

THE LAWS OF GOD

(Rom. 8:1-4)

Introduction:

1. Our God is a God of laws. Always has been, and always will be. As God, His very will is law and to be obeyed, or consequences be faced.
2. God has given us many laws since the beginning. Let us consider this morning the laws of God: the laws of the physical creation, His revealed laws, and finally the law of cause and effect.

Discussion:

I. The Laws of the Physical Creation.

- A. Tied to creation and God's right as Creator. Gravity is the rule of the day and there is no arguing with it or rejecting it safely.
- B. These laws are built into the creation for us to discover, name, and use (advancement via application of the laws of creation; ex. Biomimicry).
- C. These laws ought to prod us to seek the Creator/Lawmaker/Lawgiver (Rom. 1:20). The pursuit of advancement ought to bring us closer to God. As the study of archaeology/geography/medicine proves the Bible's source; these also ought to bring us into a better relationship with God. Unfortunately, Rom. 1:20 is followed by vv 21-32).

II. The Revealed Laws of God (aka Spiritual Laws of God).

A. Moral Laws vs. Positive Laws.

1. Moral laws are tied to God's nature and thus are unchangeable (do not worship falsely, lie, steal, murder, etc.). Ex. Gen. 4:8-12 = Ex. 20:13 = Rom. 1:29.
2. Positive laws are tied to God's commands and thus can be changed by Him.
 - a. Worship under the Patriarchal, Mosaic, and Christian System was different, per God's commands.
 - b. The old pork sandwich example (Deut. 14:8 vs. 1 Tim. 4:4, note Acts 10:15).
 - c. Positive laws can even change in mid-stream so to speak (Use of Instruments in Jewish worship was not instituted until temple was built and many of the Levites lost their opportunities to serve).

B. Dispensations.

1. The Patriarchal Dispensation (or system) began after the expulsion from the garden and continued until the promise it was founded on was fulfilled (Gen. 3:15; John 19:30; Eph. 2:11-16).
 - a. The patriarch of the family acted as the priest and offered sacrifices upon a home built altar (Job 1:5).
 - b. There were other laws that were given and handed down through the family (Rom. 5:13).
2. The Mosaic Dispensation began at Mt. Sinai with the giving of the law of Moses to Israel and continued until the promise it was founded on was fulfilled (Gen. 12:3; 22:18; Jer. 31:31-34; John 19:30; Eph. 2:14-16).
 - a. The Levites were the priests and offered sacrifices upon a single altar in the tabernacle and then the temple.
 - b. Many other laws were given and are documented in the Old Testament (Lev.).
3. The Christians Dispensation began at Pentecost (Acts 2) and will last until the end of the world (2 Pet. 3; 1 Cor. 15:24).
 - a. Jesus is our High Priest and He was the sacrifice given once for all (Heb. 10:10-14).
 - b. All Christians are priests serving God sacrificially (1 Pet. 2:9; Rom. 12:1, 2; 2 Cor. 5:14ff; Col. 3:17).
 - c. Many other laws have been given to us to keep (Rom. 8:2; Gal. 6:2; Jas. 1:25).

III. The Law of Cause and Effect.

- A. God has created us as free moral agents able to choose whether we will obey the laws of God or not. This produced the necessity of judgment (ex. Gen. 2:15-17).
- B. Man is able to disobey the physical laws of God (jumping off of a cliff), but will face the produced consequence (physical death or injury). The physical reality of IF-THEN.
- C. Man can also disobey the revealed laws of God (either moral or positive), but will face the produced consequences at judgment. The spiritual reality of IF-THEN.

Conclusion:

- 1. God has made you free to choose, what will you do? God has provided salvation, what will you do? God has revealed all, what will you do?
- 2. His love, His provision, His will; what will you do? How will you respond to the invitation of God?
- 3. Invitation.

PRAYER LIST FOR WEEK STARTING JULY 30th

Those with long term issues

Audrey Brostrom, Louise Williams, Cliff and Rachel Greenawalt and their family, Ruth Vaughn as she lives with diabetes, and Harrison Waldron.

Those with short term issues

- ▶ Darrell McKee as he continues his fight against cancer.
- ▶ Frances Davis as she struggles with some health issues.
- ▶ Tony and Lynnette Galbier as the time of the birth of their daughter nears.
- ▶ That John Pellin might find a place to live closer to the building.
- ▶ Our members who are struggling with sickness/colds/injuries.
- ▶ Our members who are traveling.
- ▶ Our leadership in the church; that they might be faithful, strong, and bold.