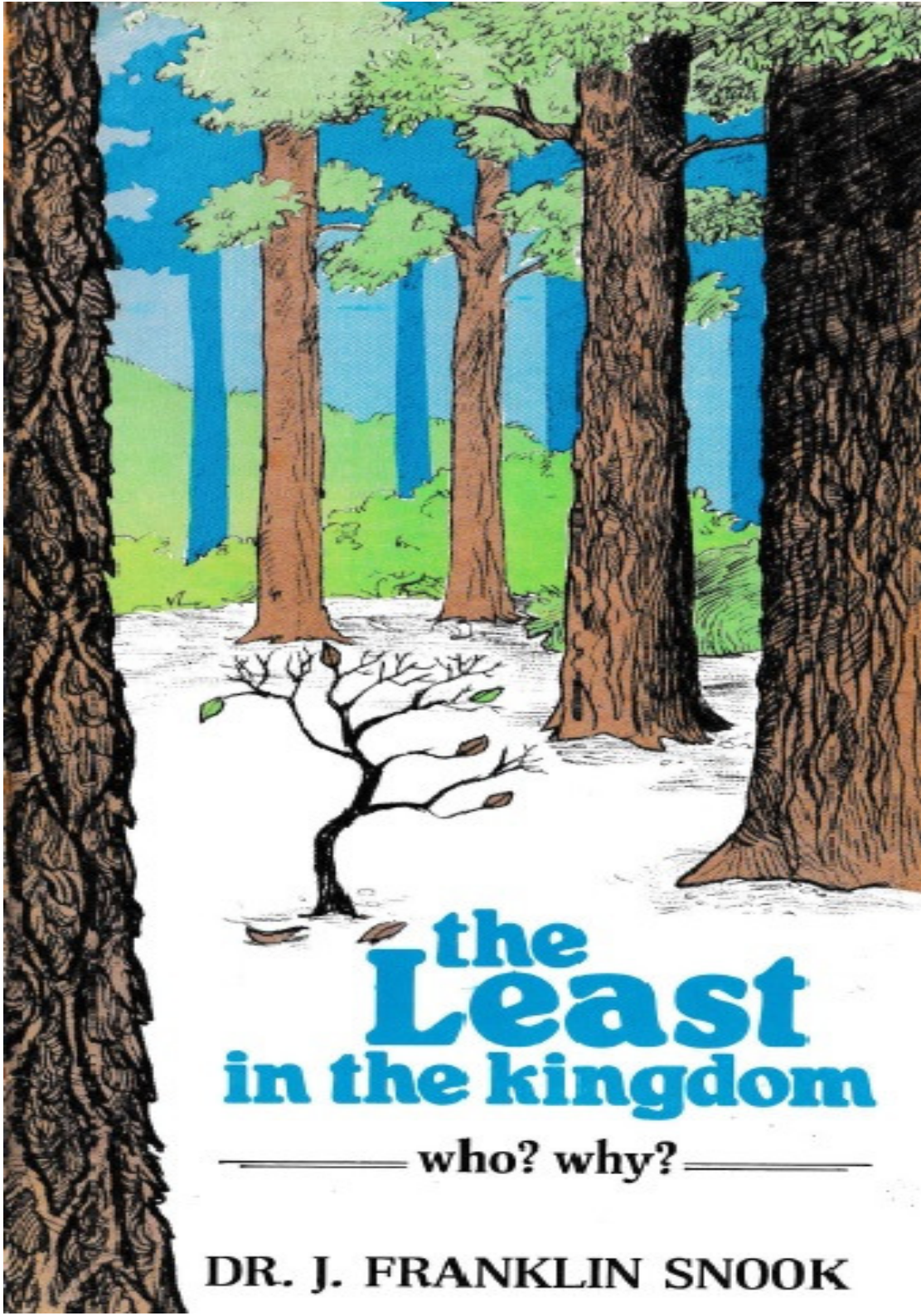




**the
Least
in the kingdom**

——— who? why? ———

DR. J. FRANKLIN SNOOK

THE LEAST IN THE KINGDOM

“They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them... He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”

Proverbs 28: 4, 9

The Law of God embraces far more than the popular so-called Ten Commandments! Every one of our present social evils is traceable to our transgression of it.

