

Lighted Way Ministries

Study Guide

The Law of God: Blessing or Nailed to the Cross?...

A stage set featuring blue curtains and a white banner. The banner is held up by white ropes and contains the text 'The Great Torah Debate' in red serif font. Below the banner, two figures stand at wooden podiums. The figure on the left is Moses, with a long white beard and a red and blue robe, holding a golden tablet. The figure on the right is the Apostle Paul, wearing a yellow and red robe and a white head covering, looking down at a book on his podium.

The Great Torah Debate

*The Apostle Paul
& Moses Face Off*



Most Christians today have been taught that the Law of *Yahweh* was a burden, the “handwriting of the Ordinances” which was “against us.” The teachings of the apostle Paul are viewed as birthing New Testament Christianity, which is contrasted starkly against the Old Testament writings.

On the one hand, David wrote of the Law of *Yahweh* with high praise. He identified it as a vital catalyst in the conversion process (Psalm 19:7). He also proclaimed

KEY POINT



David said that the soul of a sinner could only be converted by the Law. He also said that the Law of God (*Torah*) brings us wisdom and spiritual enlightenment. Finally, David proclaimed that meditating upon the Law day and night is key to true success.

that the *Torah* (the original Hebrew word, from which the English word “Law” is translated) brought wisdom and spiritual enlightenment. Understanding and obeying it was a source of great spiritual riches and joy!

So great was the Psalmist’s delight in the *Torah* that he meditated upon it day and night and attributed all true success to this practice!

*“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the Law of *Yahweh*; and in His Law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”*

Psalm 1:1-3

Contrastingly, Paul seems to hold a completely opposite view of the Law. Christians today cite his writings as proclaiming the Law to be “against us” (Colossians 2:14). Obedience to it is viewed as returning to the “beggarly elements” to which we were enslaved before our Salvation (Galatians 4:9). The only personal value the Law has now is that it serves as our “schoolmaster”, which “brings us unto Christ” (Galatians 3:24). But once we have come to Messiah and our sins are covered in His Blood, we are freed from the burdens of the Law.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Yahshua, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Yahshua hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

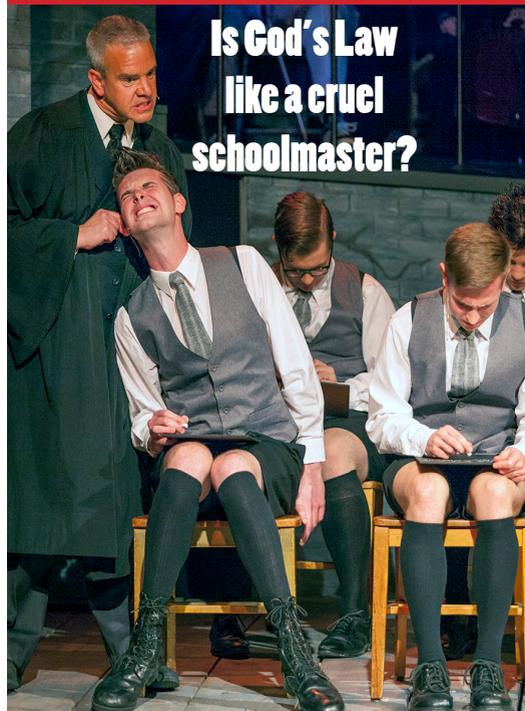
Romans 8:1-2

So if the issue of the Law of *Yahweh* could be put up for debate, Bible writers like Moses and David would apparently spearhead the pro-Law team, who support the Law and proclaim it a blessing. But Paul would apparently head the opposing team, who consider it a burden and nail it to the Cross! So divergent are these perspectives and so serious is the doctrinal fracture they create, that the biblical foundation beneath a Christian’s feet may crumble away, if one is not careful to account for it correctly!

Far from Being Done Away With, The Law of God is a Vital Catalyst in Conversion!

“The Law of Yahweh is perfect, converting the soul: the Testimony of Yahweh is sure, making wise the simple. The Statutes of Yahweh are right, rejoicing the heart: the Commandment of Yahweh is pure, enlightening the eyes... The Judgments of Yahweh are true and righteous altogether... Moreover by them is Thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

Psalm 19:7-12



To some, this may seem an extreme statement. Maybe the Law doesn't seem so pivotal an issue, at first. They may ask, "Don't Christians only need to concern themselves with 'salvational' subjects and Spiritual Warfare?" What may surprise many is that actually the Law is a vital part of BOTH!

The Salvational Significance of God's Law

What does the Law have to do with Salvation? The Law defines sin. Sin, by its very definition, is "transgression of the Law" (1 John 3:4). It is because of sin that we need a Saviour. It is only by comparing our own lives with the perfect beauty of the Law that we are convicted of sin and brought to full repentance, bringing true conversion. This is why David rightly credited the Law as "converting the soul."

