

Oh, How I Love Thy Law

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“Oh, how I love thy law!”



It is an incredible and remarkable
statement!



Do you love the laws of God?



“Oh, how I love thy law.”

David full-heartedly expressed his love,
devotion and adoration for God and His
laws.



This amazing statement
“Oh, how I love thy law”
is seldom heard in many Christian
communities, if ever heard at all!



All Christians – followers of Christ – ought to
love God's laws.



John 15:14

Jesus said in John 15:14: “If you love me,
keep my commands.”



The hallmark of a follower of Christ is one
who keeps the commandments of God.



We know that God loves us.
But, how do we love Him?



1 John 5:3

The answer is in 1 John 5:3 “In fact, **this is love for God: to keep his commands.** And his commands are not burdensome.”



And, how does God know who loves Him?



John 14:21

The answer is in John 14:21 “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the **one who loves me**. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”



Therefore,
if we love God we ought to love His law.



We love the law because we love God.



1 John 2:3-4

3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.

4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not **do what he commands is a liar**, and the truth is not in that person;



We love God that is why we love the law!



David exclaimed, “How I love thy law!”



David was in no way a perfect man. He had many grievous sins and faults before God, yet he loved God with all his heart, soul and mind, and he loved God's laws and treats it as a lamp that guides his feet.



God knew David's heart and he was
accredited as a man after God's own
heart.



Acts 13:22

22 God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'"



Yes, “how I love thy law, oh God!”



Psalm 119

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm and is the longest chapter in the Bible. It has 176 verses.



Psalm 119 is an alphabetic acrostic psalm in the Bible. Its 176 verses are divided into twenty-two stanzas, one stanza for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The name of God appears twenty-four times.



There is a tradition that King David used this psalm to teach his young son Solomon the alphabet—not just the alphabet for writing letters, but more importantly, the alphabet of spiritual life.



We will go through some portions of this
Psalm to draw on the magnificent
expressions for the love of God's laws.



Psalm 119

1 Blessed are those who live without blame.
They live **in keeping with the law of the Lord.**

2 Blessed are those who obey his covenant
laws. They trust in him with all their hearts.



3 They **don't do anything wrong**. They live as **he wants them to live**.

4 You have given me rules that **I must obey** completely.



5 I hope I will always stand firm in following your orders.

6 Then I won't be put to shame when I think about all of your commands.



7 I will praise you with an honest heart as I learn about how fair your decisions are.

8 I will **obey your orders**. Please don't leave me all alone.



Beth

9 How can a young person keep his life pure? **By living in keeping with your word.**

10 I trust in you with all my heart. Don't let me **wander away from your commands.**



11 I have hidden your word in my heart so
that **I won't sin against you.**

12 Lord, I give praise to you. Teach me your
orders.



13 With my lips I talk about all of the
decisions you have made.

14 Following **your covenant laws gives me
joy** just as great riches give joy to others.



15 I spend time thinking about your rules. I
consider how you want me to live.

16 I take delight in your orders. I won't fail to
obey your word.



Gimel

17 Be good to me, and I will live. **I will obey
your word.**

18 Open my eyes so that I can **see the
wonderful truths in your law.**



19 I'm a stranger on earth. Don't hide your commands from me.

20 My heart is filled with **longing for your laws at all times.**



21 You correct proud people. They are under your curse. They wander away from your commands.

22 **I obey your covenant laws.** So don't let evil people laugh at me or hate me.



23 Even if rulers sit together and tell lies
about me, I will spend time thinking about
your orders.

24 Your **covenant laws are my delight**. They
give me wise advice.



He

33 Lord, **teach me to follow your orders.**

Then I will obey them to the very end.

34 Help me understand your law. Then I will follow it and obey it with all my heart.

35 Teach me to live as you command, because that makes me very happy.



Heth

57 Lord, you are everything I need. I have promised to obey your words.

58 I have looked to you with all my heart. Be kind to me as you have promised.



59 I have thought about the way I live. And I have decided to follow your covenant laws.

60 I won't waste any time. I will be quick to obey your commands.



Mem

97 Lord, **I really love your law!** (How I love thy law, oh Lord) All day long I spend time thinking about it.

98 **Your commands make me wiser** than my enemies, because your commands are always in my heart.