No law will enforce itself and the Commandments are little more than mockery if the accompanying Judgments are not enforced by society. The Statutes designate the innocent from the guilty and serve as a warning to the behaviour of all. The Judgment designates the punishment.

The fact that we exercise personal faith in the finished Work of Jesus Christ is an admission that the Commandments, Statutes and Judgments are still operative, for *“sin is not imputed where there is no law.”* Romans 5: 13.

PREFACE

“The Least in the Kingdom” was first published in *The Present Truth*, Number 49, January 1973. It was written in response to requests for information on Romans 14: 14-21, which references were being used by a certain radio preacher as “proof” that the laws of God have been annulled.

The article was so well received by readers of *The Present Truth* that demand for extra copies soon exhausted the supply. As orders continued to arrive we decided to print it in pamphlet form.

The original article was revised and expanded so as to present the truth more fully. It could be expanded much more, but to no avail, for there is enough truth presented here-in to convince all except those who will not hear.

This pamphlet should be read by every preacher, Sunday school teacher, businessman, school teacher and lawmaker in the land. You can help bring an understanding of God’s word, which, in turn, will bring economic stability, prosperity, and freedom from illness and crime to America. Order and distribute as many copies of this pamphlet as you can.

Dr. J. Franklin Snook

MAN'S LAW A FAILURE

The cry throughout the land is for “law and order.” People are tired of terror (afraid to walk the streets at night), murder, rape, robbery, drugs, etc., and graft and corruption in high places. People are tired of our nation coddling its enemies even to the point of sending them our feed grains while we pay even higher prices for our food; and we may actually be facing a food shortage. People are tired of inflation, huge welfare rolls, ever increasing taxes, busing school children to satisfy the race mongrelisers, and costly government programs which seldom alleviate conditions, but rather worsen them.

Cities, counties, states and the federal government have all failed in their efforts to control crime and to bring about stable economic conditions. Even so, Americans have no just ground for complaint, for in a republic the people can force their wills on the lawmakers. (We see the minorities do so often enough).

THE FORGOTTEN LAW

Copies of just, logical and proven laws and policies lie ignored, almost at the fingertips of anyone who is interested enough in justice and prosperity to read them. These laws are just as workable and just as binding today as they were when given at Mt. Sinai, but the vast majority of Americans have never even heard of them, even though almost all have them in full, in their homes. These are God's laws, and they are all in the Bible. These laws are all fair and logical, with a sound reason behind each. They are based on natural law and operate on the principles of cause and effect.

A well-known saying in America is, “Ignorance of the law is no excuse,” and it applies just as firmly to Divine Law as it does to man’s law.

TEACHERS OF CHRISTIAN ANARCHY

The ignorance of the people, however, is understandable inasmuch as those laws which would solve all our problems are under constant attack by most of the men who should be upholding and teaching them, the so-called ministers of the gospel in the self-styled fundamentalist churches. They cry with loud voices, “We are not under the law;” then they moan and wail, agonize and organize against the consequences of the violations of the very laws they condemn. Some even advocate and promote “civil disobedience” (violation of those laws of the land which they don’t happen to like). Having eyes they see not, neither do they understand. They go to great lengths to lead their flocks into Christian anarchy by teaching, in effect, that Jesus Christ contradicted God, His Father, by abrogating all His Laws. Had He done so the world would again have become void and without form.

Not even the most avid preacher of lawlessness will admit to being an anarchist. He will begin to hedge here and there, but this leaves him in the untenable position of contradiction to his own words, and exposes him as a double minded man, whom James 1: 8 says is unstable in all his ways. For such Paul has these words, “*Study to show thyself approved unto God* (not unto some seminary instructor), *a workman that need not be ashamed* (or embarrassed by his self-contradiction), *rightly dividing the word of truth.*” 2 Timothy 2: 15.

