

1 Timothy
A.) The Church and its message
1. 1:8-11 The message in the past
1:9b-11
“Laying down the Law (Part 2)”

I. Introduction

II. Vs. 9b-10 Being transformed from what I was to what He is

III. Vs. 11 In accordance to the glorious gospel

I. Introduction

Last week we started examining *the purpose of the 10 commandments in the life of the believer.* Paul had already said in verse 4 that this teaching was causing disputes but he had also warned Timothy about the *misdirection* this teaching left that would cause a decline of biblical maturity in believers. The Law of Moses took the emphasis off of *personal transformation* and on too *external compliance* as the basis of our right standing before God. Left undealt with would cause the Church to end up looking like the description that Paul gave Timothy in his 2nd letter in chapter 3, verse 5 where he said that they “*have a form of godliness, but deny its power*”. Paul made **four statements about the Law of Moses** in verses 8-11, the first two we saw last week and we take up the next two today.

1. Vs. 8 “*The law is good if one uses it lawfully*”.
2. Vs. 9a “*The law is not made for the righteous person*”.
3. Vs. 9b-10 “*The law is for the ungodly and insubordinate*”.
4. Vs. 11 “*The law is according to the glorious gospel*”.

II. Vs. 9b-10 Being transformed from what I was to what He is

Vs. 9b-10 **Third**: “*The law is for the ungodly and insubordinate*”: The law according to Paul is for **two distinct groups** the first of which Paul lists in three pairs of two groups mentioned above who the Law of Moses is useful for:

- “*The lawless and insubordinate*”
- “*The ungodly and for sinners*”
- “*The unholy and profane*”

The first thing to note is that in each of these pairs they describe not what a person **DOES** but rather what a person **IS!** These pairs describe attitudes and outlook on life or a person’s nature...in simple **the unregenerate**. I suppose that reading this list could cause a person to feel either superior to someone else or inferior depending on their condition but the truth is every person starts out in life as these three categories, as none righteous no not one!

The 2nd group is described starting with the words “*For murders*” in verse 9 and ending with the words in verse 10 “*anything that is contrary to sound doctrine*”. This group is the opposite as the above group as it has everything to do with **what a person does**. Paul lists 4 categories of who the law is for based upon what they do:

1. Murders: Of fathers and murders of mothers and manslayers
2. Fornicators: Sexual immoral people heterosexual as well as homosexual
3. Kidnapers: Liars, and perjurers...those that lie
4. Any other thing: Contrary to sound doctrine

Simply put *the law is made for the fallen nature also known as the flesh whether that is active in the unbeliever or in the believer!*

The Law of Moses reveals three things:

- A. *It reveals the only acceptable standard of behavior before God, both in outward actions as well as inward thoughts.*
- B. *The 10 commandments put's everyone under the same standard.* According to Romans 5:20 the Law of Moses caused us to recognize sin more. Paul writes, "The law entered that the offence might abound". He also explains this in Romans 7:7 saying "I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, you shall not covet." Many people believe that the 10 commandments are given to help them stop sinning. But in reality the 10 commandments are given to cause each of us to realize that there is no sin insignificant and that God does not keep two sets of books: *Yours and all those whose sins you judge as intolerable. You know where some folks have prejudices and we have convictions, some have a bad temper but we have righteous indignation, some gossip why we are just sharing our opinions...for prayer of course!*
- C. *The Law of Moses demands the same punishment for all those that break the standard eventually our death.* The Law shows no mercy, it lets no one off the hook, it sets up the same standard as Jesus said in Matthew 7:1-2 "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged..."
 Soon we discover that we are hopelessly and helplessly lost! We are broken and cannot do right because we are self-centered beings. The law becomes our

custodian, our prison guard as we are bound in our own filth and corruption longing to be set free from the prison bars of our life. What we believed was freedom we came to realize is our capture and we long for the freedom that only our Savior Jesus can bring.

It is easy to understand why those who don't know Jesus need Jesus but what about those of us who act at times as if we don't know Jesus? Well the Law of Moses reminds us that we are in constant need to be restored. The Law reminds us of the same three things:

- *It helps us define sin*
- *It applies the same standard of righteousness*
- *It points out the foolishness of thinking that we can achieve righteousness any other way then trusting in Jesus*

There is however one thing that the Law of Moses can no longer do to us believers that it still does to unbelievers: ***The Law of Moses can no longer insist on punishment*** as Paul wrote in Romans chapter 8 verse 1 “*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.*” Because of Jesus, God is our Father not our executioner.

III. Vs. 11 In accordance to the glorious gospel

Vs. 11 Fourth: “*The law is according to the glorious gospel*”: **Paul finishes the four truths about the Law of Moses by applying it within the confines of the “glorious gospel”**. And that brings up **four points**:

- a. ***We must recognize that as believers in Christ we can never attempt to apply the Law of Moses to correct our lawlessness and make us righteous.*** We cannot try harder next time because our self effort will have no ability to make

us righteous as we have already been made righteous in Christ. If trying harder worked then we are saying that we can be made right by our works instead of by grace. Instead what we do is recognize that based upon the Law we have moved from His righteousness to our own and repent and accept His righteousness which is only by faith.

- b. **The only form of discipline in accordance with the Law of Moses is found in Jesus words in Matthew 18.** There we follow the threefold process of discipline upon a believer. The purpose of this is so that the unrepentive professing believer will:
- **Recognize** what they are missing in fellowship with God.
 - **Realize** that they are not true believers.
 - **There is no penance, no sanction, no punishment, instead just a continual attempt to reach them for Christ as you would an unbeliever.**
- c. **We are NOT to impose standards upon our fellow believers that God does not, they are our brother and sisters we are not their Lords.** Legalism always tries to set up a series of rules for other people, telling them what they have to do. **Laws and rules are necessary for life, but they do NOT change a heart!** And until a heart is changed no amount of rules will have any lasting effect upon a life.
- d. **Only by bringing people who are redeemed back to who they now are in Christ can the Spirit of God effect transforming change. Rules and regulation define social morality but do nothing to help personal morality.** A law may prevent me from:

- Stealing from my neighbor but does nothing to prevent me from coveting his possessions.
- A law can discourage me from leaving my wife and my children, but it can't stop me from making their life a living hell.
- A law can inhibit me from killing my enemy, but it can do nothing in keeping me from hating him and making him feel my hate.

The law can within limits regulate my behavior but it cannot:

- **Cleanse my mind**
- **Purify my heart**
- **Alter the poison of my worst intentions, only Jesus can do that!**

The Law of Moses can drive us to a fresh revelation of our need of His love and that is what it was designed to do all along!