

Love is the Fulfillment of Law

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Today I am going to talk about the fault that God found with the Old Covenant and what God saw in the Old Covenant and why He had to bring forth a New Covenant. So many times we might think, “Why the whole change from the Old to the New?” Is it about works? Is it not about works?” We struggle, we are actually in a place where we don't know if it should be about good works or not. It's almost as if there is a little bit of confusion and why did God do it that way? Why did He come and bring forth Christ? Why did He have one system and end it and then bring forth another system?

The message that we preach many times about who we are and what we can achieve, was all Law based. What we would do is we would say, “Get your works right. Get what you do right so that you can be acceptable to God. In the meantime, God would look at the world, in their sin, in their despair and He didn't find fault with the world. If you go to a hospital and you see somebody that has a curable disease and you look at him and you see that he is going through a difficult time. He continues to cough and he continues to struggle and it is just going worse and worse with him, but it's a curable disease. You aren't going to try to find fault with the guy. You are going to try and find fault with the medical system or the medical care. That's what you are going to look at. You are going to look at the system that he is under and you will critique the system and find fault with the system.

In other words, if you have an infection and I come and I give you some aspirin, it might help the headache but it's not going to cure the infection. If you have something that can heal temporally, you know that the infection needs antibiotics or it needs something stronger that can attack the infection. So if you give me something that just stops the headache but I have an infection in my knee, and I don't get healed, you are going to say, “What's wrong with this medicine? There's something wrong with the medicine.” Medicine cannot cure the person and then you will want to change the medicine. That is what this whole thing is all about. That is what we are going to talk about today.

We will start off by reading from *Hebrews 10*:

1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

What God is saying here, through the writer of the book of Hebrews, is that the sacrifices of the Old Testament and all the laws and all the rituals, and everything they had to do, could never make the people, that offered them, perfect. It is impossible! It could not make them perfect and that, basically,, is the problem that God had with the old. The Old System could not bring perfection to us. That is the problem that God had. God had a problem with the system and not with us. He had a problem with the system and He wanted to end the system that cannot bring perfection to us. That is what this is all about.

2For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshipers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

That conscience doesn't talk about a mindset of sin anymore but a mindset of perfection. So if a sacrifice cannot make you clean, you would have to do it again and again and again. The fact that you had to do it again and again means that it doesn't clean properly. It's like if you got a shirt and it has a stain on it and you wash it and it doesn't become clean. What do you do? You wash it again! If you have been washing it for five years and the stain remains, it means there is something wrong with the soap. The soap cannot clean the person. In the very same way, the Law cannot clean your mind. The Law can't get you away from a sin consciousness. That is impossible!

The context here is the old sacrificial system talking about Judaism, talking about circumcision and the whole Law. We also need to understand that the Jews didn't make a distinction between, they didn't divide, the ceremonial laws and the moral laws. To them it was just the Law. That is all that it was. So when we look at the Law here, we need to understand that if you are trying to obey the Ten Commandments and love your neighbor as yourself, or try not to desire, or any of those things you will find that trying not to desire cannot cleanse your heart from evil thoughts. It is impossible. Trying to obey the Ten Commandments cannot bring forth the righteousness and the holiness and the life that God has intended for you, brought forth in your life. It is impossible!

When we look at the Law and when we look at Christ, we need to look at it as medicine and we will start to better understand what this is all about. What man thought was that through his own ability, he can cure himself from death. That is what he thought and it was not possible! God found fault with the Old. He found fault with the prescription where it was prescribed to do these things and you will live and he found that it couldn't work. That is why the Bible says in ***Hebrews 8***:

7For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. It is saying here that the first covenant wasn't faultless. It had fault. There was something wrong with the covenant and there was nothing wrong with us. There was something wrong with the covenant. The problem that there is with cancer and the problem there is with HIV/Aids is that the medical science has not yet developed a cure. In South Africa we have a lot of people who die of Aids every year. The moment they develop a cure they will find fault with the first and will do away with the first and bring that which can cure man from HIV/Aids. If you have HIV/Aids, sugar diabetes, any kind of sickness that is chronic, you have to drink that medicine every day. The fact that you must drink it every day means that it has not cured you. It might help a little and it might suppress some of the symptoms, but it hasn't cured you.

