

2 THE LAW OF MOSES AND THE BELIEVERS

Nov. 26, 13, 17-Nov-13, 2-Dec-13, corrected and revised 16-Jun-15 and 16-Jul-15, 27-Jul-15, 3-Mar-17, 8-Apr-17, 9-Apr-17, 10-Apr-17, 11-Apr-17, 12-Apr-17, 13-Apr-17

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INTRODUCTION

Some claim that the emphasis on God's Grace is a "permission to **disobey and Sin**"; **It is not true**, but the opposite; it is the lack of more emphasis and understanding of God's Grace that makes us **preach and teach only part of it** and deprive the believers from understanding the life in the Spirit and Holiness under Grace; then, to fill the gap, we have to use **the Law to supply the ignored part of grace, holiness under grace**, preventing believers from entering **God's rest...**

Hebrews 4:9-10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*⁹So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ¹⁰For the one who has entered His rest has himself also **rested from his works, as God did from His.***

A. LAW AND GRACE STRUGLE IN THE EARLY CHURCH

1. This was the challenge faced by many **converted** Pharisees in the early church:

Acts 15:5 (NASB) *"⁵But some of the sect of the **Pharisees who had believed** stood up, saying, "**It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.**"*

Paul's message of grace **frightened** them, they **did not** understand it, it was difficult even for the other twelve **Apostles...**

² Peter 3:15-16 *¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother **Paul, according to the wisdom given him**, wrote to you, as also **in all his letters**, speaking in them of these things, in which are **some things hard to understand**, which the untaught and unstable **distort**, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, **to their own destruction...***

2 And some of them even accused Paul to promote grace as an incentive to sin... Paul answers:

Romans 6:1-4 *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ²**May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?** ³Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been **baptized into His death?** ⁴Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might **walk in newness of life.***

Romans 3:7-8 *"but if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, why am I also still being judged as a sinner? ⁸And why not say (as we are **slanderosly** reported and as some claim that we say), "**Let us do evil that good may come**"? **Their condemnation is just.**"*

Paul is the master of Grace, because he experienced it, he was taught it by God himself in the third heaven, and made it very clear in his epistles; but some people thought that Grace

stimulated sin, **they were wrong!** Just as today those who believe that Grace is a permission to sin, **are wrong!** Evidently, they had not dig into the Scriptures enough to understand the unfathomable riches of Grace. It is sad when somebody speaks because of ignorance, of which the teachers are guilty. Though, we are not judges, we must love them, but do something to lovingly correct them, as Paul did:

2 Corinthians 3:14-18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. 15 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; 16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Paul defends himself from the accusations with the phrase: **“Their condemnation is just.”** I believe that he did so strongly, because their motivation, perhaps, was not honest, it was based in their envy of the superiority of Paul in understanding Soteriology and their difficulty to understand Grace, because of their respect to Moses. Grace, as it was revealed to Paul, was the **end** of the Law, **“Christ is this the end of the Law”** “Romans 10:4. We know that we understand enough Grace, when we are able to become **totally unconscious of the existence of the Law**; because though it exists, **is not for us!** Then we will enjoy Grace, and even boast about it. We need to get **totally free** from the law in order to enter **God’s rest**; **“rest from our works.”**

Hebrews 4:9-10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

9 So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

3. The struggle of Paul is our struggle to day. Every time I speak about what the Scriptures say about the Law, some, start to defend the law. **They are afraid to release Mr. Law and marry our Lord Jesus Christ!** So, we have pulpits that teaches to marry to **two husbands!**

John 1:17 ***17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ***

Galatians 2:19 ***19 For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God***.

Romans 7:1-4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

7 Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? 2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. 3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called **an adulteress; but if her husband dies, **she is free from the law**, so that **she is not an adulteress** though she is joined to another man. 4 Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead**, in order that we might bear fruit for God... 6 But now **we have been released from the Law**, having **died to that by which we were bound**, so that we serve in **newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter**.**

It is important to listen to Paul, **who went to the 3rd heaven, headquarters of God’s Kingdom, and was revealed the mystery of Grace, directly from God**... Paul really went to the Super

seminary of the Kingdom of God where was revealed the **Great Mystery**: Grace.

2 Timothy 1:9-10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus **from all eternity**, ¹⁰**but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus,**

4. Even so, the other 12 apostles found it difficult to understand it. The Mystery of Grace was so difficult to be understood by the Jews, that even Jesus **decided not to talk about it yet to His disciples**. Though, He tried to prepare them for when the nuclear button about **Grace** would be used: He said to His disciples:

John 16:12-15 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹²"I have **many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.** ¹³But when **He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;** for He will not speak on His own initiative, but **whatever He hears, He will speak;** and He will disclose to you **what is to come.** ¹⁴He will **glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.** ¹⁵All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore, I said that **He takes of Mine** and will **disclose it to you.**

I am almost sure, that when Jesus said this, He had Paul in His mind. **Hear ye Paul!**

Ephesians 3:2-9 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²if indeed you have heard of **the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me** for you; ³that **by revelation** there was made **known to me the mystery,** as I wrote before in brief. ⁴By referring to this, when you read you can understand **my insight into the mystery of Christ,** ⁵which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶to be specific, that the **Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,** ⁷of which I was made a minister, **according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me** according to the working of His power. ⁸To me, the very least of all saints, **this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,** ⁹and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery **which for ages has been hidden in God** who created all things;

Galatians 1:11-New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹¹For I would have you know, brethren, that **the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.** ¹²For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but **I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.**

2 Corinthians 12:2-4, 7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was **caught up to the third heaven.** ³And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—**was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words,** which a **man is not permitted to speak.** ⁷Because of the **surpassing greatness of the revelations,** for this reason, **to keep me from exalting myself,** there was given me a **thorn in the flesh,** a messenger of Satan to torment me—to **keep me from exalting myself!**

We must consider the difference between **God as Moses presented Him,** and **God as His Son presented Him...** Who knew God better, Jesus or Moses?

John 1:18 **"No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."** 6.46 ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father." Colossians 1:15 ¹⁵He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation."

John 1:14 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁴And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth.** 1:16-17¹⁶For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

B. MOSES OR JESUS

1. We need to choose **between Moses and the Son of God**, "For the Law was given through Moses; **grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ**". Moses is Mr. Law, our Old husband. We were created to be the bride of Christ, not the bride of Moses; Satan enslaved us in sin, and the Law of Moses was given to us because of sin. Jesus delivered us from both: **Satan and Moses** our former dominant and husband at the cross, so **He, Jesus**, could **marry us. We cannot live married to both, because it is spiritual adultery.** Read carefully next Scriptures!

Colossians 2:13-15 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³When you were dead in your **transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh**, He made you alive together with Him, having **forgiven us all our transgressions**, ¹⁴having **cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us**, which was **hostile to us**; and He has **taken it out of the way**, having **nailed it to the cross**. ¹⁵When He had **disarmed the rulers and authorities**, He made a public display of them, **having triumphed over them through Him**.

Colossians 1:13-14

¹³For He **rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son**, ¹⁴in whom we have **redemption**, the **forgiveness of sins**.

Galatians 3:19,

¹⁹Why the Law then? It was added **because of transgressions**, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, **until the seed would come** to whom the **promise had been made**.

Romans 7:1-6. "Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that **the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?** ²For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but **if her husband dies, she is released from the law** ^[b]concerning the husband. ³So then, **if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law**, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

⁴Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ**, so that you might be **joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead**, in order that we might bear **fruit for God**. ⁵For while we were in the flesh, the sinful

passions, which **were aroused by the Law**, were at work in ^[c]the members of our body to bear fruit for death.⁶ **But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound**, so that we serve in **newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter**.