At least some of the advocates of disobedience to the precepts of God, especially those masquerading as

preachers of God's word, say that we who believe both the Old and New Testaments are trying to be saved by keeping the law. Of course they err, not knowing the Scriptures.

THROUGH THE HOG STY

One of their favorite routes of attack upon God's precepts is through the hog pen. I suppose this stems from the appetites of the flesh. They take Paul's instructions on brotherly love (Romans 14), and ignoring the conditions which prompted its writing, they twist, strain and stretch it beyond recognition in an effort to make God's word appear to be saying that disease-ridden hog meat is not fit for human consumption. In so doing they usually omit the first 13 verses of the chapter and

dwell on the balance of the chapter, which actually is a detailed discussion of one of the points made earlier in the chapter.

Romans 14: 13 says, *"Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."* Paul then goes on to point out that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but rather is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. In other words that our salvation is not dependent on those things we eat or drink, or that we refrain from eating or drinking, but on the faith of Jesus Christ.

This passage is often quoted by those who wish to justify themselves in the eating of pork, and other meats which God has declared to be unclean. Certainly, one will not lose his salvation by eating pork, or shrimp, or dog, or rattlesnake, or buzzard – he eats only to the detriment of his physical health. But these are not the meats to which Paul

was referring. He wrote the same message to the Corinthians in more detail.

A PROBLEM OF IDOLS

1 Corinthians 8: 4 tells us, *“As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but One.”*

Verse 7 brings us to the crux of the matter.

“Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.”

In those days there were many idols and many temples to the idols. Some of the Christians were converts from idolatry, and had a “conscience of the idol.” Therefore, to them, the eating of meat that had been offered in sacrifice to an idol was de facto acknowledgment of the idol; while to a Judean or Galilean Christian, who had never worshipped one, an idol was nothing, and he could eat the meat that has been offered to one with no violation of conscience, for as verse 8 says, *“But meat commends us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we better; neither if we eat not are we the worse.”*

Let us take note here that in both Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8, the word “meat” is translated from the Greek word *“broma,”* and literally means “food,” so these passages are not necessarily speaking of flesh. Verse 10 explains that if a strong Christian, to whom an idol is nothing, eats food in an idol’s temple, he may be seen by a former idol worshipper who still feels the idol may be a god. He may then decide that if another Christian can eat such food, he also can, but in so doing he violates his own

conscience. The strong Christian then, has sinned against his weak brother and against Christ.

This is brought out again in 1 Corinthians 10: 27-29, not only for a weak Christian, but for an unbeliever also. *“If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and you be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no questions for conscience sake. But if any man say unto you, ‘This is offered in sacrifice to idols’, eat not for his sake that showed it and for conscience sake... Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other.”*

Here we are reading of a situation unheard of in America today, but which was a very probable situation at the time Paul wrote his letters. There are, however, other things today to which this principle is applicable.

MEN OR SWINE

Having changed, to their own satisfaction, *“...food offered in sacrifice to an idol,”* to meats forbidden by Jehovah, the advocates of Christian anarchy continue on to Peter’s vision on the housetop (Acts 10: 9-16), placing special emphasis on verse 15, *“What God has cleansed call not thou common.”* Then they very conveniently do not quote verse 28 which says, *“You know now that it is an unlawful thing (why was Peter concerned whether a thing was lawful or not if the law had been done away?) for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation: but God has shown me that I should not call any MAN (not hog) common or unclean.”* I find no record that Peter killed and ate any of the unclean creatures he saw in the vessel.

Romans 14: 14 is much quoted by the lawless, but out of context, of course. It reads, *“I know and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself but to*

him that esteems any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.” They read it and say, “There! That proves hogs are now good for food, and that God’s laws are no longer in effect. All you have to do is believe the unclean is clean.” The fact that men once believed the world was flat didn’t make it so.

