

The Proper Use of God's Law

By Don Krow

(Discipleship Lesson 16)

Read the entire lesson and then answer the questions that follow.

One day Joe and I were talking to Bill and Steve at the lake. The question was brought up, "How could people possibly be held accountable before God who have never heard of God or Jesus Christ?" I said, "Bill, suppose you went to visit Steve at his home, but he was gone and his wife was there. If you entered into an adulterous affair with her, would you feel guilty for violating your friend's wife? Even though you had never heard of the Ten Commandments or read the Bible? Where did that sense of guilt and feeling of accountability come from?"

You see, God has given every person, through the law and your conscience, the ability to sense right and feel guilt for your wrong. The law and the conscience are the self-judging functions that either accuse or excuse oneself in regard to one's conduct (Romans 2:14-15).

Bill had been telling me up to that point what a good person he was. He didn't really see any need for the Savior. I turned to Exodus 20 and began to read to Bill the Ten Commandments.

"Bill, has God always been first in your life and have you always loved Him more than anything in the world? If not, you have broken the first commandment" (Exodus 20:3).

"Have you ever exalted anything before God? If so you have broken the second commandment"

(Exodus 20:4). "Have you ever used the name of Jesus Christ as a four-letter word? You are guilty of breaking the third commandment." (Exodus 20:7) "Have you always set aside a day to honor and worship God? You have broken the fourth commandment" (Exodus 20:8).

"Did you always honor your father and mother in your youth? You have broken the fifth commandment" (Exodus 20:12). "Have you ever become extremely angry with a person? You have broken the sixth commandment" (Exodus 20:13 – compare with Matthew 5:21-22). "Have you

ever looked upon a woman and lusted after her? You have broken the seventh commandment" Exodus 20:14 – compare with Matthew 5:27-28). "Have you ever taken something that did not belong to you? You have broken the eighth commandment" (Exodus 20:15). "Have you always told the truth? If not, you have broken the ninth commandment" (Exodus 20:16). "Have you ever had a desire to have what belongs to someone else? You have broken the tenth commandment" (Exodus 20:17). "Do you see why Jesus said He came to save sinners?" (Mark 2:16-17).

The problem of thinking we are good enough, or trying to be good enough to go to heaven, is the fact that we have all broken the Ten Commandments. James 2:10 tells us that whoever keeps the whole law yet fails to keep just one point is GUILTY of breaking the law. The law was never meant to make you righteous but only to reveal your sin (Romans 3:19-20).

We all need a Savior! The word "Savior" has the idea of one that can rescue you from the penalty of sin. Jesus rescues the perishing so that they might have eternal life (Matthew 1:21).

To be good enough to go to heaven, we must have a righteousness that equals

God's (2 Cor. 5:21). The good news of the Gospel is that, not only will Jesus forgive your sins, but He is offering – freely – His very own righteousness to us as a gift (See Romans 5:17 "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ").

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(Discipleship Questions)

Answer the following by reading the corresponding discipleship lesson and using your Bible.

1. Read Mark 2:16-17. *"And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? [17] When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* Who did Jesus come to save? _____.
2. Read Romans 2:1. *"Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things."* When we judge others, what are we doing to ourselves? _____ Why? _____.
3. Read James 2:10. *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."* If we keep most of God's law but just miss the mark on a few things, what are we guilty of? _____.
4. Read Galatians 3:10. *"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."* If we are going to be righteous by keeping God's law, how much of it do we have to keep? _____. And how long must we keep these commandments? _____. Do you see why we cannot be saved by trying to be good enough? _____.
5. Read Galatians 2:16. *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."* Justification is the gift of righteousness, supplied by God, that brings a person into right-standing and relationship with God. Justification of sinners is offered through faith in Jesus Christ and is accomplished once and for all through his death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-4: *"For I delivered unto you first*

of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. [4] And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” And Romans 4:25: “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification”). What is a man not justified by? _____ . How is a person saved? _____ . How many people will be justified by the law? _____ .

6. Read Romans 6:14. “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.” As a Christian you are: (underline one)
 - a. Under the law.
 - b. Under grace.
7. Read Ezekiel 18:20. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.” If you were under the law, what would be the punishment for your sins? _____ .
8. Read Romans 4:6-8. “Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, [7] Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. [8] Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.” Under grace what three things does God do with your sins? _____ .
9. Read Romans 5:1. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Now that we are justified, what benefit do we enjoy? _____ .
10. Read Romans 5:9. “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” Now that we have been saved by Jesus’ blood, what will we be saved from? _____ .

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(Discipleship Answer Key)

Do not look at the answer key until you have completed the questions.
Compare your answers with the following answers.

1. Read Mark 2:16-17. Who did Jesus come to save? **Sinners.**
2. Read Romans 2:1. When we judge others, what are we doing to ourselves? **Condemning ourselves, that is, pronouncing judgment against ourselves.**
Why?
Because although we judge others we do the same things they do.

3. Read James 2:10. If we keep most of God's law but just miss the mark on a few things, what are we guilty of? **We are guilty of all.**
4. Read Galatians 3:10. If we are going to be righteous by keeping God's law, how much of it do we have to keep? **All.**
And how long must we keep these commandments?
We must always continue in them (without one slip).
Do you see why we cannot be saved by trying to be good enough? **Yes.**
5. Read Galatians 2:16. Justification is the gift of righteousness, supplied by God, that brings a person into right-standing and relationship with God. Justification of sinners is offered through faith in Jesus Christ and is accomplished once and for all through his death and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3-4 and Rom. 4:25). What is a man not justified by?
His own works, that is, the works of the law.
How is a person saved?
Through faith (trust) in Jesus Christ.
How many people will be justified by the law?
No flesh, that is, no person.
6. Read Romans 6:14. As a Christian you are: (underline one)
 - a. Under the law.
 - b. **Under grace.**
7. Read Ezekiel 18:20. If you were under the law, what would be the punishment for your sins? **Death.**
8. Read Romans 4:6-8. Under grace what three things does God do with your sins?
Forgives them, covers them, and does not impute them (put them) to your account.
9. Read Romans 5:1. Now that we are justified, what benefit do we enjoy?
Peace with God (He is not mad at us).
10. Read Romans 5:9. Now that we have been saved by Jesus' blood, what will we be saved from?
Wrath (judgment for our sins).

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