Jesus is **more than sufficient to justify us**:

Romans 10:4, *For Christ is the end of the law **for righteousness to everyone who believes**.*

Colossians 2:8-10 *"in Him **we are complete**"*,

1 Corinthians 1:30. ³⁰But ^[a]by **His doing** you are in Christ **Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption**, ³¹so that, just as it is written, **"LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."**

2. This was almost impossible to understand for the converted Pharisees, they were afraid to abandon the old Moses who was so sacred to them, but they wanted **also** to be in good terms with Jesus, which is **not possible**. **We cannot be married to Jesus and Moses at the same time, it seems to be the only sin to make us to lose our salvation.**

Galatians 5:4. *"You have been **severed** from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have **fallen from grace**."*

Today also, many want to be under Grace but find it hard to drop the law **since it is bound in the same Bible** and is used by preachers without distinction as if **Old** and **New** Covenant, that is, Jesus, Moses and prophets, would have the same authority to day. Jesus is our **Husband**, for our union with Him, not with Moses, we belong to the family of God and will reign with Him.

Hebrews 1:1-4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things**, through whom also He made the world. ³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He **had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**,⁴ having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than them.

Jesus is our husband, we are loyal to **Him**. **We cannot belong to two husbands,**

Romans 7:1-6 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

7 Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? **2** For the married woman is **bound by law to her husband while he is living**; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. **3** So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man. **4** Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ**, so that you might be **joined to another**, to Him who was

raised from the dead, in order that we **might bear fruit for God**. **5** For while we were in the flesh, the **sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law**, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. **6** But now we have been **released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound**, so that we serve in **newness of the Spirit** and **not** in oldness of the **letter**.

3. Before Jesus came, **we were married with Mr. Law, our old husband**. He was righteous, religious, holy, strict to the end; but he was a **static letter**, a stone, without feelings or emotions. He would stone all the adulterous women, and many more. Jesus on the other hand, was a **dynamic person with feelings and emotions**; He **forgave** the adulterous woman. Our ex-husband, Mr. Law wouldn't have forgiven her, he continually threaten us with death, with him **we lived continually under condemnation**.

Hebrews 10:28 "Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses **dies without mercy** on the testimony of two or three witnesses."

We, Mr. Law's wife, on the other hand, had a **sinful nature**, with tendency to disobey, so we were an **odd couple**; we were never able to satisfy him. He continually threat us with horrible **CURSES** Deuteronomy 28:15-68. (88 curses!), among them, death. Surely **Jesus saw our sufferings with loving eyes**, because we were created **for Him, not for Mosses**; so, Jesus observed our situation with love and pity **and thought...**

4. "Her husband is holy and just, but **does not understand that she cannot do** what he requires from her, not because it is not just what he demands, but because she has a sinful nature, since Satan made her slave of sin, and cannot obey. I she would be my wife, -Jesus thought- I would understand her, forgive her and help her in her struggle for holiness. But I don't want to kill Mr. Law to free her, because he is righteous...Jesus said:

Matthew 5:17-20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁷Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

If this is so: **"unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven,"** then nobody would enter the kingdom of heaven... But we will, because though we do not have the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, **we have now the righteousness of God in Christ.**

Romans 3:19-24 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;²⁰because **by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.**

²¹**But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested**, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²²even **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ** for all those who **believe**; for there is no distinction; ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴**being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;**

5. Only Jesus is the solution for us! -Jesus kept on thinking-...but as her husband has judged her worthy of death for her disobedience, **I will be her Savior** **'I will die for her,** **I will crucify her with me;** **I will bury her with me,** **I will resurrect her with me** and make Her a whole **new creation...!** Then **I will marry her.**

Romans 6:3-11 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus **have been baptized into His death?** ⁴Therefore we have **been buried with Him** through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so **we too might walk in newness of life.** ⁵For if we have become **united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,** ⁶knowing this, **that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with,** so that we **would no longer be slaves to sin;** ⁷for **he who has died is freed from sin.**

⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that **we shall also live with Him,** ⁹knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹Even so **consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

-Jesus continues-...: because I love her, I will make her a new creation...and she will be my wife...

2 Corinthians 5:17 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁷Therefore if anyone **is in Christ,** he or she is a **new creature;** the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

...and I will marry her, because **she was created for me, not for Mr. Law**

Ephesians 1:5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵He predestined us to **adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself,** according to the kind intention of His will,

What God means, is that in our union with Christ we become adopted **children of God,** **sons and daughters in law of God,** becoming **part of the family of the Holy Trinity through our union with Christ.**

Ephesians 5:25-27, 32:

Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,** ²⁶so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that He might **present to Himself the church in all her glory,** having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be **holy and blameless...**³²This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to **Christ and the church.**

So, to save us from the old husband, He decided to **make us die with Him and deliver us from the bondage of Satan and Mr. Law**, then resurrected us to marry us...

Galatians 2:20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁰***I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.***

Romans 7:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴*Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ**, so that you might be **joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead**, in order that we might **bear fruit for God.***

“**Bear fruit for God**”, mean **holiness**. Jesus loves us, because we were created for him, though Satan kidnapped us from the beginning in the Garden of Eden, Jesus paid the ransom to Satan and freed us.

Matthew 20:28 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁸*just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give His life a ransom** for many.”*

C. WERE WE CREATED FOR MOSES OF FOR JESUS?

1. We were created to marry the **Son of God** not the **son or Moses**, the Law. The old husband, Mr. Law, had a purpose to exist, to punish Israel for their transgressions; it was a transitory spank to them until the mystery of Grace would be revealed. **The Law underlined the need of Grace.**

Galatians 3:19 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

)
¹⁹*Why the Law then? It was **added because of transgressions**, having been ordained through **angels** by the agency of a mediator, **until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.** The Messiah.*

We belonged to Jesus from the beginning, but Satan deceived us and we fell under his control, he made us **slaves of sin**,

Romans 6:16 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶*Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, **either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?***

so, we were transformed into a sinful race,

Romans 5:12-21 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹²Therefore, just as **through one man sin entered into the world**, and death through sin, and so death spread **to all men** (and women), because all sinned (in Adam)— ¹³for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. ¹⁶The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. ¹⁷For if **by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.**

¹⁸So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so **through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.** ¹⁹For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through **the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.** ²⁰The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; **but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.** ²¹so that, as sin reigned in death, even so **grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

2. To **straighten us up** from our transgressions, Moses forced us to marry Mr. Law. But this was not the right solution; he was a very strict perfectionist who made our life miserable with his punishments and curses; the Law made things worse, because without law, there is no sin.

Romans 3:20-21

²⁰because by the works of the Law **no flesh will be justified in His sight**; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But **now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested**, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

The Law of Moses, intensified our sinful guilt

Romans 5:20-21 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁰The Law came in so that the **transgression would increase**; but **where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.** ²¹so that, as sin reigned in death, even so **grace would reign through righteousness** to eternal life **through Jesus Christ** our Lord.

How did Jesus help us to **get rid of the old husband** and **legally reclaim us to be His bride**? He **crucified us** with Him, **die with Him**, **buried us** with Him and **resurrect us with Him** to a new and very different life: **life under Grace!**

Jesus died **for us**, and we died in Him and with Him **to the Law** and we were **buried with Him**. By death, we are not married to Mr. Law any longer.