The Greek word translated “unclean” in Romans 14: 14 is “*koinos*,” and means, literally, “common, profane, or polluted.” As pointed out before, the apostle was not writing of meats forbidden by God’s word, but of foods that had been offered in sacrifice to idols. In some men’s minds this would profane or pollute the food so it could not be conscientiously eaten by a Christian, but it had nothing to do with meats forbidden by God’s health laws.

DISCRIMINATION COMMANDED

Another favorite of those who “...*break God’s commandments, and teach men so...*” (Matthew 5: 19), is, 1 Timothy 4: 3-5, “...*and commanding to abstain from meats, which God has created to be received with thanksgiving of them that believe and know the truth.*” The meats God created to be received by them who know and believe the truth are listed in Leviticus 11, and the hog is very definitely EXCLUDED, for God says He did NOT create the swine to be eaten.

To continue in 1 Timothy 4, “*For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.*” Paul’s argument here is against those who command to abstain from ALL meats, for he goes on to say that meats sanctified, i.e. set apart, for food by the word of God are nothing to be refused. This does not include the hog for he was NOT set apart, or sanctified, for food by the word

of God. Rather, he is set apart as UNCLEAN, and UNFIT for food, because the swine, like the buzzard, is a scavenger. Would you eat a buzzard?

WRESTING THE SCRIPTURES

Of course, spiritually speaking, it is as stated in 1 Corinthians 8: 8, “*But meat (food) commends us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.*” And in Romans 14: 17, “*For the kingdom of God is not meat (food) and drink: but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*”

One doesn't lose his salvation by eating hog meat - the law against it was given because God wants a healthy people, and the hog is known to be a carrier of various diseases. So it seems a bit inconsistent to put hog flesh into, for assimilation, by the temple of God. 1 Corinthians 3: 16-19.

Both Romans 14: 13 to 15: 3 and 1 Corinthians 8: 1-8 are lessons on Christian love, and are not telling us God has decided He made a mistake when He said the hog is unfit for human consumption. Neither does it appear anywhere in the Bible that Jesus redeemed, made atonement for, or otherwise cleansed the swine, though He did send many demons into one herd of swine. Had He cleansed the swine why do we yet suffer the consequences of sin by eating it, such as trichinosis, which is the most recognized of the many swine carried diseases?

That, in itself, is reason enough to refuse pork, and is one of the reasons God said it is unfit to eat. Surely the hog sty route of attack on God's holy law is a very transparent attempt to “wrest the Scriptures,” which, we are told, is to the destruction of those doing the wresting, and which destruction may well come about by trichinosis.

SALVATION BY TRANSGRESSION?

Of course the false “gospel of the swine” is a comparatively minor matter. The lawless attack all the law of God with equal fervor, some even telling their flocks that if one keep God’s laws, or any of them, he will lose his salvation. One professing Christian lady was heard to say, “I detest pork, but since the law says not to eat it I do eat it to prove my faith in Christ.” If, under the teachings of fundamentalism, all church members were to take that same attitude toward all of God’s commandments and statutes the result would be total chaos.

But Jesus, Himself, said, *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”* Matthew 5: 17-18. Somehow it doesn’t seem that the heavens and the earth have yet passed away. The preachers of lawlessness teach, in effect, that Jesus didn’t know what He came to do. I have never yet heard one of them preach on Matthew 5: 17-19. It is easy to see why.

THE LAW OPPOSES SIN

1 Timothy 1: 9-10 says, *“...knowing this, that the law is not opposed to the righteous, but to the wicked, and disorderly, and sinners; to the unholy and depraved; to the outragers of father and mother; to murderers, fornicators, sodomites, man stealers, liars, and to perjurers; and if there is anything contrary to healthy teaching, it (the law) fights against it, according to the rectifying gospel of the blessed God, as I myself believed it.”* (Ferrar Fenton Translation).

This, then leaves no ground for the righteous to be opposed to the law. The ONLY ones with any excuse to

oppose the law are those who commit, or wish to commit, the sins of the flesh.

Yet most of the fundamentalist preachers teach that the law IS opposed to them, saying that to keep God's law is to fall from grace (favor). When your child obeys your rules or instructions (laws) does he fall from your favor? Does his obedience to you bring your wrath upon him? It does if you take the same attitude the funnymentalist preachers claim that God has toward His children.