In the very same way, if I must use willpower to obey a command, when I feel anger in my heart towards somebody and I say that I need to love him for the Bible says that I must love, it means that your system whereby you would love others could not cure you from the bitterness and hatred and whatever is inside your heart. God has not come to suppress some symptoms. He has come to cure us from death and from sin and that is what He has come to accomplish in Jesus Christ. That is what it is all about. As much as we are not upset with people who have cancer and use the medicine and the cancer keeps growing, we are not upset with them because we know the weakness is in our medicine. In the very same way, God was not upset with the world when they were dying under a system that could not heal them and cure them. He came to show His mercy and His mercy was to get them healed from this self medical system that man had where they wanted to cure their own sin by their willpower. He has come and He has promised and brought forth something that is much stronger than human ability.

Let me read from Hebrews 8 again.

8For finding fault with them, (He found fault with the first covenant) he said, 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:

9Not 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.

10For 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 whole writing to the Hebrews was written to the Hebrews, the Jewish people, explaining the Gospel system. Yet we know that we were included in this truth. We are the people of God because God writes His laws in our minds and in our hearts. That doesn't mean that God comes and puts the Ten Commandments in our mind and in our heart and that we will now meditate upon the Ten Commandments and we will meditate on the Law and we will love the Law and He will write the old Law on our heart. He is not going to write the Old Law on our heart! What He is going to write on our heart is how HE thinks and how HE believes! That is what He will write on our heart.

We will see that the Old Covenant was a shadow of the New and when we look at the shadow we see how it prophesied what Christ has come to do. The Law that God will write in your mind is the principle by which He will bring life to you. Another word for principle is the word, law. Another word for law is principle. If we come and we talk about a principle, we are talking about a law. There is a principle by which God knows we are going to have life. That principle is very simple. If God takes His life and puts it inside something that is dying and brings forth His life in that person, or in that being that is dying, that being will not die anymore but will have His life and will live forever. That is how it works.

So the law, the principle, of God is if I can take away their death, and if I can conquer their sin then the life that will remain after all of that will be their life and that life can enter people when they believe it. So this is what God said, "If I could take their death, take their life, conquer it and bring forth a truth that is true about every human being in the earth, they will be able to believe this as a truth and as this truth enters their hearts, they will be born from this truth and live and not die and the life that I have, which is above sin, above death, will manifest inside them." That is what the Bible calls the Law of Life, the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. That is what it is called.

So when we look at the scripture, we want to look at the scripture from the perspective of God finding fault with the Old. If you come and look at a Law based life, and you see that the Law based life cannot produce eternal life, you shouldn't find fault with the person who is trying to obey the Law. You would find fault with the Law. The problem with the Law is it cannot be obeyed. The problem with the Law is our weakness of flesh. So if we sit with the problem.... and this is the problem: We have people that don't have enough willpower, that don't have enough holiness, that don't have enough strength inside them to obey the principle that could bring life. The problem is not with the people who are weak. The problem is with this principle. This principle cannot save.

This week-end we went and packed up a lot of stuff from my mother-in-law. She is moving from the farm and coming up to Malmesbury. As we were loading all these things I was looking at a steel hook. If you take a strong steel hook and you want to hook it onto a chain and lift something, if that hook is too big to fit into the link of the chain, the problem is not with the thing that needs to be lifted. The problem is also not with the hook, in the sense that it's not strong enough. The problem is that these two things don't fit.

It is the very same way with the Law and us. If you have somebody who is weak, somebody who is not strong, you need to look at that person and you need to see that there is nothing wrong with this person. What is wrong is with the system which might be a perfect system. If you look at the Law, it stands for everything that is good: Love the Lord your God, Don't desire... and all those kind of things. But if these people cannot do that, they have the inability to do that, this is not it. A system was needed that can work for weak people. God needed a system that could work for people who don't have the ability to save themselves. They don't have the ability to obey the Law. He had to bring forth a system that can save disobedient people. He had to bring forth a system that can save sinners who cannot obey the Law. That's what He had to bring forth and that's what He brought forth in Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 8:

8For finding fault with them, he said, 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:

9Not 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.

