

## Under Law or Under Grace?

Gal 3:25

**But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.<sup>1</sup>**

So, now that faith has come we are no longer under what?

That's right "a schoolmaster". Now it behooves us to find out what this schoolmaster refers to.

These next verses tell us exactly what the schoolmaster is.

Gal 3:23-24

**But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto (*eis* - up to the point in time of) **the faith which should afterwards be revealed.****

**Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto (*eis* - up to the point in time of) **Christ, that we might be justified by faith.****

Grace comes through faith "For by grace are you saved through faith (Eph. 2:8).

There we go! The law is this schoolmaster we wanted to identify. Isn't this fun?

Gal 3:25

**But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.**

Since the law is this schoolmaster, now that Christ has come, we are no longer under the law.

Galatians lays out the timeline of the law's jurisdiction.

Gal 3:19

**Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.**

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<sup>1</sup> KJV used unless noted otherwise.

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Who is this seed? That's right! Jesus Christ is the seed to whom the promise was made (Gal. 3:16-18). Now, that Jesus Christ, the seed, has come, we are past the point in the timeline where the law has exhausted its time window. The law is no longer in play.

Rom 8:2

**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.**

We are indeed free from the law of sin and death. Thus saith the Word of God.

What is the law of sin and death?

2 Cor 3:7-11

**But if the ministration of death , written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:**

**8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?**

**9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.**

**10 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.**

**11 For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.**

The only part of the law that was written and engraven in stones was the 10 Commandments. You know, Moses bringing the tablets down from the mountain (Ex 34:28). And Scripture refers to that (the 10 Commandments) as the ministration of death or the ministration of condemnation. But, the good news is that the ministration (hence, law) of death (sin and death) is done away (vs. 11) and has been replaced by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. Glory be to God! This is the Word of God.

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Rom 5:21

**That as sin hath reigned unto death , even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.**

You see, there are two ministrations. One used to reign... now, the new one reigns.

Heb 8:6-9:1

**But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.**

**7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. 8 But God found fault with the people and said:**

**"The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.**

**10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."**

**13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.**

NIV

Oh, by the way, just so you know, this refers to you, if you are a believer you are the house of Israel.

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Gal 3:29

**And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

We are no longer under the old covenant (law) but we are under a new and better, glorious covenant (grace).

If we would only spend our time studying Scripture from this perspective; as if we were in the new covenant...can you imagine what the Church would be like?

Even though for now, “we see through a glass, darkly”, we’d be better off pointing that glass to the heavens rather than to the mud. It’s a better view.

I think this is what Martin Luther was getting at when he said something to the effect that the analogy of faith refers to grace (Gospel) only. In other words when we are in the process of interpreting Scripture, one principle of hermeneutics (analogy of faith) is that all of Scripture should be seen in light of grace. It all revolves around Jesus and what he came to do. – SOLA GRATIA –

Are we at all under the law? Even one teeny, weeny, itsy, bitsy, teency, tiny bit?

Do you need someone to answer that for you? It is written...

Rom 6:14-15

**For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**

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

I would say that this answers the question pretty firmly. “Not – under – the - law, - but – under – grace.” Read my lips. 😊

Another hermeneutic principle to adhere to is; you are not supposed to support a doctrine with just one obscure, difficult to understand verse. The many clear out weigh the one obscure verse. This doctrine “The Gospel of Grace” is supported

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my many, many, clear verses and in fact appears to be the center theme of all Scripture. But somehow, man, not God, has had a problem with this extreme goodness and kindness of God.

John 3:16

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Meditate on that for a while and see if you can measure the depth of God's goodness. And...fun fact...it's by faith!

Rom 7:4

**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, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.**

If you are dead to the law that means that you are no longer under it. It means that you are so far removed from it that you are no longer influenced by it. You no longer have any relationship with the law.

Gal 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.**

Something to think about. I put my faith in the faith of Christ, not in my ability to keep the 10 Commandments.

Gal 2:21

**I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.**

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Christ did not suffer and die in vain. God's grace is much more powerful than the law (which is now obsolete to any Christian). Grace overpowers sin. Do not put aside the grace of God, which He freely gives to those who are in Christ, because you can't behave good enough by your self-efforts to obey the 10 Commandments. If you could, God would have somehow used the law to save man. But that was not possible, because of man. So God had to send His only Son, the Darling of Heaven to earth to suffer and die to pay for man's sin. To save man.

Gal 5:4

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

Whooooo!

If you are justified by the law (10 Commandments) what two things could be said of you? That's right!

- 1) Christ is become of no effect unto you.
- 2) Ye are fallen from grace.

Do we really get what this is saying? Can you be justified by the law? No. So, why would you even want to try? Especially if when you do, Christ is made of no effect to you and ye are fallen from grace.

I want Christ to be of maximum effect to me. I want to be super established in grace.

Gal 5:18

**But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.**

This one's pretty clear. Are you led by the Spirit? You can be.

Does this verse say that if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are only under the law a little bit?

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Does this verse say that if ye be led of the Spirit your conscience is under grace but you still need to keep your body under the law?

Does this verse say that if ye be led of the Spirit you should use the law as a mirror or as a curb or as a guide to keep you from sin?

No! If ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. What does “not under the law” mean. I’m sure it’s something like “Not – under – the – law”!

Now, do you really think then, for the Christian who is (supposedly) comfortable living in sin, that to them you are supposed to preach the law? Do you not know that it is the goodness of God which leads men to repentance?

Oh, how far from the truth the Church has gone. So far that the truth seems unreal and the opposite of the truth is passed off as gospel. We must do something about this.

Let us join the courageous refrain of the apostles and say to those who would hold us captive to a tradition contrary to the Word of God “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

Acts 5:29

**Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men .**

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