Paul agrees with David on this, plainly stating:

"So the Laws in Moses' Teachings are holy, and the Commandment is holy, right, and good. Now, did something good cause my death? That's unthinkable! Rather, my death was caused by sin so that sin would be recognized for what it is. Through a Commandment, sin became (could be seen to be) more sinful than ever,"

Romans 7:12-13 (NOGV)

Notably then, if the Law is merely



“done away with” at the Cross, Christians will not concern themselves with learning its principles. Then, in the dimness of our resulting spiritual ignorance, sin prospers, repentance is incomplete, and the process of full conversion is left unfinished. Yet that is just one devastating fruit to come from nailing the Law to the Cross, effectively removing it from value among contemporary Christians. Another devastating result of relegating the Law to the archaic past has been increasing spiritual impotency.

The Spiritual Warfare Value of God’s Law

Christians are largely aware that Spiritual Warfare is vitally important to finding and keeping true freedom in Christ. The devil is like a “roaring lion”, especially working to “devour” Christians, who are most threatening to him and his kingdom (1 Peter 5:8-9). Thus, choosing to walk with God automatically means that we must resist the devil (in *Yahweh’s* Power, of course). As it says in James 4:7:

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

The process of daily submitting to God and resisting the devil is called



KEY POINT



God’s Law is vital to Spiritual Warfare. This is because the devil gets rights over us through our sins - Law breaking. According to Proverbs 5:22, the devil holds us in chains forged by our own sins - Lawlessness.

Spiritual Warfare. Yet while most Christians understand the importance of effective Spiritual Warfare as a necessity to genuine Christian living, most do not realize that, without *Torah*, effective Spiritual Warfare is impossible!



The Complete Torah

Countless Christians unwittingly place themselves in spiritual harm's way by acting in ignorance to the principles of the Torah. The Law of Yahweh is intended to protect us from the onslaught of the enemy. But when we are spiritually ignorant, the Bible warns us that the devil gets the advantage over us (2 Corinthians 2:11)!

Throughout our years in ministry, we have interceded for Christians who have unknowingly stepped outside of the protective guidelines of *Torah*, only to reap the fruits of hell as a result.

One man was unable to find peace in his home. Instead of a sanctuary, a little taste of Heaven on earth, his home had become a place of demonic torment and spiritual oppression. He explained to us that he felt better when he left his house. He asked us to come and do a prayer and anointing over his home. He hoped that *Yahweh* would then cleanse his home, removing this demonic darkness and spiritual pestilence.

When we arrived at his home and began the requested prayer and anointing, we saw that he had a large Buddha sitting on a stand in his house. We inquired about it, realizing that the devil could have

gained the right to infect his home just from the presence of this idol alone! It turned out that the man, although a Christian, had simply picked up the Buddha as a souvenir during his travels. It meant nothing to him, other than as a memento of the trip. But, had he been aware of the *Torah* safeguards, which forbid all idolatry in the lives and homes of God's people, he would have been spared a great deal of pain and suffering! Demons don't get the right to infect a Christian's home without a cause!

“As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come”,

Proverbs 26:2

On another occasion, we were



asked to drive to a couple's home, located several hours from us. The wife tearfully explained that they were afraid to live in their own home. Lights and water faucets would supernaturally turn on and off. Menacing presences would threaten the household. The couple couldn't even sleep through the night without some form of hair-raising manifestation.

KEY POINT



Satan cannot curse God's people or their property unless he has a legal cause to do so (see the story of Balaam - Numbers 23-24). **If we are cursed** (curses manifest in supernatural things going on the home, or in the symptoms of spiritual bondage, listed in Deuteronomy 28:14-68) **it is because we have broken God's Law and have** (unwittingly or otherwise) **brought the curse upon ourselves.**

"Why is Satan doing this to us? We're CHRISTIANS!" the woman cried.

Gently, we shared with the exhausted couple that there was likely a cursed object in their home, giving the demons the right to possess the house. We knew this because of a warning given in the *Torah*:

"Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing."

Deuteronomy 7:26

Because the Law (the *Torah* includes the first five books of the Bible: Genesis—Deuteronomy) is viewed as "done away with", Christians no longer study it or concern themselves with its principles. As a result, this poor couple had no idea that cursed items could bring such terror to their home!

As it turned out, there was one cursed item in the couple's home. It was a gorgeous tapestry, hanging on the living room wall. The artist had been a mystical, New Age, "white witch". When the wall-hanging was removed and burned, the home prayed over and anointed, the spiritual manifestations stopped and the demonic shadow was fully lifted. We were all thankful to God for this powerful deliverance, but we were also saddened to realize that the precious couple could have been spared the whole ordeal had they only known and kept the principles of the *Torah*!

But of all the unnecessary sorrows brought on unsuspecting Chris-