DIVISIONS OF THE LAW

Of course such teaching stems from ignorance, or as Jesus said, "*Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God.*" Matthew 22: 29. Even a cursory study of the law should reveal to anyone that the law is in four divisions: the commandments, statutes, judgments, and ordinances or rituals.

The commandments are rules for personal conduct, yet are also the foundation and basis of the Statutes.

Statutes are the laws for the organization of the government; the economic laws, that is, the regulations for business, agriculture and commerce; foreign relations; crime control; health; social regulations; etc., etc. In other words, the national, civil, criminal and political laws.

Judgments are in various forms, the most common being the penalty, or sentence God requires the state to impose on the criminal. There are judgments for the violation of natural laws, which, of course, are also Divine laws.

One of the simplest, though not stated in the Bible, is that physical contact with fire results in a painful burn. This is commonly called the law of cause and effect. A close study will reveal that this principle is applied throughout Divine Law. Then there are the situations in which Jehovah judges

the case and hands down sentence by direct Divine action, as stated in Leviticus 26: 3-4, 14, 20. *“If ye walk in My statutes, and keep My commandments, and do them; Then will I give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit... But if ye will not hearken unto Me, and will not do all these commandments... your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.”*

The ordinances, or rituals, WERE the religious laws; the laws of sacrifices, offerings and ceremonies, and were referred to by Paul in Romans 10: 4 as “the law for righteousness, and in Colossians 2: 14, *“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.”* These were the *“...law that was added because of transgressions”* (Galatians 3: 19). These are “The law” of which Paul wrote whenever he wrote of righteousness *“...without the law...”* as expressed in the King James Translation.

FROM THE BEGINNING

Commandments, statutes, and laws were not first given at Mt. Sinai, but have been in effect since the creation. They had to be inasmuch as the greater portion of Divine Law is natural law in operation. This is why they, and the judgments following, are so easy to understand. Genesis 26: 5 says, *“Because that Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”* This shows that the commandments and statutes long predated the codification of the law at Mt. Sinai. The law of rituals, which was given 430 years after Abraham obeyed God’s commandments, statutes and laws, was added

because not all Israel was as obedient as was Abraham. Galatians 3: 17-19 points out that the rituals (animal sacrifices) could not annul the Atonement and Redemption wrought by the Messiah, Jesus Christ, Who, when He came as the anti-type, fulfilled the laws of sacrifice once and for all. For one to return to the rituals, the laws of animal sacrifice, is indeed to “fall from grace,” and to tread underfoot the Son of God, and to count the blood of the covenant whereby we were sanctified, an unholy thing (Hebrews 10: 29). Today this is an unthinkable thing but was a distinct possibility when those words were written.

NEW TESTAMENT DEFINITIONS

1 John 3: 4 gives us the definition of sin, “*Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: FOR SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW.*” (Emphasis added). This includes national, as well as personal sin, and accounts for all the inflation, debt, and crime in our country today. In light of Leviticus 26 it also accounts for the severe winter of 1972-73 and the great floods through the farm belt in the spring of 1973.

On the personal level consider also 1 John 5: 2-3, “*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.*” In light of this how does one reconcile lawlessness with love of God? Do you know a better way to prove your love than to obey? How convincing is it to say to the Almighty, “I love You, but I will NOT obey Your laws.” And does one demonstrate his love to his fellowman by stealing from him, by lying about him, by stepping out with his wife? Was James wrong when he wrote, “*Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith BY my works?*”

BY THE COMMAND

According to the preachers of lawlessness the laws of God have been done away. But Romans 4: 15 says, “...*for where no law is, there is no transgression.*” If the law is done away, repealed and annulled, as the preachers of anarchy claim, then the field is wide open; ANYTHING is permissible. If sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3: 4), and the law is no more, then sin has ceased to exist (Romans 7: 8), and there is no such thing as sin. But Paul tells us, “*So that sin, BY MEANS OF THE COMMAND* (that is, the law), *might be beyond doubt excessively sinful.*” (Romans 7: 13. Ferrar Fenton).