99 I know more than all of my teachers do,
because I spend time thinking about your
covenant laws.

100 I understand more than the elders do,
because I obey your rules.



101 I've kept my feet from every path that sinners take so that **I might obey your word.**

102 I haven't turned away from your laws, because you yourself have taught me.



103 Your words are very sweet to my taste!
They are sweeter than honey to me.

104 I gain understanding from your rules. So
I hate every path that sinners take.



Nun

105 Your word is like a lamp that shows me
the way. It is like a light that guides me.

106 I have taken an oath. **I have promised to
follow your laws, because they are right.**



111 Your covenant laws are your gift to me
forever. **They fill my heart with joy.**

112 I have decided to obey your orders to
the very end.



Samekh

113 I hate people who can't make up their minds. **But I love your law.**

114 You are my place of safety. You are like a shield that keeps me safe. I have put my hope in your word.



Pe

129 Your **covenant laws are wonderful**. So I obey them.

130 When your words are made clear, they bring light. They bring understanding to childish people.



131 I open my mouth and pant like a dog,
because **I long to know your commands.**

132 Turn to me and show me your favor.
That's what you've always done for those
who love you.

133 Teach me how to live as you have
promised. Don't let any sin be my master.



Tsadhe

144 Your **covenant laws are always right.**
Help me to understand them. **Then I will**
live.



Sin and Shin

164 Seven times a day I praise you for your laws, because they are right.

165 Those who **love your law enjoy great peace.** Nothing can make them trip and fall.



166 Lord, I wait for you to save me. I follow
your commands.

167 I obey your covenant laws, because I
love them greatly.

168 I obey your rules and your covenant
laws, because you know all about how I
live.



Taw

171 May my lips pour out praise to you,
because you teach me your orders.

172 May my tongue sing about your word,
because all of **your commands are right.**



173 May your hand be ready to help me,
because I have **chosen to obey your rules.**

174 Lord, I long for you to save me. **I take
delight in your law.**



175 Let me live so that I can praise you.
May your laws keep me going.

176 Like a lost sheep, I've gone down the
wrong path. Come and look for me,
because I haven't forgotten to obey your
commands.



Psalm 119 is a wonderful psalm. It expresses our love for God and His commands.



Any Problem?



Many ministers will try to convince you that
God's laws are no longer enforced today
and are no longer required to be kept by
Christians.



They will argue that the law does not save
instead, the law kills.



Many Christian denominations associate
God's command – the Ten
Commandments in particular - with sin and
death.



They claim that the law causes mankind to
sin and sin brings death.



Further, they claim that salvation is attained only by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.



Many believe they are perfectly all right with grace and are happy to live without God's laws. Many have abandoned God's laws in favor of God's grace.



They conveniently found problems with the law. While Jesus, Paul and all the other Apostles had no problem with the law.



The real problem lies in the understanding
between the law of God and grace of God.



They do not cancel out each other. It is not grace versus law. In fact, the law and grace complement each other. It is law and grace that work together to bring people to salvation.



The Book of Romans



The Book of Romans is not an easy book to understand. Peter wrote about Paul's writing in this manner.



2 Peter 3:10-18

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.



2 Peter 3:10-18

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?
You ought to live holy and godly lives.



2 Peter 3:10-18

12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.



2 Peter 3:10-18

14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, **make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.**

15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother **Paul** also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.



2 Peter 3:10-18

16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain **some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.**



2 Peter 3:10-18

17 Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may **not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position.**

18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.



All the Apostles, including Paul and Jesus encouraged people to live holy and godly lives. That is the central theme of the gospel.



Some ignorant and unstable people twist and distort the writings of Paul by teaching about lawlessness.



They tell people that the law of God had
been abolished and need no longer be
kept.



These men, Peter said, are going towards
their own destruction. The wise should
know not to follow them!



To prove this point, Paul wrote in
Romans 3:5-8...



Romans 3:5-8

5 But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.)

6 **Certainly not!** If that were so, how could God judge the world?



Romans 3:5-8

7 Someone might argue, “If my falsehood enhances God’s truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?”

8 Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say—“Let us do evil that good may result”? Their condemnation is just!”



During the apostolic times, some people
falsely claimed that Paul said: “let us do
evil that good may result.”



This is the same rhetoric we hear in many liberal churches that say God's grace is greater than all our sins.



God is able, freely and willing to forgive all our sins. Thus, the law no longer applies to New Testament Christians.



The quotation is correct but the understanding is wrong. That is what Peter meant when he said “ignorant and unstable people do.”



Paul said it was a misquotation and a misunderstanding, and he never meant it that way.



In fact, condemnation awaits these people
who claimed they are doing away with the
laws of God.



Romans 3:5-8

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8 Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say—“Let us do evil that good may result”? Their condemnation is just!”



Romans 3:31

Paul, in his conclusion about the matter,
said in Romans 3:31 “Do we then nullify
the law by this faith? **Not at all! Rather, we
uphold the law.** “



The misunderstanding came from
Romans 5:20-21.



Romans 5:20-21

20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,

21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



What did Paul mean by this statement?

Does he mean that anyone can go on sinning with impunity against God's laws and be saved because God's grace is greater than all our sins?



Of course not!



Paul meant that when the law, referring to the 10 commandments, was encoded, people became cognizant of their sins. Otherwise, they would not have known that they were sinning against God.



Therefore, when the recognition of sin increases (that is meant by sin increases) more people will come to God and their sins will be forgiven them upon their repentance (that is meant by grace increases all the more).



Romans 6:1-2

Paul emphatically reiterated in Romans 6:1-2:

- 1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?
- 2 **By no means!** We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?"



How should we approach the Book of Romans in order to understand the great treatise of Paul?



There are two fundamental truths that a reader must understand; they are:

1. Paul was writing to the Church in Rome
2. Paul was writing from his personal experience as one who received grace from God.



1. Paul was writing to the church in Rome.

He was writing to Christian converts who know and keep the law.



