



SESSION 7 - THE PAULINE LETTERS

I. DESIGN OF MOSAIC COVENANT: Temporary

- A. The Mosaic Covenant Was Established by God Only for a _____ Period

Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made. (Gal. 3:19)

“The law was our guardian until Christ came, ... but now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian” (Gal. 3:24–25)

- B. The Mosaic Law Could Not Impart Spiritual _____ or _____ People to Obey It

Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. (Gal. 3:21)

For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Rom. 8:2–4)

- C. Therefore, the Mosaic Covenant was _____ by _____

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. (Matt. 5:17–18)

Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (Rom. 10:4)

II. SPECIFIC MOSAIC COVENANT OBLIGATIONS NO LONGER REQUIRED OF CHRISTIANS

A. Christians no longer must be _____

Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. (Gal. 5:2-4)

B. Christians no longer must offer OT _____

Hebrews 7-10 gives an extensive argument that now there is

A new High Priest (Jesus)

A new Sacrifice (Jesus' sacrifice of himself)

A new Temple (the temple in heaven)

C. Christians no longer must follow the OT _____

And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. (Mark 7:18-20)

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself...Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. (Rom. 14:20)

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (Col. 2:16-17)

D. Christians no longer must observe OT _____ and other OT _____

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (Col. 2:16-17)

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. (Rom. 14:5)

You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain. (Gal. 4:10-11)

E. Christians no longer must follow OT laws regulating the _____
_____ of Israel (Rom 13:1-7, 2 Pet 2:13-14, 17)

III. MOSAIC COVENANT HAS COME TO AN END: _____, NOT JUST A

"The law was our guardian until Christ came, ... but now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian" (Gal. 3:24-25).

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God...But now we are released from the law ... so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code" (Rom. 7:6).

In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. (Heb. 8:13)

HOW WE CAN VIEW THE OLD, MOSAIC COVENANT TODAY:

NOT OUR COVENANT, BUT STILL OUR SCRIPTURES

All Scripture is breathed 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. (2 Tim 3:16-17)

David Dorsey: "Legally, none of the 613 stipulations of the Sinaitic covenant are binding upon NT Christians, including the so-called moral laws, while in a revelatory and pedagogical sense all 613 are binding upon us, including all the ceremonial and civic laws."

Key Takeaway: Delight in ALL the LAW (Psalm 1)

Delight in the _____ - giving _____ covenant

Delight in the _____ - giving _____ covenant

Main Guideline for using the Old Testament for Guidance Today¹:

Understand Each Old Testament Ethical Teaching in Light of the Differences between the Old and New Covenants.

A better approach is to learn from the New Testament authors how to apply Old Testament passages to ethical questions today by keeping in mind the differences between the old and new covenants and the place of each passage in the overall history of redemption in the Bible. Specifically, the pattern of New Testament teaching shows that we must keep in mind these principles:

a. Genesis 1–Exodus 19: This material predates the Mosaic covenant and teaches ethical principles for all time.

b. The Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1–17: All of the commandments are reaffirmed by the New Testament (except the Sabbath commandment) and should be understood as teaching universal moral standards for all time.

c. The Rest of the Old Testament: This material contains God’s wisdom for human conduct, but each passage must be understood in light of five changes that came with the new covenant:

(1) The Old Covenant Has Been Terminated: Therefore, old covenant laws should first be understood as regulations that were given for God’s people then, not as regulations that are legally binding on all people for all time. Then each passage can be evaluated as a source of wisdom regarding the kind of life that is pleasing to God for all time.

(2) The Messiah Has Come and Offered a Final Sacrifice: Therefore, the Old Testament sacrificial system has been discontinued and we fulfill those laws in new ways, several of which are made explicit by the New Testament authors.

(3) God’s Laws Are Now More Powerfully Written on the Hearts of His People: Therefore, God’s standards for ethical conduct place more emphasis on the details of inward righteousness, without neglecting instructions regarding actual conduct.

(4) God’s People No Longer Constitute a Separate Earthly Nation: Therefore, many Old Testament laws governing the conduct of civil society, including civil punishments, are applied in new ways to the church.

(5) Gentiles No Longer Have to Become Jews to Be Saved: Therefore, laws marking the separateness of the Jewish people from other ethnic groups (such as circumcision, food laws, and clothing laws) are now applied not to physical indications of separateness but to inward spiritual realities.

¹ Grudem, W. (2018). [*Christian Ethics: An Introduction to Biblical Moral Reasoning*](#) (pp. 252–253). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.