Galatians 2:20-21 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁰I have been **crucified with Christ**; and it **is no longer I who live**, but **Christ lives in me**; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who **loved me and gave Himself up for me.** ²¹I do not nullify the grace of God, for **if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.**"

Jesus **resurrect us in and with Him** Colossians 2:9-15. Only death could separate us from Mr. Law. Jesus died **for us, we died with and in Christ!** Now we are engaged and expecting the day of the *"the marriage of the Lamb"* where we'll be married to Him and reign with him forever,

Revelation 19:7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

We are the promised bride of Christ **from before the creation of the World.**

Colossians 1:15-20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁵He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Romans 8:29-30 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁹For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

3. Many preachers in the Church force us live with two husbands. We are told to keep the letter, and told that when we fail in obeying the letter, we could go to Jesus, the author of Grace to receive forgiveness. Then, when we are forgiven and clean, to go back again to the Law for holiness and come back for the Grace of Jesus when we fail... this is to live with two husbands, **spiritual adultery** and is very dangerous. If we sin against the letter, we should ask forgiveness to the letter, not to Jesus!

Galatians 2:21 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²¹I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

and this is **the only sin that can make us fall from grace**, because it is **spiritual adultery** against Jesus who is our loving husband **who died for us out of love for us!**

Galatians 5:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

It is **unforgivable** to cheat the one who **died for us to precisely deliver** us from the bondage of Mr. Law, alternating with our old husband, claiming at the same time to be covered by grace by our new husband... it's like if the wife ask money from her husband to go to a hotel with

another man! A bride is totally and completely devoted to one husband alone. There are many believers and preachers who live with two husbands; I hope God will have mercy with those of us who **do it by ignorance**. Jesus suffers, He might think: “then, why did I die?” If **righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.**”

Hebrews 4:9-11 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹So there **remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.** ¹⁰For the one who has **entered His rest** has himself **also rested from his works**, as God did from His. ¹¹Therefore let us be diligent to **enter that rest**, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

We preachers and teachers are guilty of that ignorance in our congregations, we find easier to minister the **letter that kills** than the **Spirit who gives life**. The preaching of the Law make people **obey out of fear** and **not out of LOVE...**

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 Good News Translation (GNT)

¹⁴We are **ruled by the love of Christ**, now that we recognize that **one man died for everyone**, which means that **they all share in his death**. ¹⁵He died for all, so that those who live **should no longer live for themselves, but only for him** who died and was raised to life **for their sake**.

D. SOLA SCRIPTURA OR SCRIPTURE AND HOLY SPIRIT?

1. We ought to give room to the Spirit of Christ in our conscience, to guide us, to teach us, to impart to us his fruit: **Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith, self-control.**

Romans 13:8-10 Good News Translation (GNT)

⁸Be under obligation to no one—**the only obligation you have is to love one another. Whoever does this has obeyed the Law.** ⁹The commandments, “Do not commit adultery; do not commit murder; do not steal; do not desire what belongs to someone else”—all these, and any others besides, are summed up in the one command, **“Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”** ¹⁰**If you love others, you will never do them wrong; to love, then, is to obey the whole Law.**

One of the evidences that we became legalistic, is the **great** importance we give to **the letter**, and very **little** importance we give to the **Holy Spirit**. We replace Christ with the Holy Scriptures. Jesus did not say:

John 14:18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will **leave you a Book**”, He said: **“I will** come to you”

John 14:16. ⁶I will ask the Father, and He will give you **another Helper**, that **He may be with you forever;**

John 16:7 ¹⁷*But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, **the Helper (Holy Spirit) will not come to you**; but if I go, **I will send Him to you**.*

And love also is...The fruit of **the Spirit!**

2. We must serve him **in the Spirit**, not in the letter:

Romans 7:6 (NASB) ⁶*But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that **we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter**.*

We must walk according to the Spirit:

Romans 8:4-6,9,13-14,26. (NASB) ⁴*so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but **according to the Spirit**.* ⁵*For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are **according to the Spirit**, the things of **the Spirit**.* ⁶*For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set **on the Spirit is life and peace**,* ⁹*However, you are not in the flesh but **in the Spirit**, if indeed **the Spirit** of God dwells in you. But if anyone **does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him**.* ¹³*for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if **by the Spirit** you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.* ¹⁴*For **all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God**.* ²⁶*In the same way **the Spirit** also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but **the Spirit Himself** intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words;*

The **Holy Spirit** speaks to us in our conscience: Romans 9:1 (NASB) ⁹*I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, **my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit**,*

We must be fervent **in the Spirit**: Romans 12:11 (NASB) ¹¹*not lagging behind in diligence, **fervent in spirit**, serving the Lord;*

We are supposed to be **ministers of the Spirit** who gives life not of the letter:

2 Corinthians 3:6 (NASB) ⁶*who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, **not of the letter but of the Spirit**; for the letter kills, but the **Spirit gives life**.*

3. We must **walk by the Spirit** and live by the Spirit:

Galatians 5:16, 25 ¹⁶*But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh*** ²⁵*If we **live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit**.*

We must be **filled with the Holy Spirit**:

Ephesians 5:18 (NASB) ¹⁸*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit**,*

We must serve God in **the Spirit**:

Philippians 3:3 ³*for we are the true circumcision, who **worship in the Spirit of God** and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,*

We have to pray **in the Spirit** and sing in the Spirit:

¹⁵What is *the outcome* then? I will **pray with the spirit** and I will pray with the mind also; I will **sing with the spirit** and I will sing with the mind also.

Jude 1:20 ²⁰*But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith kidnapped us, **praying in the Holy Spirit***

1 Corinthians 14:15

We are borne by the Spirit of God:

John 1:13 ¹³*who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, **but of God.***

We must worship God in Spirit:

John 4:23-24, ²³*But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will **worship the Father in spirit and truth**; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴**God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**"*

The Holy Spirit will teach us all things:

John 14:26 ²⁶*But the Helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things**, and **bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.***

The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth:

John 16:13 ¹³*But when He, **the Spirit** of truth, comes, He **will guide you into all the truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and **He will disclose to you what is to come.***

The Holy Spirit that is in us, will teach us all things:

1 John 2:20, 27. ²⁰*But **you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know...** ²⁷*As for you, **the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.****

In the Holy Spirit, we may impart spiritual blessings:

Romans 1:11 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁰**always in my prayers** making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you. ¹¹For I long to see you so that I may **impart some spiritual gift to you**, that you may be established;

We should minister spiritual blessings who gives life:

2 Corinthians 3:6 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁶who also made us adequate as **servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit**; for **the letter kills**, but **the Spirit gives life.**

Don't you see the preponderance of the Spirit in the New Testament? And the way that the apostles minister in the Spirit? Remember, in the book of acts there was not a New Testament.

E. WHO CEASE TO EXIST, THE LAW OR US?

1. This is what sometimes we do not understand: **it is not the law that died, it is us who died to the Law** Romans 7:4; the law **is still alive**, Mr. Law, who was our old husband, is alive and well, but he is not our husband any longer, now he is a widower, **we died** in Christ who saved us from the Law **condemnation** Romans 7:4, 6 and raised again to marry Jesus Christ, who **made us righteous**: The letter is an external book, the **Spirit of Christ is and indwelling divine person**.

Romans 4:25 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁵*He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.*

Now we returned to belong to Jesus because we were created for Him, by his death on the cross, He rescued us. God's eternal purpose can be fulfilled, that through Christ, we may become part of the Family of God.

Ephesians 1:5, 2:19. New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵*He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,*

Ephesians 2:19 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁹*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household.*

2. Jesus said that the Law **did not die, we died** in Him!

Matthew 5:17-20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.** **18** For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, **not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.** **19** Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** "For I say to you that **unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The law still exists, but **not** for us, but for the rest of humanity, the non-elect, those who did not believe in Jesus, the non-saved by grace, they will be judged according to their works.

