

Theme: Christ came to reveal the fulness of grace, and we live by grace, not law.

## I. Intro – Pelagius and Augustine on Grace

- A. Pelagius, Celtic monk travels to Rome
- B. Near time of first sack of Rome in 410
- C. Distressed by immoral living of many Romans
- D. Horrified by Augustines prayer - “Give me what you command and command what you will”
- E. He thinks people can just follow the law
- F. Condemned by councils - but influence lives on
- G. What is the role of the law? What of grace?

## II. The Contrast of Law and Grace

- A. The passage contrasts law and grace (John 1:16-17)
  - 1. Jesus gives us grace upon grace - not law (v16)
  - 2. Law through Moses; grace through Christ (v17)
- B. Note the clear contrasts in the passage
  - 1. Jesus is contrasted with Moses
  - 2. Law is contrasted with grace
  - 3. Not that one is of God and the other of Satan
  - 4. Contrasted because:
    - a. Two different periods in redemptive history
    - b. Two different purposes

## III. Moses - The Time and Function of Law

- A. Moses represents the time of law
  - 1. The law was given through Moses (John 1:17)
  - 2. Moses gave law to Israel (Deuteronomy 4:44-45)
  - 3. Law Moses my servant gave you (Joshua 1:7)
  - 4. Book of the Law of Moses (Nehemiah 8:1)
  - 5. The Law of Moses (Pentateuch) (Luke 24:44)
  - 6. In the Law of Moses (1 Corinthians 9:9)
  - 7. Every period of history links Law and Moses
- B. The law had a particular time
  - 1. Law in charge until time of faith/Christ (Gal 3:23-25)
  - 2. We are not under law but under grace (Rom 6:14)
- C. The law had a particular purpose - to point to Christ
  - 1. The law leads us to Christ - not itself! (Gal 3:24-25)
  - 2. The law showed us our sin (Gal 3:19; Rom 3:19-20)
  - 3. The law does not save - not meant to (Rom 3:20)

## IV. Christ - The Bringer of Grace!

- A. Christ has come to give fulness of grace!
  - 1. Grace upon grace; grace and truth (John 1:16-17)
  - 2. His Person, life and ministry - grace!
- B. We are saved by grace through - not law or works

1. Not by law but by faith we live (Galatians 3:10-14)
2. We are saved by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9)

C. We live by grace - not by law or rules

1. Grace in which we **now** stand (Romans 5:1-2)
2. Overcome sin by grace - not law (Romans 6:14)

D. Our Pelagian, works tendency

1. Jewish religious leaders of Jesus day - missed Messiah
2. Plagued early church (Acts 15:5; Galatians)
3. Self- flagellation of monks in dark ages
4. Medieval Church - lost Gospel until Reformation!
5. Today - saved by grace, live by law
6. We always gravitate back to works!

3. Do we think God loves us more when we are obedient?
4. Do we obey to get brownie points - or out of gratitude?

C. Communion - the Table of Grace

1. This Table is provided by grace - we do not deserve it
2. This Table displays grace - Christ body and blood
3. This Table gives grace - so that we might live in freedom
4. This Table gives grace - so that we might joyfully serve God

Moses and Christ - Law and Grace

John 1:16-17  
Galatians 3:6-14  
January 23, 2011  
Communion  
2 Corinthians 13:14

**V. Applying the Word**

A. Do we see that we are saved by grace - not works?

1. Do we see that we can not save ourselves?
2. Do we see that we do not clean ourselves up to come to God?
3. Encouragement to receive the free grace of God!
4. This is Good News! Better than we can imagine!

B. Do we see that we live by grace as Christians?

1. Have we shifted to a works mentality?
2. Do we live like we are saved by grace, live by works?

And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:16-17 ESV

This is the law Moses set before the Israelites. <sup>45</sup> These are the stipulations, decrees and laws Moses gave them when they came out of Egypt Deuteronomy 4:44-45

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey **all the law my servant Moses gave you**; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Joshua 1:7

All the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out **the Book of the Law of Moses**, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. Nehemiah 8:1

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in **the Law of Moses**, the Prophets and the Psalms." Luke 24:44

For it is written **in the Law of Moses**: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." 1 Corinthians 9:9

**Before this faith came**, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up **until faith should be revealed**. <sup>24</sup> So the law was put in charge to lead us to **Christ** that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> **Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law**. Galatians 3:23-25

For sin shall not be your master, because **you are not under law, but under grace**. Romans 6:14

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**What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions** until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. Galatians 3:19

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**. <sup>20</sup> Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; **rather, through the law we become conscious of sin**. Romans 3:19-20

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All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." <sup>11</sup> **Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."** <sup>12</sup> The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." <sup>13</sup> 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 tree." <sup>14</sup> **He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit**. Galatians 3:10-14

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

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through **our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand**. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2

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Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses." Acts 15:5