

The Law

Galatians 3:19-27

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

When you _____ your Bible, you see the words Old Testament and New Testament. What does that mean? Today we're going to explore the _____ between the old covenant and the new. We're interested in the _____ of God's Word and in being good students who are approved of God. We want to _____ Him to the best of our ability. We believe that you want to be that kind of servant too, and so you _____ your Bible diligently.

The Bible is an exciting book, and it _____ sacred history from the very beginning down to the present time. Through the Bible we can _____ clearly all the wonderful things that God has done to bless us and give us eternal life through Jesus Christ. When you open the Bible and turn to the Table of Contents at the very front, you'll _____ that there is an Old Testament and a New Testament. The Old Testament was specifically written to _____, while the New Testament was written to _____ Jews and Gentiles. The Old Testament reveals the will of God for the _____, while the New Testament reveals God's will for those who _____ in Jesus Christ.

Paul urged Timothy to "Study to show yourself _____ unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15, King James Version). Paul wanted Timothy to do his _____ to be an accurate and diligent student who handled the Word of God properly. To do so meant that he would be approved by _____. To fail to do so would lead him to be _____. We too need to be diligent _____ who handle the Bible properly by distinguishing what God says and to whom He says it, how He says it, when, and why. Good students recognize that God's laws and teachings _____ authoritatively to those to whom they were given.

Our reading today comes from Paul's epistle to the Galatians 3:19-27.

Sometimes people say, "You folks in the church of Christ don't _____ in the Old Testament." If they mean we don't believe the Old Testament is God's _____ word, then nothing could be farther from the truth. We certainly do believe the Old Testament is _____ and divinely inspired. Second Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is _____ out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." This certainly _____ the Old Testament, which is inspired and profitable for us as Christians.

The apostle Paul said, “For whatever was written in former days was written for our _____, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4). There are many inspired _____ in the Old Testament necessary for us to know and believe. It’s there that we learn about creation, the flood, and God’s promise to Abraham. It’s there we learn about Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and David. It’s there we learn from the prophecies and the prophets about Jesus Christ. More than thirty times _____ refers back to the historical events and the lessons that are found in the Old Testament. First Corinthians 10:11 says that the things of the Old Testament happened as an _____ for us and “were written for our instruction.” So we urge everyone to read and study the Old Testament.

But being a good student of Scripture means understanding the _____ of what is written. Not every _____ in Scripture was meant for everyone. While God told _____ to build an ark, He didn’t give that instruction to everyone else. While Levites served in the tabernacle and temple, no _____ Israelite was allowed to serve there. **Read what Moses said when he reviewed the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy 5:1-3.** From this we learn that the Ten Commandments were given to Israel specifically and that its laws were part of a covenant that did not _____ to those beforehand.

When we come to the New Testament, the writers clearly state that we’re no longer _____ the Law of Moses given at Mt. Sinai. **Read what Paul says in Romans 7:1-4.** Christians _____ to the Law of Moses so they can _____ Christ (**Read Romans 7:6**). **Read what Paul argued in Galatians 2:19-21.** Christians serve Christ and not the Law because they know Christ can do for them what the Law could _____ do. **Read what Paul told the Jews in the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia in Acts 13:38-39.** The Law simply cannot free you the way the _____ of Jesus Christ can free you. Let’s stay with Jesus!

Some mistakenly make a distinction between the _____ law found in the Ten Commandments and the ceremonial law. They think that while the ceremonial law is no longer in force, the Ten Commandment law _____ is. However, they’ve missed an important point. The Ten Commandments are _____ of the covenant that God made with Israel. **Read Exodus 34:27-28.** Rather than make unwarranted distinctions in the Law, let’s understand that _____ the Law of Moses was part of the covenant that God made with Israel.

What then was God’s _____ for this covenant law? The prophet Jeremiah revealed God’s _____ to make a new covenant with Israel in Jeremiah 31:31-34. **Read Hebrews 8:6-13.** In speaking of a new covenant, “He makes the first one obsolete, and what is becoming obsolete and growing _____ is ready to _____ away.”

