

FINDING YOUR GOD INTENDED PURPOSE FOR LIFE

“THE LAW OF GOD AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD”

Imagine a country making laws it was impossible to keep and if you broke those laws you would be sent to prison. Why everybody in the country would end up in prison. If the law said that each person had to jump up and touch the moon or be punished, you would find people jumping up everywhere, some jumping higher than others but no one reaching the moon. Some would be saying they jumped higher than others so they should be okay. But no matter how high you jumped you still came short so you had to go to prison.

So why would the government make such impossible laws to keep? It was because the people of that country had high opinions of themselves, they felt they were more superior than other nations, they felt they could do anything, they were full of pride and arrogance. They all were blinded by their own self importance and as a result were becoming increasingly vulnerable to their cunning and crafty enemies. The government wanted to convince them of their need of a greater power outside of themselves that they could call on and rely on to defeat their foes.

In a similar way God gave his law, first to the nation of Israel and then to the whole world. God's law is summed up in what are called the 10 commandments found in Exodus 20:1-17. Jesus summed up God's law by saying, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30 V31 "Love your neighbour as your self." In other words do unto them only what you would want them to do unto you and don't do anything to them that you wouldn't like them to do to you.

In our imaginary story above the people were punished by being put into prison but what about those who break God's law? Listen to what Galatians 3:10 says, "For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the book of the Law." To break God's law is to sin and as Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages(or just reward) of sin is death." Death, separation of the living soul and personality from the body and if we have broken the Law of God, separation of the soul and personality from God, that is, unless we have received forgiveness.

Some people keep the Law of God outwardly to others, but are privately breaking it. Others appear to keep it outwardly but inwardly, in their hearts they are breaking it all the time. Jesus made it clear it is not just the outward action but the inward thought and motive that also break the law. Let's listen to the Apostle Paul as he tells us about his own struggle with the Law of God. I am going to quote his words from the Good News translation.

Romans 7:7-10, "Can we say, then, that the law itself is sinful? Of course not! But it was the law that made me know what sin is. If the law had not said, "Do not desire what belongs to someone else," I would not have known such desire (he would not have realised that those desires were wrong) But by means of that commandment sin found its chance to stir up all kinds of selfish desires in me. (when he was made aware of this commandment suddenly he realised he was having these sinful desires all the time) Apart from the law sin is a dead thing. I myself was once alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. And the commandment that was meant to bring life, in my case brought death." (It is only when we are made aware of the Law of God do we realise how much wrong we are doing, its then we realise the commandment cannot save us but only condemn us.)

Let me illustrate it like this. Suppose you are out walking in the country and you come across a field full of wild flowers, it looked enchanting and you soon found yourself walking among those flowers enjoying the scenery when you come across a sign which says in big letters, "TRESPASSES WILL BE PROSECUTED" Suddenly you realise you are not supposed to be there. Until you saw the sign you didn't think about it, you just enjoyed what you were doing, now you know you are doing wrong. Then you hear dogs barking and you can see the police coming to get you!

Can you see the Law of God is right and good in itself but it is a curse to us because we are breaking it constantly. Some might say isn't God mean to give us a law we find impossible to keep and then punish us for breaking it? Of course he knew we would break it and the reason he gave it was to show us how much we needed help, His help. Praise God, help he has provided for us. Listen to what Paul says in Galatians 3:13,14.

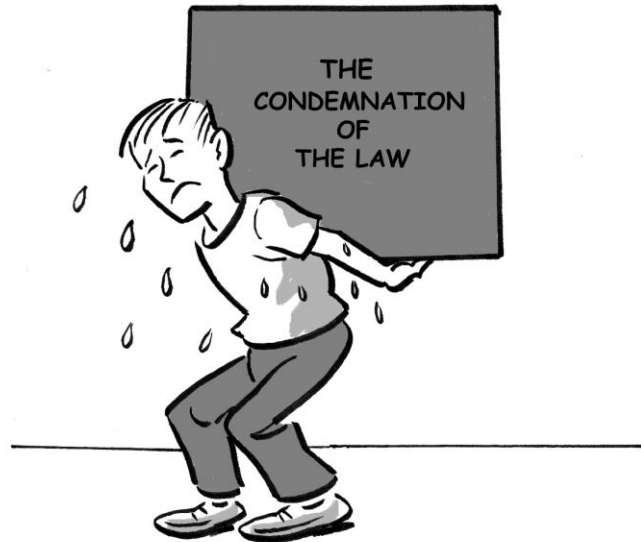
"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole (a picture of the cross) He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus (God promised Abraham that one of his descendants, Jesus, would bless all the nations of the earth) so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

Listen to what Paul says in Romans 8:3,4. "For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

In our next lecture I want to talk about what it means to live according to the Spirit.

GOD'S LAW AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

**MAN TRYING TO KEEP THE LAW OF GOD
BUT CONSTANTLY FAILING BECAUSE OF THE
WEAKNESS OF HIS OLD SINFUL NATURE.**



**A MAN REDEEMED FROM THE CURSE OF TRYING OF
TO KEEP GOD'S LAW, INSTEAD HE IS LIVING BY THE
JOY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HAVING VICTORY OVER
HIS OLD SINFUL NATURE.**



THIS IS WHAT GOD WANTS FOR ALL HIS CHILDREN

FRANK HUTCHINSON