

Week 5: The Law and the Gospel

1. Introduction: The Tension and Harmony between Law and Gospel

- 1) The Law and the Gospel are not opposites in redemptive history but represent two distinct modes of God's revelation.
- 2) The Law reveals sin, while the Gospel is the power of God for salvation from sin (Romans 3:20, Romans 1:16).

2. The Threefold Use of the Law

- 1) Mirror Function:
Reveals human sin and God's holiness (Romans 3:20).
- 2) Restraint Function:
Restrains evil and maintains order in society (1 Timothy 1:9).
- 3) Guide Function:
Provides moral guidance for the sanctified life of the believer (Romans 7:12, Psalm 119).

3. The Function of the Gospel

- 1) The Gospel fulfills the righteousness demanded by the Law through Jesus Christ, imputing righteousness to those who believe (Romans 10:4).
- 2) It is the power of God for salvation by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9).

4. Paul's View of the Law

- 1) Paul does not deny the goodness of the Law (Romans 7:12), but he declares that no one is justified by the Law (Galatians 2:16).
- 2) The Law serves as a tutor (Greek: *paidagogos*) that leads us to Christ (Galatians 3:24).

5. Legalism and Antinomianism

1) Legalism:

Attempts to gain salvation through obedience to the Law — this denies the Gospel.

2) Antinomianism:

Rejects the Law under the pretense of grace—this denies sanctification.

- 3) Paul refutes both errors, teaching that those saved by grace fulfill the righteous requirement of the Law through the Spirit (Romans 8:4).

6. The New Covenant and the Law

- 1) The New Covenant foretold in Jeremiah 31:31–34 writes the Law on believers' hearts.
- 2) Through the Spirit, the Law is internalized and leads to willing obedience (Hebrews 10:16, Romans 8:2).

Summary

- 1) The Law cannot save, but the Gospel fulfills what the Law demands.
 - 2) The Gospel frees us from the curse of the Law and leads us into the law of the Spirit of life in Christ (Galatians 3:13, Romans 8:2).
 - 3) Paul acknowledges the true function of the Law while proclaiming the superiority and freedom found in the Gospel.
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