A LITTLE HELP

The Greek word “nomos,” meaning law, has various forms which are used in the original language texts. These forms of the word carry different meanings, referring to different phases, divisions, or applications of law. The translators of the King James Version ignored the different forms of the word in most instances, and translated them all simply as “law.” This results in what appear to be contradictions, not only from writer to writer, but also in each of the books, and sometimes even in a single verse.

You can pick up many of the differences in meaning from the context, even in the King James. Then, by reading carefully, it becomes easy to see that when the New Testament writers speak against the law they refer to the sacrifices and ceremonies; when they uphold the law they refer to the commandments, statutes and judgments. Then all the seeming contradictions disappear and the whole becomes understandable, logical and much more meaningful.

Ferrar Fenton made a translation from the original languages (not just a revision of a former translation), and in it he has taken note of the different forms of the word “nomos,” and has translated accordingly. So we give the Fenton translation on occasion. Compare these from the Fenton with your King James. You will find they do no violence to the text, but do make it consistent and understandable.

COMMANDMENTS VS. RITUALS

Romans 3: 20-21, “*Therefore by the practice of a ritual (animal sacrifices), none can be made righteous; yet, however, a recognition of sin comes BY MEANS OF LAW. But now, without ritual, a Divine righteousness is exhibited, attested by the law and the prophets.*” Compare also Romans 3: 27-28, 31, “*Where then is our pride? It is banished. By what law? By the rituals? No! But by a law of faith. Therefore we have argued that a man may be righteous by a faith distinct from a law of rituals (animal sacrifices)... Then, you will say, we destroy the law for the sake of faith? Never! On the contrary we corroborate the law.*” Ferrar Fenton Translation.

Note the clarity of these verses when “...*the law that was added because of transgressions,*” and which was fulfilled by the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, is, by the use of the proper terms, separated from the law of commandments, statutes and judgments, of which “...*one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass*” till heaven and earth pass away.

Remember that when those words were written, some years before the destruction of the temple, and the end of the sacrifices and rituals, the worship of Jehovah without the rituals was a new and very unorthodox thing. The apostles had the very difficult job of proving that after Jesus

Christ's sacrifice forgiveness, salvation and worship was through Jesus Christ, and not by animal sacrifices, i.e., the works of the law.

Galatians 3: 21, in the King James, says, *"...if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law."* See also Galatians 2: 16, *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."*

These verses seem to be equally applicable whether one considers "works of the law" to be sacrifices and ceremonies, or obedience to God's commandments, statutes and judgments. But to assure clarity of terminology, let us again compare with the Fenton Translation.

Galatians 3: 21, Fenton, *"...Yet if to a law were given the power to restore to life, righteousness would then be from a law."* And Galatians 2: 16, *"But we know that a man is not made righteous by ritualism, except through a faith of Jesus Christ: and we believe in Christ Jesus, so that we may be made righteous from a faith of Christ, and not from legal rituals, because by legal rituals no person will ever become righteous."* From these we can see that the King James expression "works of the law" refers to sacrifices and ceremonies performed to expiate for sin, and does not refer to obedience to the commandments, statutes and judgments.

APPLICATIONS

Now let us consider a few verses, using in place of the word "sin," the New Testament definition of sin as given in 1 John 3: 4, which says, *"...for sin is the transgression of the law."* Consider 1 Corinthians 15: 3, *"...how that Christ*

died for our transgressions of the law according to the scriptures.” And 1 John 3: 9, “Whosoever is born of God does not transgress God’s laws.” Mark 1: 5 says, in part, “...and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their transgressions of the law.” Try using this New Testament definition of sin whenever you come to the word “sin” in your Bible. It is really quite educational.

