

# Law And Grace

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**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL: JUNE 20 - 25, 2022**

**GALATIANS 3:10-22**

**PSALM 33:1-12**

## **MONDAY - June 20, 2022**

**Psalm 33:1** Let the godly sing for joy to the Lord; it is fitting for the pure to praise him.

**Galatians 3:10-11** But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God's Book of the Law." So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

**REFLECTION:** These two verses from Galatians are very contentious in our culture today. The Law of God was placed upon humankind to hold us accountable to God, and to one another. To remedy this curse our society decided it was best to remove God, and the Ten Commandments, from the public arena. What a tangled web we weave when we first start to deceive. Perversion is now the temper of our times. Am I safe to say that our society has serious problems? As a pastor I teach people how to love one another by inviting people to be loved by God. So I ask, does this help? For 2000 years Christianity has offered people a tried and true means of respecting one another. Each Sunday God's love is offered to fill the void. That is why I dare you to be loved by God. Please, find a house of worship this weekend. You might surprise yourself!

**PRAYER TIME:** *Heavenly Father, I sing to You with great joy. You have brought me out of the darkness where lawlessness reigns. The glorious light of love shines in me because of Your Son. Praise You for guiding me. In Jesus' name Amen.*



## **TUESDAY - June 21, 2022**

**Psalm 33:2-3** Praise the Lord with melodies on the lyre; make music for him on the ten-stringed harp. Sing a new song of praise to him; play skillfully on the harp, and sing with joy.

**Galatians 3:12-13** This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, "It is through obeying the law that a person has life." But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

**REFLECTION:** It is obvious that law is not like faith. The difference between law and faith is the matter of how we are able to be justified in the presence of our Creator. Jesus teaches us that we are justified by faith in Him alone. John 5:24 *"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life."* To obey the law we first need to have a desire to obey it. That desire comes from faith in Jesus Christ. He is the one who creates new life in a person and a desire to live life in love with God. The true tragedy in life is that, no matter how hard you try to obey the law, you still break it. So then what? Learn this truth. Romans 8:3 *The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. You are set free to love God because of Christ's anointing Spirit. When Christ takes up residence in your mind and heart, you not only obtain His righteousness, you learn that living by the law helps to set you free.*

**PRAYER TIME:** *Heavenly Father, how can I thank you enough for rescuing me from the curse of the law. Lord Jesus, fill me with your Spirit today so that I may obey the law more and more. Praise You gracious Father for setting me free. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

### **WEDNESDAY - June 22, 2022**

**Psalm 33:4-5** For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does. He loves whatever is just and good; the unfailing love of the Lord fills the earth.

**Galatians 3:14-15** Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith. Dear brothers and sisters, here's an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case.

**REFLECTION:** *Do you know why the blessing of Abraham is such a big deal? Genesis 17:1-2 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants." From that point on God promised to redeem a people to call His own. How will that happen? God told the prophet Joel twenty-five hundred years ago, "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh," Joel 2:28 The nature of God's promise is for His Spirit to be poured upon our hearts as we hear the Gospel. So, the fulfillment of God's sacred promise is in the receiving of faith through Christ. This enlightenment does not happen because of actions, words or deeds, but through the grace of God. God's love has been poured out on you.*

**PRAYER TIME:** *O Father, Your precious Word is true and right. I pray Your Word will settle in my mind and help me to trust it. Blessed is Your Word because it teaches me about Your love and goodness. Praise You Father and fill the earth with Your unfailing love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

### **THURSDAY - June 23, 2022**

**Psalm 33:6** The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born.

**Galatians 3:16** God gave the promises to Abraham and his child. And notice that the Scripture doesn't say "to his children," as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says "to his child" - and that, of course, means Christ.

**REFLECTION:** *God made two contracts, one with Abraham, and the other with Moses. Abraham's contract was founded on Christ. This contract resides with Christ alone and is the foundation of it. The fulfillment of this contract is the pouring out of God's Spirit. God said to Abraham: "By your seed a great nation will come into being." That seed is Jesus Christ and His Spirit will be planted into the hearts of God's chosen ones. The contract with Moses was based on the law, which is based on the works of obedience. It is extremely clear that we cannot live perfectly to the letter of the law. Those who teach that obedience to the law merits salvation are teaching a bold faced lie. Salvation is a free gift from God in Christ. If you do not accept the promise of God's free gift of salvation, you are still lost in sin.*

**PRAYER TIME:** *God of peace, God of kindness, You created all the earth and all its glory. You created me in Your image and breathed life into me. Blessed is the One who created it all. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

### **FRIDAY - June 24, 2022**

**Psalm 33:7-8** He assigned the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs. Let the whole world fear the Lord, and let everyone stand in awe of him.

**Galatians 3:18-19** For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise. But God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise. Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people.

**REFLECTION:** *There are subversive teachers who weaken or render God's Word useless. Changing the interpretation of words in the Bible changes the meaning of verses. I believe in the inerrancy (cannot be added to or subtracted from) of the Bible. To deprive people of the truth leads to a powerless Gospel. Every kind of trick is used to change the language in the Bible. For example, being justified in the sight of God is a gift of God. Manipulators say justification comes from works by a person. Romans 4:14-16 If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is*

to have no law to break!) So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. The promise to Abraham is based on faith, while the law to Moses is works. Ask yourself these questions. Can you earn love? Are you able to buy love? If your answer is yes then it is a reward, not love. You are rewarded for your efforts. That is not love at all! If someone truly loves you, they give freely of themselves to you. When we receive faith in Christ we are loved by God.

**PRAYER TIME:** *Lord Jesus, You have blessed us with a vast reservoir of wisdom. Let the whole world have this knowledge so we all can stand in awe of You. I have eternal bliss because you gave your life for my sin. I praise You forever and ever! In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

## **SATURDAY - June 25, 2022**

**Psalm 33:9** For when he spoke, the world began! It appeared at his command.

**Galatians 3:20-22** Now a mediator is helpful if more than one party must reach an agreement. But God, who is one, did not use a mediator when he gave his promise to Abraham. Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.

**REFLECTION:** Christ is not the Mediator of just one person, but of all people who come to believe in Him.

**Mark 16:16** *Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.* Now, look at verse 22 from today's scripture reading. It tells us that we are all prisoners of sin.

Every human being needs a defender, a lawyer of sorts, to present our case of sin before a perfect and Holy God. Our Mediator (Christ) is a living member of the Holy Council of God. In Genesis 1:26 we learn that Christ not only reconciled God to the Jews in making a new covenant with them, He also is the Mediator of all the people created in the image of God. Ephesians 2:14 *For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.* Christ justifies us before God by uniting us into one body.

This one body is the Body of Christ. It is the Christian Church on earth. So throw away the righteous works idea you so readily boast about, bow down humbly to Jesus and accept Him as God's loved Son. Then you will have faith in Jesus Christ. The result is certain. Only by faith in Christ are we granted freedom from sin and made free and righteous before God. Holy smokes, what a Mediator!

**PRAYER TIME:** *What a beautiful and wonderful mediator You are Lord Jesus. You gave me new life. Blessed are You for inviting me to really listen to Your word and giving me a desire to respond to it. How great You are, and how lovely is Your presence in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

This devotional follows the Revised Common Lectionary