1 Timothy 1:9-10 Good News Translation (GNT)

⁹*It must be remembered, of course, that laws are made, not for good people, but **for lawbreakers and criminals**, for the **godless and sinful**, for those who are **not religious or spiritual**, for those who **kill their fathers or mothers**, for **murderers**, ¹⁰*for the **immoral**, for **sexual perverts**, for **kidnappers**, for those who **lie and give false testimony** or who do anything else contrary to sound doctrine.**

Romans 2:5-6 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON **ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS**:

Also, they will be judged by their consciences:

Romans 2:14-16 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁴For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their **conscience bearing witness** and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, ¹⁶on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

3. Take notice that in the day of judgment, there are more than one book **“and Books (plural) we opened; and another book (singular) was opened, which is the book of life”** Revelation 20:12, TWO kinds of books in the great final judgment day, one is the **book of life** where the name of the chosen ones, predestined to be the bride of Christ, are written; these will not be judged, because we were judged already at the Cross, in Christ, when we died with Him,

Romans 8:1-5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

8 Therefore there is now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, **God did**: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴**so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**. ⁵For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the **flesh**, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the **Spirit**.

The no-elected, will have their names written in one of the two books **of works** by which the non-believers will be judged. I believe that one of these books have the names of those who did good works and the other those who were evil. In the following Scriptures, the judgment of nations is registered. This judgement is according to works, not according to grace. Grace was only for the elected of God to become the bride or His Son and reign with Him. Take notice that this is a judgment of nations. Those elected and saved by grace will not be judged, we are forgiven.

Matthew 25:31-46 (NASB) compare with Revelation 20:12 y 21:24 King James version

³¹“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³²**All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; ³³and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.**

³⁴“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; ³⁶naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty,

and give You something to drink? ³⁸And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?³⁹When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that **you did** it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you **did it to Me**.' Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; ⁴³I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' ⁴⁴Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' ⁴⁵Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that **you did not do it** to one of the least of these, **you did not do it to Me.**' ⁴⁶These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

As you see it is **not the law** that ceased to exist, it is **we the chosen ones who died** to the law in Christ. Jesus also said that

"unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 5:20,

which means that no one shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven unless he is righteous, and there is not one person that is righteous:

Romans 3:10 "There is **no one** who is righteous",

Paul says "**By the works of the law no one will be justified**" Galatians 2:16. This is why Jesus gave us his righteousness, so we can enter the Kingdom of heaven; the righteousness of Jesus Christ is **much greater** than that of the Scribes and Pharisees, because it is the Justice that God himself, has given to us by Grace. Justification is a forensic act, **God has decreed our righteousness and pronounced us righteous**. These next Holy Scriptures say it very clear:

Corinthians 5:21 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him**.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

30 But by His doing **you are in Christ Jesus**, who became to us wisdom from God, and **righteousness and sanctification**, and **redemption**, **31** so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Romans 5:1-2 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

5 Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**, **2** through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

The Law did not die, it is our former husband, who **could not tame** our sinful nature, Mr. law is alive and healthy and is a widower looking for girlfriends and goes to churches to find them. Many, even preachers, fall again under his seduction, thinking that he, the Law, is the way to holiness. I know that many legalists believers are jealous for Holiness, I bless them and love them as brothers and sisters, **but they are in the wrong track; that is not the path to holiness, it was already tried and failed! Grace is the path to Holiness!**

Colossians 2:20-23 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁰If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, **why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,** ²¹**“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”** ²²(which all *refer to* things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? ²³These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but **are of no value against fleshly indulgence.**

“The Law has an appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self abasement and severe treatment of the body” But was not able neither to cure us nor to tolerate us. Mr. Law, is now a widower with lots of "sex-appeal" who attends church, sometimes even preaches from the pulpit, looking for sincere believers who in their ignorance of grace and their desire to be holy, think that he, the law, is the way to holiness, **but it is not so!**

Romans 3:20-24 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

20 because **by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight;** for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin. **21 But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested,** being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **22 even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ** for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24 being justified as a gift by His grace** through the redemption which is **in Christ Jesus;**

F. LAW AND GRACE ARE INCOMPATIBLE

1. The law hinders us from experiencing Grace.

Galatians 2:16 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶*nevertheless knowing that a man (or woman) is not justified by the works of the Law **but through faith in Christ Jesus,** even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; **since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.***

2. Grace, gives us the willingness to obey and the ability to do it.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁶Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷**I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.**

Jeremiah 31:33 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³³"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, **"I will put My law within them and on their heart, I will write it;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

3. With this promise in mind, we should "work out our salvation" with all our **willingness** because **we know that Grace job is to help us to please God.**

Philippians 2:12-13.

¹³for **it is God** who works in you **to will** and **to act** in order to **fulfill his good purpose.**

4. The Law is the opposite, the **Law arouses our sinful desires** Romans 7:5-6 (NASB):

⁵For while we were in the flesh, **the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law,** were at work in the members of our body **to bear fruit for death.** ⁶But now **we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound,** so that **we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.**

5. Also the Law **intensifies the power of sin:**

1 Corinthians 15:56 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and **the power of sin is the law;**

6. and plays **against us,** because what is forbidden **is what we want most!**

Romans 7:7-13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁷What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."⁸But **sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.**⁹I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; ¹⁰and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; ¹¹for **sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.** ¹²So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

¹³Therefore **did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.**

F. PAUL WAS WHO BEST UNDERSTOOD GRACE

1. He was also who **better knew how to explain it.** Already in his time, he had to confront the

Jews, inclusive some Apostles who used to be tied to the Law of Moses, and some even accused Paul to be permissible with sin with the Grace he taught, and that it was an excuse to sin. Paul answers them that grace is not only the forgiveness of sins, but **much more!** Grace provides, with many other promises, holiness and perseverance to us the believers: a **new birth** John 3:3,6 a **new heart** Ezekiel 36:26, a **new life**, being sanctified Romans 6:4, a continuous **daily spiritual transformation** 2 Corinthians 3:18 to become more and more **like Jesus**. It seems to me that Peter was the next, after Paul, to understand grace, but not enough to join Paul's ministry to the Gentiles:

Galatians 2:11-16 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹¹ But when Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. ¹³ The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, **"If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"**

¹⁵ "We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; ¹⁶ **nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be **justified by faith in Christ** and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law **no flesh will be justified**.

2. But Peter understood more than he could practice with his Jewish colleagues, see this Peter's wonderful Scripture: 2 Peter 1:2-4

² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us **everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these **He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises**, so that by them you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

3. Grace includes holiness in its package of promises, to make us every day more like Jesus:

2 Corinthians 3:18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

and provides the fruit of the spirit who produces in us the character of Christ:

Galatians 5:22-25 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

But the fruit of the Spirit **is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**²³ **gentleness, self-control**; against such things **there is no law**. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ **If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.**

G. THE LAW HAS NOT POWER TO CHANGE OUR SINFUL NATURE.

Colossians 2:16-23 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*¹⁶Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— ¹⁷things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belong to Christ. ¹⁸Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in **self-abasement** and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. ²⁰If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do **you submit yourself to decrees, such as,** ²¹**"Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"** ²²(which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? ²³These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but **are of no value against fleshly indulgence.***

1. Paul's theology is that no one can be saved by his own works because we have a sinful nature that tends to rebel and works against our holiness; therefore, we never would reach the perfection required by the Law: Like the Alcoholics anonymous, **we need help! we need both continual divine help and forgiveness during the process of transformation, both things are provided by Grace.** Evidently, Paul, who in the past, was a teacher of the law, explains his quest for holiness when he was still under the Law:

Romans 7:14, 18, 23 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

***14** For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, **sold into bondage to sin.** **18** For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. **23** but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a **prisoner of the law of sin** which is in my members.*

2. This is why **we needed a radical experience, to die to the old system of the Law and experience a new birth, a new heart, be filled with the Spirit of God and walk in the Spirit.** For all these we require the intervention and help of **God himself.** We need **his Grace to do good deeds and grace has it:**

Ephesians 2:8-10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*⁸For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;** ⁹**not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which **God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.***

3. Paul is very clear; he is not permissive with sin, on the contrary! Listen to this:

Romans 6:1-4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? **2** **May it never be!** How shall we **who died to sin** still live in it? **3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been **baptized into His death?** **4** Therefore we have been **buried**

with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in **newness of life**.