Consider also Romans 6: 15, *“What then? Shall we transgress the law, because we are not under law but under grace? God forbid.”* If we understand the divisions of the law, and the purpose and function of each division, the original meaning of this verse is not changed if it reads, *“What then? Shall we transgress the commandments, statutes and judgments because we are not under the law of sacrifices and ceremonies? God forbid.”* Of course if we have this knowledge we can read it simply, *“What then? Shall we transgress the law because we are saved by grace? God forbid.”*

THE MISUSE OF GRACE

Let us also look at Galatians 2: 17, *“But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves are found to be transgressors of the law, is therefore Christ the minister of sin (transgression of the law)? God forbid.”* Here we are told that if we transgress the law BECAUSE we are justified in Christ is to make Christ appear the minister of sin. I say “appear” because the acts of man’s transgression can never actually diminish from the finished work of Jesus the Messiah. But when any man states that BECAUSE he is justified in Christ he is free to transgress the law, or to ignore the law, he is, for himself, making Christ the minister of sin.

Small wonder that Jesus said, “*Not every one that says unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that does the WILL of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you that work iniquity.*” (live in sin, i.e., transgress the law). Matthew 7: 21-23. Every transgression of the law by professed Christians brings reproach upon Jesus Christ, for it shows Christ Jesus as a minister of sin.

SAVED BY GRACE

If a man is in a federal prison, under sentence of death, and the president pardons (forgives) him he is set free and can never again be called to account for the crime of which he was convicted. He has been cleansed of guilt, before the law, and given life by the favor (grace) of the president. Is this man now above the law; can he, with impunity, violate any and all law? Can he rob, commit mayhem and rape, sell drugs, or drive a car in a reckless manner without fear of arrest or penalty? Certainly not! Even though he was saved by grace (pardoned, or forgiven, by the favor of the president) the law still stands, and still applies to him, and any violation of the law finds him again charged as a violator of the law.

The difference, when we apply this allegory to God’s law and grace, is explained in 1 John 2: 1-2, “*My little children, these things write I unto you that you sin not (transgress the law). And if any man sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is the propitiation for our sins.*”

This is the only reason anyone can ever stay in God's favor, for, even with the help of the Holy Spirit, whom He gives to those who obey Him, we all find ourselves, at times, in need of an advocate with the Father. He has made this provision because He, as well as being just is also merciful.

JUDGMENTS

If the law be done away with, why are we yet judged as sinners when we ignore the commandments, statutes and judgments; that is, why do we then suffer the consequences of law violation if there be no law? In fairness, if Jesus Christ put away the law, He must needs also abolish the penalties, but the penalties do still apply, from the individual to the national levels.

Example: The commandment says, *"Thou shalt not steal."* The judgment says, *"If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep: he shall restore double. If he have nothing, then shall he be sold for this theft."* Exodus 22: 1, 4.

If these laws of restitution were enforced in America today would it not cut theft, in all its forms to a minimum? Restitution, even of the bare amount taken, is so seldom required that society and business suffer theft losses of millions of dollars annually. Individuals do the stealing; we all pay the penalty, because the state is also in transgression in not enforcing God's statutes by His judgments.

The law says, *"Thou shalt not commit adultery."* Exodus 20: 14. If that law is no longer in force why does sexual promiscuity yet result in children born out of wedlock, in venereal disease with its consequences of arthritis,

blindness, birth defects, mental retardation, and insanity, even unto the third and fourth generations? Would a righteous God abolish the law and leave such horrible penalties? The preachers of lawlessness say He did.

The law says, *“Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother (countryman); usury of money, usury of victuals, usury of anything that is lent upon usury ...thou shalt not lend upon usury: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all that thou settest thine hand to do.”* Deuteronomy 23:19-20. This law is, aside from a few individuals, universally transgressed in America, to the point that usury taking is one of the biggest businesses in America today.

The consequences are: mortgages and foreclosures, the price of homes doubled, billions of dollars in private debt, more billions of debt for cities, counties and states, 450 billions of dollars national debt, with over 20 billions of dollars annual usury on the national debt alone, widespread poverty and huge welfare rolls in the midst of riches and plenty, inflation throughout the economy, wage and price controls, national trade deficits, exorbitantly high taxes, unstable currency throughout the world, recessions and depressions, unemployment, wars, sickness and misery.