What He says here is, "I want to regard man. I want to bless man but I couldn't do that under the old system so I want to end the old system because they cannot function by that system. They cannot obey that system.

10For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel (I will bring such a strong covenant that My way of thinking and My way of believing will flood their hearts and then I will be to them a God and they will be to Me a people. What He is saying is that He will bring forth a system that can actually give birth to a brand new way of thinking and a brand new way of believing in man. When we start to believe and think like God does then He can say, "I am your God and you are My people because you are now thinking and believing like Me and I am the God, I am the one that can bring forth My belief and My thoughts in your heart."

That is what He is talking about so when God talks about writing His law upon our hearts, He's talking about writing on man's heart what He believes about man. God has always believed that He could bring forth eternal life in man. He has always believed that. He always believed that man was good enough for Him to bring forth eternal life in them. He could always believe that but man couldn't believe that. Man believed that he could have this life by his works. So God came in Christ and He brought forth a man who had no sin. Then He put the sin of all the world on one man. When He took the sin of all the world on one man, He promised that man eternal life. That's what He did. As He promised that man eternal life, that man with all sin and all death, didn't do anything to remove sin or death. He simply believed the Father. Then He died and the Father raised Him from the dead without sin, without death. That's what He did.

So, now my sin was on Jesus, naturally when I behold Jesus upon the cross, and I behold Jesus in sin and in death, I'm beholding my life. As I see Jesus conquered my sin and my death and was raised up, I can come to the bottom line conclusion that the resurrection life that He has is now mine and that is the mind of God and the Law of God written in my mind and in my heart, when I come to that bottom line conclusion. When we come to that conclusion, we will not be in a system where we check up on one another and say, "You don't know the Lord here... You don't know the Lord there," because every man will be taught of the Lord. That means that every person will have God inside him bringing forth life in him where he is taught from within by the very being of God that lives in him and brings forth life. That is what God's plan was.

I want to read one more verse.

Hebrews 10:

9 Then said he (This is Jesus, according to Psalm 40) Lo, I come to do your will, O God. He takes away the first, that he may establish the second.

He says that the will of God could not be done under the Old, meaning if you obey all the commandments of the Old, you are still not doing the will of God. The will of God is this: Even if you would obey all the commandments in the Old, it will not be powerful enough to produce life and immortality in you. The Bible says that if there was a Law whereby we could live, salvation would have been by the Law. But there is no Law whereby we could live. So as long as what you are busy with legalistic Christianity, you will not experience the will of God. Since the will of God is that you believe on Christ, the more you are trying to obey the Law, the less you are doing the will of God!

The will of God is not for you to do the Ten Commandments. The will of God is for you to rely and trust upon Jesus to bring forth life in you. That is the will of God. The will of God is not for you to go and sit down with an Old Testament legalistic System or even a newer "Christianized Law" which has been candy coated and from there where we mix Law with Grace, try and do our part and God does His part, you are still not doing the will of God.

The Bible says, "This is the work of God: that you believe on Him whom He has sent." He is saying, "This is God's will: That you don't try to bring forth life and immortality to yourself by your own works but that you rely upon Him to bring it forth in you. This is the will of God: That His holiness, His righteousness, and His peace manifest in you. God knows that by your own ability you can never get your body to be raised from the grave by your good works! God knows that by your strong will power you can never set yourself free from the passions of the flesh. It is impossible! You might suppress it by will power and say, "I'm not doing it. I'm doing the good thing," but you are still suppressing something. There is still something there. In that definition, we find the Law too weak to save us.... but God says that He can save us.

It's amazing that when we start to believe that our sins have died in Christ, when we start to believe that He was raised from the dead, when we start to believe the truth about ourselves, how sin falls from us, how God brings forth life in us by His Holy Spirit and we see the first signs of what God has promised us. I want to tell you now that the holy life you live now, the fruit of the Spirit you see now in your life is just a sign, it is just the first fruit, of what we will truly have in the return of Christ.

