

# EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT

## LESSON 4-2

### Law and Grace

**Objective:** To understand our inability to keep the law and our need for God's grace

**Key Verse:** Romans 6:23

**23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### WHAT THE LAW DOES

The Law of Moses was a covenant of works. God said, "You shall" and "You shall not." The laws were definite, and the attached penalties were definite if the conditions were not obeyed. Webster defines law as "a rule of conduct or action prescribed by the supreme governing authority and enforced by a sanction." Law always implies two things: a standard and a penalty.

These laws were presented as God's standard of righteousness for that time. They were literally a yardstick for man. The New Testament reveals that "by the law is the

knowledge of sin.” Jesus Christ came to “fulfill the law,” and now God’s standard of righteousness is Christ Himself.

1. How are God’s people to respond to the things He has revealed of Himself (Deuteronomy 29:29; 30:11, 19)?

**29:29** The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

**30:11** Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.

**30:19** This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.

2. Briefly, what is the summary of all the Law (Deuteronomy 30:16, 20)?

**16** For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

**20** and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the

Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

3. How did Jesus Christ summarize the will of God for man in Mark 12:29–31?

**29** “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

**30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’

**31** The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

4. On the basis of Matthew 5:17, what do you think was Christ’s assessment of the Law?

**17** 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.

5. What does the Law reveal (Romans 3:19-20)?

**19** 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 his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

To what did the Law bear witness while failing to reveal it fully (Romans 3:21)?

**21** But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

How has a full revelation been made to us (Romans 3:22–24)?

**22** This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,

**23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**24** and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

## GRACE

1. Compare Romans 3:20 with Ephesians 2:8-9 and write your conclusions.

**Romans 3:20** Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

How does keeping the Law make a person feel?

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Should living under grace make you more eager to obey God or less?

Why?