Romans 3:8 Good News Translation (GNT)

8 Why not say, then, "Let us do evil so that good may come?" Some people, indeed, have ***insulted me by accusing me of saying this very thing! They will be condemned***, as they should be.

Paul accuses of **ignorance and slander** those who claimed that he taught a permissive Gospel. What he taught is that sin in the human being, is not an **act** but a **condition** and **does not get cured or responds to commandments, laws and regulations**. It is like putting a sign in the pigpen of pigs that says to pigs: "**forbidden to get dirty.**" It is necessary to change the **old nature** of the pigs, give them a **new one and train them to use it**. We need a new nature, to be borne again, and these is what Grace does with us. The cross ended with our old nature and the Holy Spirit gave us a New Life. Our ministry is to **teach the believers to live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit to neutralize the works of the flesh**, that is to sublimize our life into Grace. There should be times of prayer and laying of hands to impart the essence of the promises of Christ, **specially the fruit of the Spirit** and whatever is promised in the Scriptures. **The Scriptures are not an end in themselves, but the catalogue of all the blessings and resources we have in Christ by His grace! in whom we are complete.** The preaching alone is not enough, after the preaching, just as we call sinners to receive Christ, we need to have times of pray, if possible sometimes fasting, to lay hands on people to receive those promises, starting with the promise of the Holy Spirit practiced by the early church and today by Pentecostals and Charismatics or all denominations.

Acts 1:3-5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. ⁴Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but **to wait for what the Father had promised**, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me;⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 2:33 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³³Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father **the promise of the Holy Spirit**, He **has poured forth this which you both see and hear.**

Acts 1:8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁸but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 2:17-18 New Life Version (NLV)

¹⁷God says, 'In the last days **I will send My Spirit on all men.** Then **your sons and daughters will speak God's Word.** Your **young men will see what God has given them to see.** Your **old men will**

dream dreams. ¹⁸Yes, on those I own, **both men and women, I will send My Spirit in those days.**
They will speak God's Word.

H. THE RELEVANCE OF SPIRITUALITY

1. The prophets of old, Jesus, the Apostles, Monks and early saints, always went to pray in the mountains, woods, dessert, creeks and lonely places, without any hurry, why? to meditate, contemplate, visualize and experience the Spirit of God teaching them. I believe that our short and repetitive prayers in our churches are good, but avoid contemplation, worship, visualization, silence and quietness. It is generally a short talk to God without giving time for God to speak to our conscience. It is sad that in the liturgy of our church activities, there are not quiet times of silence, to let God talk to us. How different would be if we would have trained our people to live in the Spirit and learn silence... Even after the sermon, if we would have at least 5 minutes to meditate in what we heard, check ourselves in the light of the message, and decide the necessary changes in our lives, while the organ plays very softly. The same is after communion. Pastors should have a list of things that should happen during communion and explain one thing in every communion Sunday. After communion, there should be time of silence, at least 5 minutes, to meditate in that thing that we should change in our lives, write in the bulletin as next homework, and make them happen between us and Jesus. All the sacraments should be surrounded with meditation in what they mean and appropriation of that grace we need to receive.

In those moments of silence, we should have confession to God, and if we have resentment with somebody, in the family, work, school, church, neighborhood, etc. we should repent, make a note promising God to fix it, and do it first thing when we get home. When somebody ask me, what do you do to connect with God? I answer, I do not have to connect, he lives in me 24 hours, every day of my life. To think in Him is to talk with Him. To hear God to speak in my conscience I need just to shut up, be quiet, don't pray (talk) Just **be** there, quiet, for not a short time. I learn this in the Trappist Monastery and in the Scriptures. How can God talk to us if in our prayer time, we do all the talking?

Matthew 6:7-8

⁷"And when you are praying, **do not use meaningless repetition** as the Gentiles do, for **they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.** ⁸So do not be like them; for **your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.**

2. Galatians 5:16 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and **you will not** carry out the desire of the flesh.

Colossians 3:1-3 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

3 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.** **2** **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.** **3** For you have died and **your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

2 Corinthians 4:18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

18 while **we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen;** for the **things which are seen are temporal,** but the **things which are not seen are eternal.**

Romans 8:5-17 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, **but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.** **6** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but **the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,** **7** because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, **and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

9 However, **you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.** But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. **10** **If Christ is in you,** though the body is dead because of sin, yet **the spirit is alive because of righteousness.** **11** But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— **13** for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if **by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** **14** For **all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.** **15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a **spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"** **16** The **Spirit Himself** testifies with our spirit that **we are children of God,** **17** and if children, **heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,** if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

I. FROM TOTAL DEPRAVITY TO PURE GRACE

1. Our first parents Adam and Eve, didn't take long to sin; at the first suggestion of the serpent, they fell. We don't know how much time passed since their creation until they were tempted; but if salvation depended on us, we would lose it in one day. Paul defines our **condition** as "dead **in** sin and **slaves** of sin"

Ephesians 2:1,5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

And **you were dead** in your trespasses and sins, **5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Romans 6:17 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

17 But thanks be to God that though **you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching** to which you were committed,

Calvin defines our condition as "Total depravity" or "total incapacity". Because of Adam, we are all born with a nature that tends to rebellion, disobedience and evil. We are **born in sin.**

2. Psalm 51:5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵Behold, **I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.**

Romans 5:12,18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹²Therefore, just as through one man **sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned** (in Adam)- **18** So then, as the **one sin condemned all people, in the same way the one righteous act sets all people free and gives them life.**

3. We shouldn't marvel that God saved us by **pure grace**; God's salvation by grace **is fair** because it was Adam who disobeyed not us personally; he disobeyed and **because of him "death spread to all humankind"**. Thus, for his transgression, not ours, **condemnation came to all of us**, so it is just that also by **one act of Justice, by Jesus, justification of life came to all of us.** So, grace is also an **"Act of Justice"**, because I was born a sinner without cause in myself but **because of Adam's sin**; therefore it is fair that also **without cause in myself**, but **because of Jesus Christ righteousness**, I be declared righteous, and the sins I committed because of Adam from whom I inherited a sinful nature, **do not be counted against me**

2 Corinthians 5:19 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not counting their trespasses against them**, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Romans 4:8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁸"**BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.**"

4. This is what Paul is trying to say in Romans 5: 12, 18. It is also right that **as I inherited the sinful nature of Adam, now God gives me by grace the righteousness of Christ** to be able live in holiness, **God is just!**

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³⁰But **by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,** ³¹so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, **BOAST IN THE LORD.**"

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

17 Therefore if anyone **is in Christ**, he is a **new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. **18** Now **all these things are from God**, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

5. And notice that **"all of these things are from God", not from us**. We were born spiritually "dead" because of Adam, and God made us alive, then God allowed our old person to die together with Christ and gave us **new personality**, in his risen Son. Christ is our Savior and new husband! Jesus is our **new Adam** in the sense that **in Him a new creation was started**. Also Eve has a lesson for us. She is the one that disobeyed eating of the forbidden tree. When Adam

came and saw her like a strange, in the other side, what did he do? He eat and became sin for her so they could continue their life together. Evidently Adam loved her, Jesus was made sin for us. he love us:

2 Corinthians 5:21 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²¹He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