So in this life when you see the fruit of the Spirit start to come forth in your life, don't think that is the end of it. When you see love starting to manifest, when you see generosity starting to manifest in your life, kindness and all those kind of things manifest in your life, don't think this is the end goal. Those are just what we call the fruit of the Spirit or the effect of the Spirit inside you and the end is that this Holy Spirit will even conquer physical death and everything that comes with it, in your life and bring forth a being inside you and through you that is exactly like the resurrected Jesus!

I want to end with **2 Corinthians:3**. When we look into the glory of God, the glory of God is all His holiness, all His righteousness, all His kindness, all His splendor, we talk about Sinai when God appeared on the mountain and was shining with all His glory and the earth was shaking and we saw this life, flooded with life and goodness, that is just so great, from where all life comes. The Bible says that when we look into that glory, we are looking as into a mirror. I want you to see that.

In Christianity we are not trying to preach “Dos and Don'ts” We are not trying to modify behavior by will power. We are preaching God taking responsibility as the Creator of all of heaven and earth to create a clean heart in us. That is what we are looking at.

2Corinthians 3:18: But we all, with open face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

What he is saying is that when we behold the glory of God and we are not looking through the Law at the glory of God. We are looking at it through the Law taking away from us and we are looking at it through the finished work of Christ and what God has accomplished. As we see that, the Spirit of this life, the Spirit of what Christ has brought forth will change us from one glory to another glory. And what is this glory?

The Law had a glory. The glory of the Law was a fading glory and that is the context of 2Corinthians 3. It simply says that the face of Moses was shining and they put a veil over the face so the people wouldn't be scared of him because his face was shining and that was fading. The glory was fading from the face of Moses but the glory that is of the Spirit is not a fading glory but an eternal glory. So the glory of the Lord was momentarily joy and accomplishment which ended in man even dying. But the glory of the Gospel, the glory of God without the Law is a man that was physically raised from the dead, seated at the right hand of the Father, that can never die. When we behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus, it means that we are not seeing the glory of God as on the mountain just in a fiery flame but we see it manifested. We look into that glory that took shape in Christ which includes us into eternal life. When we look at that glory in the face of Jesus, the Bible says that we will then start to reflect the very same glory. We will not have a glory that is seasons but we will have a glory that is eternal ending in immortality which is God's judgment about us. He will bring forth His life and immortality in us.

To end this off, I want to say this: You can go and look at all the good that is in Jesus and you can look at all the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians and you can know that that is God's promise to you. Whenever you feel that you are disqualified, you haven't qualified by your own works, you are missing things, you're just not getting things right, I want you to look at the perfect Jesus and when you see the perfect Jesus, you say, “Father, that is what You accomplished and You took the responsibility of good fruit upon me and I believe You.” Then just sit back and enter into the rest of God that way. That is what I want you to do.

Again, what I want you to take home from this and this is the wonderful thing that I walk by is God promised me good works and I believe Him! He promised me His life and I believe Him! He promised me immortality and I believe Him! I believe Him because I could see it in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is a man at the right hand of God and His Spirit, He took it upon Him, to pour out His Spirit on me. As the Spirit hovered over the waters, He would speak words and bring forth things. In the very same way, that Spirit hovers over my heart and He has already brought forth many things and He will continue to bring forth things by the Word of immortality that is seated at the right hand of the Father, in our lives. That's what I want to encourage you with.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you! We are seeing the fruit of God in your lives.

PRAYER: Father, I thank You that I can declare over people that they are healed, cared for, flooded with the Spirit of God!

They will have unveiled face, not looking by the Law to the glory of God, but into a Man seated at the right hand of the Father, as the truth about them and with unveiled face as by Your Spirit, You take responsibility to be fruitful and multiply in the earth and You bring forth Your life in them.

You are their God and they are Your people and we see Your glory manifest in them, in Jesus' mighty name!