if you live by faith)
Galatians 3:29 Heirs according to the promise ... not by the Law

Galatians 4:3-6 - Christ Redeemed Israel out from under the BONDAGE of the Law

Galatians 4:9-10 - The “weak and beggarly elements” are listed in verse 10 ... Likely talking about the feast days

Galatians 4:21-31. - The Law is an allegory

Galatians 5:1 - Standfast therefore in The law of liberty ... because the bondwoman (= the law) was cast out. Gal 4:24-31

Galatians 5:3 - For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Galatians 5:6 - NOT LAW but faith which worketh by love

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Gal 5:14 - FOR ALL THE LAW IS FULFILLED IN ONE WORD ... Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Deut 6:5-6, Mat 7:12, Mat 19:18-19, Mat 22:37-40; Rom 13:8-10; Jas 2:8-11

Luke 10:25-28, Mark 12:28-34, 1 Tim 1:5-11, Acts 13:38-39 , Gal 6:2

Galatians 5:18, 24. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. See Romans 8:12-14

Galatians 5:24 - And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:12 -16 - its is not the law ... it is about being a “new creature” ... see their motivation in vs. 12

Ephesians 2:15, 2 Corinthians 3:9-17 - The law is “enmity” ... **Christ abolished the law** of the commandments

Philippians 3:3 - no confidence in the flesh - the law is weak through the flesh - Romans 8:3-4

Philippians 3:6 - Paul was “blameless” about keeping the LAW BEFORE HE GOT SAVED!! Not AFTER.

Why would Paul keep the law if he thought it was enmity or if he had no confidence in the flesh ... or ... etc

Philippians 3:9 - “righteousness which is of God by faith”

Col 1:22-23 We are Holy and unblameable and and unrepentable in His sight if we continue in faith grounded and settled

Colossians 2:6. Walk ye in him

Col 2:13 - 14 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Col 2:16-17 - Let no man judge you in ...in respect of an Holyday or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days
which are a shadow of things to come. **PRESENT TENSE??**

Col 2:20-23 - Is Col 2:13-23 talking all about the commandments of men?

Col 3:4 Christ is our life ... see Deuteronomy 30:19

1 Timothy 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *of* a good conscience, and *of* faith unfeigned:

1 Timothy 1:8-9 - the law is NOT made for the righteous man but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly, and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers ...

Heb 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Heb 4:9 -10 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.

Heb 6:10-12 For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (it is LOVE, NOT Law) (inheritance is based on faith and patience, not on the obedience to the law)

Hebrews 7:12 the law IS (present tense) changed because the priesthood was changed

Hebrews 7:16 - Christ was NOT made after the law but after the power of an endless life. (the law brings death)

Hebrews 7:18. For there IS verily a disannulling of the commandment - BECAUSE it was weak and unprofitable.

Hebrews 7:19 - the law made nothing perfect ... but the bringing in of a better hope DID.

Hebrews 8:4-5 The priests were “shadows” of things to come ... does that make the “law” a shadow?