6. Ephesians 2:1-7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

And **YOU were dead** in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you formerly walked **according to the course of this world**, according to **the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.** **3** Among them **we too all** formerly lived in the **lusts of our flesh**, indulging the **desires of the flesh** and of the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath, even as the rest.** **4 But GOD**, being **rich in mercy**, because of **His great love with which He loved us**, **5** even **when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and **raised us up with Him**, and **seated us with Him in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come He might show the **surpassing riches of His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

God created Adam and Eve, neither perfect nor holy, but **innocent**, they were naked but they didn't know it Romans 4:15. What disobedience did was to awaken the consciousness of good and evil so that their lives would become miserable and full of guilt. What was the name of the forbidden tree? "The tree of the **knowledge of good and evil**". Prior to disobeying, whatever they did, they felt no fault, they were innocents like children; but after disobeying their eyes were opened and began to feel guilty when did something wrong

1 Corinthians 15:56 "The sting of death is sin, and **the power of sin is the law**"

Adam and Eve weren't perfect, they were innocents as children, but as children they had a single commandment, they could eat of millions of trees **but one**; they **disobeyed**. Some believe that in the moment they eat the fruit they became disobedient. I believe they decided to disobey **before** they ate it, so they were not perfect from the beginning, **they were just innocent**. Obviously, God created us fragile with a purpose: "**so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**" If grace is unmerited favor and God wants to "show the surpassing richness of his grace" Ephesians 2:7, what did He need? He needed an **undeserved race**; therefore, He created us, and we are helping Him very well to prove that.

Colossians 2:13-15 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions**, **14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has**

taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **15** When He had **disarmed** the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

We were "dead", this mean completely **unable** to help ourselves; a dead is totally incapable, he can do nothing for himself; the dead is completely dependent on someone who is alive, have power to resuscitate him so he could see and believe. A dead man "*cannot see the Kingdom of God*" John 3:3, to see it, we must be born again, and only God can give a new birth to those who are dead, we cannot make our new birth. **It is not** that we have **to believe in order to be born again**, but that we **must be born again to be able to believe**. A dead man can't believe. A dead person cannot see the Kingdom of God nor understands it John 3:3, 1 Corinthians 2:14-15. It is like with our children; did they ask to come into this world? Did they decide if they wanted to be male or female, white, black, yellow or brown? All that depended on us, the parents. So is our new birth it depends **totally in God**. Romans 8:29-30 **"All this wonderful Grace is of God"** 2 Corinthians 5:18, means that the eternal salvation of a dead in sin, depends entirely on God's love and will, not on us.

Ephesians 2:8-10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

8 For by grace you have been saved through **faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God**; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which **God prepared beforehand** so that we would walk in them.

7. Grace or divine favor, is God's answer to our total depravity and incapacity, is the answer to the cry of the human heart, expressed by a sinner that was a believer living under the Law and represents us all very well. This was David, the best king of Israel. He loved God, loved his Law, meditated on it day and night, praised Him continuously, composed the most beautiful Psalms and is called "*the man after God's heart*" Acts 13:22; but despite all these good things, and be a lover of the Law, he committed many sins, some very serious, including adultery that to cover it, he killed the adulteress' husband and married her to cover up his sin. He was a true believer; he honestly loved the Law of Moses and did not want to sin, but he discovered that despite his religiosity, and knowledge of the Law by heart, It didn't help him to overcome temptation and sin. He discovered that his **nature was sinful** and because he was a sincere man, God revealed Him the right cause of his failure, **his nature was sinful** and the commandments of the Law cannot cure that, only punish it. He was revealed that despite being religious, like Nicodemus, he couldn't overcome sin. He **was wise enough to discover the need of Grace** and jumped into the merciful and gracious arms of God. This is what every believer should discover. So, he prayed this prayer:

Psalms 51:1-13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

1 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 **Wash** me thoroughly from my iniquity□And **cleanse** me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions,□And my sin is ever before me.

4 Against You, You only, I have sinned□And done what is evil in Your sight,□So that You are justified when You speak□And blameless when You judge.

5 Behold, I was **brought forth** in iniquity,□And **in sin my mother conceived** me.

6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,□And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;□Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Make me to hear joy and gladness,□Let the bones which You have broken rejoice.

9 **Hide Your face from my sins**□And **blot out** all my iniquities.

10 **Create in me a clean heart, O God,**□**And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence□And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 **Restore** to me the joy of Your salvation□And **sustain** me with a willing spirit.

13 **Then** I will teach transgressors Your ways,□And sinners will be converted to You.

8. This is the situation of all humankind. And perhaps the situation of many Christians seduced by the Law. This was my situation when I was a young Pentecostal preacher. The Answer to this dilemma is: "The Promise of the Father".

Ezequiel 36:26-27:

²⁶Moreover, **I will give you a new heart** and **put a new spirit within you**; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷**I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.**

It seems incredible, but the adulterer and murderer who wrote this Psalm 51, is a Holy man of God who loved the Law with all his soul, but this didn't help him to overcome the temptations of his flesh. **He seriously loved the Law of Moses and commended that law** with the longest of his Psalms, Psalm 119 with 172 verses and dedicated it to praise the Law and taught to meditated in that Law Day and night Psalms 1:2. The sin of David, according to the law he loved, deserved the death penalty twice, for **adultery** with a woman and **murder** of her innocent husband.

He recognized his sin because the law he knew very well condemned it, but the most important thing that he discovered was his total incapacity to live in holiness, discovered his sinful nature, and discovered the necessity of the Grace of God, which includes forgiveness and life transformation. He confesses that though he boasted in the Law, the Law had no answer for his basic problem, the only thing that the Law offered was the death penalty, therefore he admits that his only hope was to put his life in the hands of the mercy and compassion of God, get forgiveness, or according to the Law he boasted about, to die stoned. He had to suffer for his sin but God forgave him, so he wrote another psalm

Psalm 32:1-5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

32 How **blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!**²How blessed is the man to whom **the LORD does not impute iniquity**, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!³When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long.⁴For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. *Selah*.⁵I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; **And you forgave the guilt of my sin.** *Selah*.

9. The letter of the law is impersonal, static, made of stone, without feelings or emotions or understanding and did not accept explanations; the Law only shouted: kill him! And because is letter cannot change. Only a dynamic person like God, who **is a person that has a brain, feelings, emotions, and understands the human condition**, could **understand** David. The letter cannot understand nor have compassion, the letter cannot exercise grace, granting him forgiveness and saved his life. As David discovered his **total helplessness**, according to the Law, he cried not only for **forgiveness** but also for a **new nature or "new birth"**, in his words: **"create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me"**. God gave it to him because Paul puts David as an example of someone who, under the period of the law, **was saved by Grace** Romans 4:6-8,

10. Sins in us are not isolated **actions** of negligence but a constant **condition and pattern of conduct**. We are not sinners **because** we sin; we sin because **we are sinners**. We are a tree of sins; as well as an orange tree gives oranges and vine give grapes, the tree of sin produces sins and **cannot help it**, as the thorns plant produce thorns and cannot help it. Therefore, the Law of Moses condemning sinners, without offering any solution, aggravated the human situation and made it hopeless for us

Galatians 3:11.

¹Now that **no one is justified by the Law before God is evident**; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN **SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**"

Paul explains it very clearly in the next Scripture, because he was a teacher of Moses' Law, and experienced this desperation as well. He describes with honesty the life of a person under the **pressures between the Law and his sinful nature**:

Romans 7:14-24 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, **sold into bondage to sin.** **15** For what I am doing, I do not understand; **for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.** **16** But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, *confessing* that the Law is good. **17** So now, **no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.** **18** For I know that **nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.** **19** For the good that I want, I

do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, **I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 21** I find then the principle that **evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. 22** For **I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23** but **I see a different law in the members of my body**, waging war against the law of my mind and **making me a prisoner of the law of sin** which is in my members. **24 Wretched man that I am!** Who will set me free from the body of this death?