Romans 1:7

7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be **his holy people**.



Romans 7:1

1 Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those **who know the law**—that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives?”



2. Paul was writing from his personal experience as one who received grace from God.



Romans 15:17-20

17 Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.

18 I will not venture to speak of anything except **what Christ has accomplished through me** in leading the **Gentiles to obey God** by what I have said and done—



Romans 15:17-20

19 by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

20 It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.



1 Timothy 1:15-16

Further explained in 1 Timothy 1:15-16,
15 Here is a trustworthy saying that
deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus
came into the world to save sinners —of
whom I am the worst.



1 Timothy 1:15-16

16 But for that very reason **I was shown mercy** so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience **as an example** for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.”



Law and Grace



What did Paul write about the workings of the law and grace in his great epistle to the Romans?



Here is what Paul said and wrote about the relationship between law and grace in Romans chapters 6 and 7:



Romans 6

- 1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?
- 2 **By no means!** We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?
- 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?



Romans 6

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.



Romans 6

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, **that we should no longer be slaves to sin—**

7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. (meaning set free from the penalty of sin which is death)



Romans 6

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.



Romans 6

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body** so that you obey its evil desires.



Romans 6

13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.



Romans 6

14 For **sin shall no longer be your master** (the death penalty has been lifted), because **you are not under the law** (released from the death penalty of the law), **but under grace.** (you have been pardoned)

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? **By no means!** (The law was not abolished but continue to exist)



Romans 6

16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey —whether **you are slaves to sin**, which leads to death, **or to obedience**, which leads to righteousness?

(we choose obedience!)



Romans 6

17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come **to obey** from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.



Romans 6

18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so **now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.**



Romans 6

20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.

21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!



Romans 6

22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

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



Chapter 7

7 What shall we say, then? **Is the law sinful?**
Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”



Chapter 7

8 But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. **For apart from the law, sin was dead.**

9 Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. (convicted by the awareness of the law)



Chapter 7

10 I found that the very commandment that was intended to **bring life** actually brought death. (because of sins we commit)

11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.



Chapter 7

12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

13 Did that which is good, then, become death to me? **By no means!** Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that **through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.**



The Principles

1. Law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.
2. Where there is no law, there is no sin
3. Law was put in place to identify sin
4. Sin is transgression of the law



5. Penalty of sin is death
6. Grace sets the sinners free from the penalty of sin and death for
7. Sinners justified by faith in Christ Jesus



Questions

A. Is the law sin? Is the law a mistake?
Is the law the problem for human sin?

The answer is NO! The law, being
righteous, brings us to an awareness of
sin. And the awareness of sin brings us
to Christ!



B. Shall we continue sinning because we are under grace? Will committing more sins increase the grace of God?

The answer is BY NO MEANS! We died to sin through Christ. We can no longer continue to live in sin!



Summation

It is inspiring to understand the relationship between the law and grace. Law and grace work together to bring us towards salvation.



The law is righteous and its role is to identify sin. Grace (unmerited pardon) operates when sin exists.



Where there is no sin, there is no need for
mercy and forgiveness, no need for
unmerited pardon and grace.



Therefore, God's grace operates in an environment when God's law gets violated.



Now, allow me to express the salvation
process in simple equations:



1. Law = Good and Righteous



2. Sin = Transgression of the Law



3. Sin = Death (the penalty of sin
is death)



4. Grace = Unmerited Pardon



5. No Law = No Sin = No Grace



~~Law~~ = ~~Sin~~ = ~~Grace~~



When there is no law, there is no sin
and where there is no sin there is no
need for unmerited pardon – for there is
nothing to pardon at all. Therefore, when
we say that we are saved by grace then
in the same breath we need to admit that
the law is enforced.



6. Salvation = Law + Grace



Salvation by grace is not the absence of law. Rather, it is the pardon applied to violation of the law. Therefore, law and grace works together to bring us to salvation.



The salvation process has two parties
– God and man. Both have a role in the
salvation process.



7. Salvation = God + Man



Role of God

The law and grace come from God.

God gives the moral standard of righteous and He also provides a way of justification by grace. This is the role of God.



Role of Man

The role of man is to have deeds in accordance with the law and access the grace through faith in Christ Jesus.



8. God = (Law + Grace)

+

Man = (Faith + Deeds)

Salvation



Once you come to understand this truth, the salvation process becomes clear and you will come to understand the working relationship between God's law and His grace.



1 John 3:4-10

4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.



1 John 3:4-10

- 6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.
- 7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.



1 John 3:4-10

8 The one who does what **is sinful is of the devil**, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the **Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.**



1 John 3:4-10

9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.



1 John 3:4-10

10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: **Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child**, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.”



Finally, some words of encouragement from
Peter.



1 Peter 1:13-16

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

14 As **obedient children**, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.



1 Peter 1:13-16

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so
be holy in all you do;

16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am
holy.”



To be holy and righteous before God,
you need to love the law.



David was right after all!



Let us love the Lord with all our heart, with
all our soul and with all our mind by
expressing our love for His laws.



Psalm 119:97-98

Indeed, the words of Psalm 119:97-98 (NKJV), “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.”