These adverse conditions would not be upon our country if we, as a nation, adhered to and enforced God’s laws against usury. Again the question: would a just and righteous God abolish the law, yet enforce the penalties for a no longer existing law?

The preachers of lawlessness say He did. Does this, then, not make Christ a minister of sin and misery? *“God forbid: yea let God be true, but every man a liar.”* Romans 3: 4. This forces the conclusion, then, that each person who *“...shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so...”* is a liar, and himself a minister of sin. God help us!

WHOM WILL YOU BELIEVE?

Jesus said He did not come to abolish the law. The funnymentalist preachers say He did. Jesus said those divisions of the law not fulfilled by His own blood sacrifice would stand, unaltered, till heaven and earth pass away. Those who preach against the law say the opposite. Jesus spoke of them in Matthew 24: 5, "*For many shall come in My name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*" Indeed, these preachers do come in Jesus name; they do say Jesus is the Christ; then they preach deception. Whom will you believe - Jesus or the deceivers?

AFTER THE SPIRIT

If the commandments, statutes and judgments are to be kept since the cross, why was it necessary for Jesus to die on the cross? First, to free us from the laws of ordinances, i.e. the laws of sacrifice, of which Jehovah declared in Psalms 40: 6-8 that He had no pleasure in them.

Hebrews 10: 1-12 explains clearly that Jesus Christ fulfilled that law, so the law of justification by faith might be established. Jesus also told us that unless He go away the Holy Spirit would not come. John 16: 7.

Romans 7 explains the futility of trying to obey the law (commandments and statutes) in our own strength because of the weakness of the flesh. Romans 8: 1-4 explains that now the Holy Spirit strengthens believers so they can obey the law. "*That the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW (obedience to the law) might be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit*" (Romans 8: 4). How can the righteousness of the law be fulfilled in one who ignores, or who is in transgression of, the law, be he Spirit filled or not?

THE LEAST IN THE KINGDOM

So while Jesus died that He might become our Advocate with the Father, and a propitiation for our sins, He did say to us, *“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called THE LEAST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”* Matthew 5: 19. So, Preacher, where does that leave you?

“THE ANGER OF THE LORD SHALL NOT RETURN, UNTIL HE HAVE EXECUTED, AND TILL HE HAVE PERFORMED THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART: IN THE LATTER DAYS YE SHALL CONSIDER IT PERFECTLY. I HAVE NOT SENT THESE PROPHETS. YET THEY RAN: I HAVE NOT SPOKEN TO THEM, YET THEY PROPHESED. BUT IF THEY HAD STOOD IN MY COUNSEL, AND HAD CAUSED MY PEOPLE TO HEAR MY WORDS, THEN THEY SOULD HAVE TURNED THEM FROM THEIR EVIL WAY, AND FROM THE EVIL OF THEIR DOINGS.”

Jeremiah 23: 20-22.

The booklets below were written by Dr. J. Franklin Snook, a long-time friend of Pastor Sheldon Emry of America's Promise. Pastor Snook passed away in 1981. His writings have been a blessing to many American Christians and are still available from America's Promise.

WHY AMERICA NEEDS THE DIVINE LAW

A concise and convincing booklet on God's Law for the nation. \$0.50 offering

THE REBIRTH OF AMERICA

From our historic past to the prophetic future.
\$0.50 offering

THE LEAST IN THE KINGDOM

A study of the Law, and the position of those opposing it.
\$0.50 offering

AMERICA, 13TH, OR ALL 13?

A closer look at Jacob's blessing as it pertains to our nation.
\$0.50 offering

TO HEAL THE NATION

Shows our identity and is a detailed study of God's Law as applied to government and society. Specifically written for ministers and men in civil authority. \$4.00 offering

ORDER FROM:
LORD'S COVENANT CHURCH
AMERICA'S PROMISE BROADCAST
P.O. BOX 30000
PHOENIX, AZ 85046