The old covenant could not do what the new covenant can do. The new covenant is a better covenant enacted on better _____. Hebrews 10:4 says of the sacrificial system of the old covenant, “For it’s _____ for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” The sacrifices of the old covenant were incapable of _____ our sins. So Jesus Christ, our Lord, stepped in to give His own body as a _____ for our sins. **Read Hebrews 10:8-9.** The Lord Jesus _____ with the first covenant and its laws so that He might _____ the new covenant. We now have the better covenant enacted on better promises. The old is obsolete. If you have any relationship with God at all today, it will be _____ the new covenant ratified by the blood of Jesus Christ. There’s no need to go back to the old covenant as a law for how we are to _____ God; it’s obsolete and will not grant you forgiveness.

The Law of Moses was for the Jews, but the gospel is for _____ people. Jesus wanted to break down a _____ for Gentiles found in the Law, so that all people could come to God. **Read what the Bible says in Ephesians 2:13-16.** As long as the Law _____, there would be a barrier between the Jew and the Gentile. The _____ of Christ broke down that barrier and established a whole new relationship to God for both Jew and Gentile.

The authoritative standard for Christians today is not the Law of Moses, but the _____ of Jesus Christ and His apostles. The Lord Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18). According to Jesus in Matthew 7:24-27, those who are spiritually _____ hear His Words and do them. Those who are _____ may hear His Words but they do not do them. The foolish do as they _____. The Lord Jesus said clearly, that “He who _____ Me and does not _____ My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48). Whether in matters of morality or matters relating to the church, we must _____ to the Words of Jesus found in the New Testament to know what God desires from us. Jesus is Lord!

If we’d be true _____ of the Lord Jesus, let’s remain in His Words and not deviate from them either to popular opinions today or to the old covenant written to the Jews. The Lord Jesus said, “If you _____ in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:31-32). If Jesus is our Lord, let’s _____ Him and not get sidetracked by human traditions; let’s not get sidetracked by the creeds of men, or by the instructions that God gave to the Jews in that old covenant which is now obsolete. Just as we Americans today are no longer under British rule, so we as Christians today are no longer under the rule of ancient _____. The cross of Christ set us _____. Let’s continue in the truth so we might be true disciples and _____ free. That’s the will of the Lord Jesus, and we should make it our will to _____ Him always. The new covenant is such a great covenant; it’s one built upon better _____, one that is mediated

by a better _____, and that's Jesus Himself. So we can _____ on that new covenant to give us the forgiveness of our sins, to give us freedom from sin, and to _____ us with the truth and the hope that we have for eternal life. That's why, when you open up your Bible, and you see the difference between Old Testament and New Testament, remember that the Old Testament was written to the Jews, and written to them with words that were _____ to them in their setting and in their time. But the New Testament contains the Words of Jesus that were not only for His day but for _____ time. Jesus made the point that, "heaven and earth will pass away, but My _____ will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). That's why we can have _____ in the Words of Jesus; why we can go to them and know that they are not only for the first century but for the twenty-first century. Won't you _____ to Jesus; won't you _____ for Him; won't you _____ His Word, and find out the things which he teaches.

What does it _____ to us today that we're under the new covenant found in the New Testament rather than under the old covenant found in the Old Testament? When the church began on the Day of Pentecost, it continually _____ itself to the apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42). We too need to turn to the pages of the New Testament to learn about the apostles _____ and to learn how to _____ the Lord Jesus. We should strive to please Him in every aspect of our lives.

Since Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice for sins, we should follow Him out of _____. Jesus purchased the church with His _____ because the church was His focus. He is the _____ of the church and the Savior of the body; we need to follow Him (Acts 5:23). If the church means so much to Him, it ought to be utterly _____ to us. We should look to the New Testament for our morals, for how we _____, for how the church is to function, and for our _____ lives. We must never, never settle for _____ best or something less than the truth. This is why we _____ ourselves after the New Testament and not the Old. That's why we _____ each Lord's Day, the first day of the week, that's why we sing without instruments, why we pray, why we study, and why we take the Lord's Supper; that's why we give of our means as freewill offerings, not tithes, because that's what the New Testament church did to _____ the Lord. So we hope that you'll follow the Lord and put Him first.

To become a Christian, the Bible asks that you _____ in the Lord Jesus, that you _____ of your sins, that you _____ Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be _____ in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you're baptized the Lord will _____ away your sins; He'll _____ you to His church, the family of God. Today is the best day to be obedient to the Lord!