J. WHY THE LAW IS HOPELESS?

1. Is hopeless because it has no mercy; commands to kill those who do not obey and cursed them; commands to **kill the adulterous** Leviticus 20:10. But It is interesting to note that Jesus defied the Law when He showed mercy and **forgave the adulterous woman** John 8:3-11, Why Jesus had mercy? Because **He is not letter, He is a person with mind, intelligence and feelings.** His Father had done the same with David, who was living under the Law. David committed adultery and murder 2 Samuel 11:1-27 deserving death Romans 4:6-8, Psalm 32:1-2; and was forgiven, in whose case, God himself did not keep the Law, why? Because **He is not letter, but a person with feelings.** **Why the Law is hopeless?** Because **is not a person, it is static letter, has no feelings nor emotions,** not heart or capacity to have mercy or to change; and commands to kill all those who don't keep it Hebrews 10:28. Grace is nothing new, it was create before God created us:

2 Timothy 1:9-10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*⁹who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose and grace** which was **granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,** ¹⁰but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,*

2. The Law orders to kill the **adulterous** woman and the man who slept with her:

Leviticus 20:10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*¹⁰If there is a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the **adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.***

3. The Law orders to stone the **young wife** if the husband discovers that she was not Virgin at the time of marriage:

Deuteronomy 22:20-21 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*²⁰"But if this charge is true, that the **girl was not found a virgin,** ²¹then they shall bring out the girl to the doorway of her father's house, and **the men of her city shall stone her to death** because she has committed an act of folly in Israel by playing the harlot in her father's house; thus you shall purge the evil from among you.*

4. The Law orders to kill those who do **not keep the Saturday,**

Exodus 31:14 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁴Therefore you are to observe the sabbath, for it is holy to you. **Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death;** for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.

Numbers 15:32-36

³²Now while the sons of Israel were in the wilderness, they **found a man gathering wood on the sabbath** day. ³³Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation; ³⁴and they put him in custody because it had not been declared what should be done to him. ³⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, **"The man shall surely be put to death;** all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."³⁶So all the congregation brought him outside the camp **and stoned him to death with stones,** just as the LORD had commanded Moses..

5. Moses ordered the killing of those who **touch**ed the sacred mountain

Exodus 19:12-13New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹²You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Beware that you do not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it; **whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.** ¹³No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; **whether beast or man, he shall not live.'** When the ram's horn sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain."

6. Orders to kill animists, **who worship nature**

Deuteronomy 17:2-7New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²"If there is found in your midst, in any of your towns, which the LORD your God is giving you, a man or a woman who does what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, by transgressing His covenant, ³and has gone and **served other gods** and worshiped them, **or the sun or the moon or any of the heavenly host,** which I have not commanded, ⁴and if it is told you and you have heard of it, then you shall inquire thoroughly. Behold, if it is true and the thing certain that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, ⁵then you shall bring out that man or that woman who has done this evil deed to your gates, that is, the man or the woman, and **you shall stone them to death.** ⁶On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness. ⁷**The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death,** and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

7. Orders to kill the **thief and his family**

Joshua 7:20-26New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁰So Achan answered Joshua and said, "Truly, I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: ²¹when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it."

²²So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was concealed in his tent with the silver underneath it. ²³They took them from inside the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the sons of Israel, and they poured them out before the LORD. ²⁴Then Joshua and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the mantle, the bar of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent and all that belonged to him; and they brought them up to the valley of Achor. ²⁵Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." And **all Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.** ²⁶**They raised over him a great heap of stones that stands to this day, and the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger.** Therefore, the name of that place has been called the valley of Achor to this day.

8. Orders to kill the **false prophet**.

Deuteronomy 13:5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵But **that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death**, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.

9. Orders to kill who does **not obey the priest**

Deuteronomy 17:12 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹²The man who acts presumptuously **by not listening to the priest** who stands there to serve the LORD your God, nor to the judge, **that man shall die**; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel.

10. Orders to kill the **disobedient son**

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁸"If any man has a **stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother**, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, ¹⁹then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. ²⁰They shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.' ²¹**Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death**; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear of it and fear.

11. Commands to kill the **homosexuals** Leviticus 20:13.

¹³If there is a **man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman**, both of them have committed a detestable act; **they shall surely be put to death**. Their blood guiltiness is upon them.

12. Orders to kill **spiritualists** and **fortunetellers** Leviticus 20:27, etc

²⁷'Now a man or a woman who **is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones**; their blood guiltiness is upon them.'"

13. The letter of the Law **does not forgive**, kills, and kills 2 Corinthians 3:6.

⁶who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the **letter kills**, but the Spirit gives life.

14. The law has a **Ministry of death and condemnation**

2 Corinthians 3:7 *But*

if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, ²

Corinthians 3:9.

⁹For if the ministry of **condemnation** has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory.

15. Based on the law they **killed Christ** John 19:7.

⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, **and by that law He ought to die** because He made Himself out to be the Son of God."

16. The Law of Moses is like the Isis' Law. The Bible says that "**only the doers of the law shall be justified**" Romans 2:13 but nobody could comply with that law; Paul said: "there are no righteous, not even one" Romans 3: 10, therefore we could assume that the law is ignorant, absurd, mean-spirited, because it asks what is impossible for us to do and never achieved its objective, which is our holiness, because it cannot count with the collaboration of our sinful nature Romans 8:3. I think that it was **intentionally** given so that we discover God's **holiness**, our own **sinfulness**, our incapacity to be holy and as it happened with David, discover also our **need of God's grace** that includes forgiveness and transformation. According to St. Paul:

17. The Law **cannot change us** Romans 8:3-4.

³For **what the Law could not do**, weak as it was through the flesh, **God did**: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴**so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

18. The Law **gives power to the sin** 1 Corinthians 15:56.

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and **the power of sin is the law**;

19. The Law **curse us** Galatians 3: 10, Deuteronomy 28:15-68.

¹⁰For as many as **are of the works of the Law are under a curse**; for it is written, "**CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.**"

20. The Law does **not make righteous anybody** Galatians 2:16.

¹⁶nevertheless **knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be **justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law**; since **by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.**

21. The Law **produces wrath** Romans 4:15

¹⁵for **the Law brings about wrath**, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

22. The Law **produces Sin** Romans 5:13.

¹³for until the Law sin was in the world, but **sin is not imputed when there is no law**

23. The Law **accuse and is unforgiving** Hebrews 10:28.

²⁸Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses **dies without mercy** on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

24. The Law **results in death** Romans 7:10-11.

¹⁸and this commandment, which was to result in life, **proved to result in death for me;**¹⁹for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it **killed me.**

25. The Law **is defective** Hebrews 8:6-7.

⁶But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.⁷For **if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.**

26. The Law **was temporary** Galatians 3:19,

¹⁹Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, **until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.**

27. The Law **is useless**, Hebrews 7:18-19.

¹⁸For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment **because of its weakness and uselessness**¹⁹ **(for the Law made nothing perfect)**, and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

28. The Law **aged** Hebrews 8:13.

¹³When He said, "A new covenant," **He has made the first obsolete.** But **whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.**

29. The works of the Law **doesn't let us enter into the rest of God** Hebrews 4:9-10.

⁹So **there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.**¹⁰For the one who has **entered His rest has himself also rested from his works,** as God did from His.

