

The Law and the Gospel

John Colquhoun (1815)

Chapter 11 (Lesson 17)

The High Obligation Under Which Believers Lie to Yield Even Perfect Obedience to the Law as a Rule of Life

God did not save us so that we would be lawless. The law of God _____ binds humanity no matter what state he is in. The law is *“a delineation of God’s moral image, and a transcript of His unspotted holiness, to be a perpetual and unalterable rule of conduct to mankind in all the possible states and circumstances in which they might be placed.”*

The law of God is not merely tied to the covenant of works so that when the covenant of works ceases the law of God ceases. The law of God abides _____ and while the covenant of works passes away for the saint, the law remains. What passes away are the promises and threats of the covenant of works-not the law itself.

In fact, not only does the law not fade away after salvation but the moral obligation to obey the law actually _____ after salvation. This chapter presents 7 reasons why believers are bound to obey the law of God as a rule of life.

1. The law comes from the _____ God- *“Because He is Jehovah...all obedience is due Him.”*

“The infinite greatness, excellence and amiableness of the perfections of Jehovah make it the duty of all men, and especially of all believers, to love Him supremely, to obey Him in all things, and to make His glory the chief end of all their obedience to Him.”

2. The law comes from God their _____ - *“By right of creation, the Lord has in irreversible and perpetual claim to their supreme love and their cordial and grateful obedience.”*

“His right, therefore, to them and to their perfect and perpetual obedience is not only original, underived, and perfect, but infinite.”

3. The law comes from God their _____ - *“Every living creature lives on His goodness and subsists by His bounty. His infinite power every moment upholds all, His unsearchable wisdom governs all, and His unbounded goodness cares and provides for all.”*

“In a special manner, ‘He preserveth the souls of the saints’...Since believers, then, are every moment dependent on God for the continuance and comfort of both their natural and spiritual life, they are bound, in obedience to His law as the rule of their life.”

4. The law comes from their _____ making God- *“The covenant right that, according to His gracious promise, they have to Him as their God gives Him an additional claim to them and to all their love and obedience.”*

God has _____ Himself, in Christ, to them. They have chosen to receive this offer of Christ. God then becomes their God, and they then become in a special way His people.

“According to their faith in Him is their possession and enjoyment of Him; and in bestowing Himself on them as their God and portion, He makes over to them all that He is and has and does and will do to be theirs in time and through eternity.”

5. The law comes from their _____ God- *“From eternity He, according to the good pleasure of His will, has chosen them to everlasting salvation and has devised the amazing scheme of their redemption. In the immensity of His redeeming love and in the exceeding riches of His glorious grace, God*

the Father has sent His only begotten Son to purchase redemption for them and His adorable Spirit to apply it to them."

"The redeeming grace of God in Christ is so far from lessening the force of the natural obligation under which believers as creatures live to love and obey Him that it increases this obligation in the highest possible degree."

6. The law shows us the holy _____ of God- *"To keep His commandments is, according to the phraseology of Scripture, to do His will."*

"The law as a rule is not only a transcript of the infinite purity of God's holy nature, but it is, at the same time, a declaration of His holy will respecting the duty that His people owe to Him."

7. Obedience to the law is what is _____ for us- *"The law in the hand of Christ is not only holy and just, but it is good. It is good in itself and good for believers. It requires nothing of them but what is good for them to perform and to endure nothing but what is suitable and advantageous to them."*

"Holiness is not only connected with happiness but is itself happiness. A man is miserable in proportion as he is sinful, and happy in the same degree in which he is holy...True holiness is the health and happiness, the peace and pleasure of the soul. It renders the external comforts of the believer doubly pleasant and his heaviest crosses light, his life valuable and his death desirable."

As the believer sets his mind on Christ and seek to know God in Him there will grow in them a desire to obey and _____ one's life to the law of God.

"The main reason why many true believers have but little holiness of heart and life is that they have much of a legal spirit still remaining in them."

"Believer, you cannot advance in holy conformity to the law as a rule but in proportion as you, by the Spirit, mortify your legal temper."