

ROMANS RAMBLINGS



Romans 3:19-20 *“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.”*

We don’t like certain words. In the 1970’s J Vernon McGee recorded a five-year study of the Bible for radio. He always said not to argue with him about what the Bible says. Take it up with God, it’s His word. You can even say that Moses wrote the law but it’s people who chose to follow it or not. Do not blame Moses for the failings of humankind. Yet, words grate on us “obedience” is life and “disobedience” is death. I love this other quote that says it’s either *Dawkins choice of inescapable nonexistence or Jesus’ choice of escapable hell*. How do you want to frame the purpose of Gods or Moses law?

Romans 2:11 *“For God shows no partiality.”* I will also add Romans 14:8 *“If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.”* This is the law of the book of Romans. No matter if your Jew or gentile you are under Gods law. You will be either judged by the Laws of Moses or your life in Christ Jesus, what do you choose? Either way some sort of measuring stick will be used to judge your life.

Romans 3:2 says *“Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.”* Other translations have the word “oracles” described as revelation or word of God. The Lord in heaven did not give Moses a few laws just to keep order. In many ways these

commands or laws were given to display God's character. How would God treat creation? He won't murder, cheat, or dishonor anyone. It's why Jesus said to turn the other cheek and honor those God put in power over you. The Ten Commandments tell us a ton about God's character.

Matthew 24:35 *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."*

Isaiah 55:11 *"So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."*

This is how the Laws of Moses worked. God spoke these laws and we are to react to them. It's either follow the law or break it. If you think about it, Adam and Eve had one simple law. Don't eat of one tree! Moses was given ten simple laws. Don't murder or covet. It's not rocket science. Yet, in the book of Romans Paul explains that it's not how humans roll. If we were under the Law of Moses then we will be judged by that law. In God's world the Law of Moses had payment outcomes. It ranged from sacrifices to death. It's cut and dry: sin and pay.

Romans 11:33 *"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!"* The Christian is covered from sin sacrifice and death by the blood sacrifice of Jesus. David was asked by God to choose his punishment. Will it be by man or God. David chose God. This King said he trusted God's punishment over a human. The Law of Moses has been called many things, but to those under it, it's justified. God knows what he's doing.

So, why does Paul mention the Law of Moses in Romans? Let's take a look at a few verses like Romans 8:3 *"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."*

Paul spends a bit of time explaining the Law of Moses. It is the best way to know what sin is. It shows what God is against. You could call it the measuring line of morality.

The point from Paul is to show that physically speaking, humans are bound to the Law of Moses. Our sin is tied to physical death. A sacrifice was required. Obedience was required. Under this law you die. Yet, there is a way out of this mess. How to get past death or sacrifice? God asked Jesus to die for all our transgressions. A one-time sacrifice. Paul says that is something the Law of Moses could not do. A sacrifice is called an atonement. Disobedience against God meant that judgement and the wrath of God would have to be atoned for. A price must be paid.

This Law of Moses goes against the laws of God. How so? 1 John 4:8 says “*anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*” All the laws of God were meant to protect the ones he loves. The law of Moses was meant to expose sin. To expose human frailty. It’s not that the Law of Moses was bad. It’s Gods commands. Yet, it’s outcome was judgment, sacrifice and death.

Jesus came to fulfill the law. How so? To be the final sacrifice, death, and judgment from God to his children. Romans 4: 25 “*He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*” The Law of Moses could not do that. That law had to be atoned for over and over. If you notice, Moses broke the first tablets of the law. God made them again by his own finger. In a way they were written in stone. When Jesus died, he wrote a new law written in love. John 3:16 “*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*” The Law of Moses was death. The law of love in Christ Jesus is eternal life for those who chose to live under Jesus and not the Law of Moses.