30. It does **not make perfect anybody** Hebrews 10:1.

10 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, **can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.**

31. The Law **should be cast out of the Church** Galatians 4:22-24, 29-31

²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman.²³But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise.²⁴This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar...²⁹But as at that time **he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also.**³⁰But what does the Scripture say? **"CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN AND HER SON,**

FOR THE SON OF THE BONDWOMAN SHALL NOT BE AN HEIR WITH THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN. ³¹So then, brethren, **we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.**

32. The Law may make us fall from grace Galatians 5:4.

⁴You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; **you have fallen from grace.**

33. It has a Ministry of death 2 Corinthians 3:7.

⁷But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was,

34. Without the Law sin is dead Romans 7:8.

⁸But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for **apart from the Law sin is dead.**

35. The Law gives power to Sin 1 Corinthians 15:56

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and **the power of sin is the law;**

36. Christ is the end of the Law Romans 10:4

⁴For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**

37. We are dead to the Law Galatians 2:19-20, Romans 7:4, 6.

¹⁹For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Romans 7:4-6 ⁴Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ**, so that **you might be joined to another**, to Him **who was raised from the dead**, in order that we might **bear fruit for God**. ⁵For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. ⁶**But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound**, so that **we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.**

38. We are not under the Law Romans 6:14.

¹⁴For **sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

39. The Law is not for believers in Christ but to those who opposed to the sound doctrine of Jesus and his Apostles that is unbelievers.

, Good News Translation (GNT) ⁹It must be remembered, of course, that laws are made, not for good people, but for lawbreakers and criminals, for the godless and sinful, for those who are not religious or spiritual, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰for the immoral, for sexual

perverts, for kidnappers, for those who lie and give false testimony or who do anything else contrary to sound doctrine.

40. Those who rely on the works of the Law are **under a curse** Galatians 3:10.

¹⁰**Those who depend on obeying the Law live under a curse.** For the scripture says, "**Whoever does not always obey everything that is written in the book of the Law is under God's curse**

41. God wants us to live **according to the Spirit** Galatians 5:16, 22-25

¹⁶What I say is this: **let the Spirit direct your lives,** and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature. ¹⁷!" ²²But **the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** ²³**humility, and self-control.** There is no law against such things as these. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have put to death their human nature with all its passions and desires. ²⁵**The Spirit** has given us life; he must also control our lives.

42. The Law has **no place in God's plan** because it takes Christ out of that plan Galatians plan 2:21

²¹**I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.**"

43. Christ came to redeem us from Satan and bring us **out from under all religious system**, of which the Law is representative Galatians 4:4-5.

⁴But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵so that He might **redeem those who were under the Law,** that we might receive the adoption as sons.

44. Israel **neighboring countries, had Laws based on retaliation:** "eye for eye and tooth for tooth" as the law of Moses. King Hammurabi of Babylon, said he received his legal code from their god, almost 400 years before Moses Law, and is also based on the law of retaliation.

45. Law and grace are the great **paradox** of the Scriptures, because they opposed one to the other; both are true, but the law was a temporary punishment for the Jews as a nation Galatians 3:19, that is why is called **Old** Covenant Hebrews 8:13 Romans 7:6, and rule for God's chosen until the Messiah came Galatians 3:19 and for us, the Eternal Covenant called also new Covenant, was revealed (see thesis No.1),.

Paul says that the law is not bad because it forbids evil; the problem was not the law, but the **human incapacity** to keep it. Of course, the law was also a punishment to the Jewish people for their transgressions, "***it was added because of transgressions***" Galatians 3: 19

Galatians 3:13

but Christ delivered us from the curses of the Law Deuteronomy 28:15-68 produced by disobedience.

¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"—,

Jesus took upon Himself the punishment and curses that the law poured over us.

46. As the Law could not help humankind, God intervened with his grace: **Romans 8:3-4**

3 For what **the Law could not do**, weak as it was through the flesh, **God did**: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, **4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

47. The Law commands to do what no one can do. Even Moses couldn't keep it. If God himself wouldn't do something for us, we were completely lost. Our nature is sinful from birth, is in our DNA, and is genetic. We needed a New Birth... But God had all figured it out before the creation of the world.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. .

For this reason, David cries out "create in me, a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10 God's responded: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you... **and cause you to walk in my statutes** and you will be carefully observing my Ordinances" Ezekiel 36:26-27. The promised **Grace**, called "The Promise of the Father", **solves the problem** of humanity, which was sin, and the impossibility of obeying and pleasing God. How did it happen? **Through Christ!** Crucifying our old nature with Christ, giving us a new conscience and forgiving us all our trespasses.

Galatians 2:20 New Living Translation (NLT)

20 My old self has been **crucified with Christ**. It is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

CONCLUSION

1. The moral Law of Moses was the example of what God expected from us, therefore it is not bad in itself. The Law was never the problem, **we, our incapacity to fight sin was the problem!** The Ten Commandments have been a Light in the darkness of this world and are relevant until today for all humankind. But these don't mean that they bring salvation, because a righteous life is more than 10 Commandments. Salvation is only by the grace of God who is

applied to us through faith in Jesus Christ alone, Salvation does not come from a Book, there were not Bibles in Abraham times, and He was already justified by faith alone in the divine person, God, not from the letter, but from the Spirit of God. Jesus died for us to free us from the system of law, so we may become obedient to **Him by love not by law**, “*Serving Him in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter*” Romans 7:6. This is why Paul says: “***if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly***” Galatians 2:21.

2. Meditate once more in this simple Scriptures who explains it all:

Romans 13:8-10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he **who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.** **9** For this, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, **it is summed up in this saying**, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **10** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law.**

Galatians 5:22-23 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

22 But the **fruit of the Spirit is love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; **against such things there is no law.**

3. No, grace is not a license to sin. Grace is a total change of system to be saved, replacing commandments **forced to us from outside** to a **motivation from inside**, from our **conscience**, by the Holy Spirit of Christ who lives in us and imparts us His character with the fruit of the Spirit, so we can live as it pleases God. The Law, instead of producing Holiness, produced guilt, and needed millions of gallons of blood from animals to calm it down, and still could not offer forgiveness...

Hebrews 10:1-4 *For the Law, since **it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things**, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.*²*Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?*³*But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.*⁴**For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.**

4. You could not compare the Law of Moses and its curses with Jesus and his Beatitudes. The curses of the Law are hair-raising. Once I started to read Deuteronomy 28:15-68 before a group of 12 elders of a church, and arriving at certain part of the reading they begged me not to read anymore because some started feeling sick. Never read that passage in public. These verses seem to be written by a psychopath, not by the father of our Lord Jesus Christ who commanded us to love our neighbor and enemies, Jesus said that if we love our enemies we would thus be

sons of our father Matthew 5:43-45.

5. Wanting the benefits of the grace and try to push them by the Law is to live with two husbands. Please do an in-depth study of grace, liberate people from the Law, teach them to live by the Spirit and you will have a congregation experiencing God's rest and perfect peace with God, with ourselves and with others. The law does not cure our sinful nature but wakes it up to see Grace!

Romans 7:5.⁵For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which **were aroused by the Law**, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

6. By Grace, with a single sacrifice, Jesus, paid all what the law demanded, because He came to "**fulfill the Law**", and delivered us from its punishment.

Hebrews 10:11-14. ¹Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time ***the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;*** ¹²but He, (Jesus) having offered ***one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,*** ¹³waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. ¹⁴For ***by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.***

7. David represents the sincere believers who try by their own works to abide by the law, but as they fail miserably; face their threats and punishments, confess their sins, totally accepts God's plan and surrenders to Him pleading for compassion, mercy and grace which includes forgiveness of all our sins Psalm 32:1-2 and starts to transform our life from the inside out Psalm 51:10. **God's answer is grace!**

Ezekiel 36:26-27²⁶ "Moreover, I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷**I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.**"

AMÉN.