

## Preparation for the End Time

### Lesson #6 - “The Change of the Law”

The backdrop for this issue comes from a prophecy found in the book of Daniel its 7<sup>th</sup> chapter that parallels the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Daniel, which was looked at briefly in lesson 2. – The Little Horn Power is identified as being a religio-political power (which is different from the ten) **Daniel 7:24, 25 (Daniel 8:23-25** more on the little horn)

1. The Biblical significance of God’s Moral Law.
2. The eternal significance of the fourth commandment of God’s moral law.
3. How this issue affects us?

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### The Attempted Change of the Sabbath (Thursday’s Lesson)

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I am going to begin in Thursday’s lesson with the phrase **“think (or intend) to change times and law” Daniel 7:25**

The place of this little horn’s greatest attack and Satan’s greatest deception.

{There are two words in this verse Daniel 7:25. One is *iddan*, used to describe the duration of the little horn’s persecution of the saints; it would last three and a half times (“a time, [two] times and a half of time”). **The word *iddan* means a span of time.** The other word for time used in this verse is *zeman* (plural, *zimmin*) .... This Aramaic word has more of a function of **a point in time**, but it is in the plural form indicating **repeated points of time**. These are connected with God’s law (the word law is singular in the original language). The feature of God’s law which best fits this description is the fourth commandment where the recurring seventh-day is featured as a point of time, or as regularly occurring points of time.”}

*Daniel: A Readers Guide pg. 208, William Shea*

In our day, this attack has taken on some different forms. For one there are many being taught in Christian circles that

1. The law of God is not important anymore because we are not under the law but under grace.
2. Others are being taught that God through Christ has done away with the Seventh-day Sabbath.
3. Nevertheless, for most Christians they have been taught the Seventh-day Sabbath has been changed from the seventh-day to the first day of the week, Sunday.

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### The Promise (Sunday's Lesson)

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This lesson is entitled the promise but it is really identifying the human struggle with sin (the pull of the flesh). See one must understand the reality of sin, what sin is, and what sin is the opposite of. If they are going to understand the existence, purpose, and blessing of God's law.

Speaking about sin Paul writes: **Romans 7:17, 18, 20, 21**

Paul is not just describing himself only. Though it is easy to think, I am glad I am not like Paul! However, he writes earlier.

**“for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23**

This is why we read in Romans 7 **“sin dwells in me”**, **“in me nothing good dwells”**, **“evil is present with me”**

**Sin – is the presence of evil where nothing good dwells. – We see this again.**

**“But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. Romans 7:8**

Thankfully, Paul just before this writes.

**“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law.” Romans 7:7**

What is sin – evil, where nothing good dwells. Another biblical definition is lawlessness

**“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” 1 John 3:4**

Praise God for the Promise **“There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, (according to sin, evil, nothing good) but according to the Spirit.” Romans 8:1**

This leads us to Monday’s section

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## Law and Sin (Monday’s Lesson)

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It is amazing to me, though it shouldn’t be, of how balanced the Apostle Paul is in writing on the law -

1. Is against **a wrong relationship to the law** (like his **pre-conversion** legalism).

Yet on the other hand, he writes in support of -

2. A **right relationship to the law** (like his **post-conversion** experience)

## Speaking pre-conversion Paul writes

“I would **not have known sin** except through the law.”

Romans 7:7

“Moreover the law entered that the **offense might abound...**”

Romans 5:20

“But before faith came, **we were under guard by the law.**”

Galatians 3:23

In each case of these pre-conversion passages, **“sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.”** Romans 7:13

Therefore, we come to understand that we all are **“sold under sin”** Romans 7:14 (i.e. to be under the condemnation of the law) - sin being seen as it is exceeding sinful.

Friends after conversion the Law doesn't become sinful, we do. We see ourselves as we really are without Christ.

For the law is described as **“holy and just and good”** (Romans 7:12).

## Speaking post-conversion Paul writes

**Romans 8:3, 4, 10**

“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” Romans 6:14

Friends it is here that many of Christians turn away from the moral law or even just the Seventh-day Sabbath because they would say that we are under grace and no longer under law.

It is interesting to note in speaking about the abundant grace that one receives at conversion Paul states **“that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ.”** Romans 5:21

## How does the Bible define righteousness? Psalm 119:172

I have had many of my non-Adventist friends quote this verse in relationship to the Law and grace issue.

### Ephesians 2:8, 9

However, notice **verse 10**. – Paul is dividing in these passages the difference between works of the flesh, **“by grace... not of yourselves...not of works”** (This is what we were speaking about in the beginning of this lesson) from the **“good works”** – which we are enabled to do by the creative work of Christ in our lives – the new heart work.

Then Paul takes us back to creation **“which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”** Where there was only good.

**By the way, isn't the moral law good?** The works that we are enabled to do by grace is in keeping with the moral law that God has given us which has existed at and during creation (**Revelation 14:7**). **This the basis of the covenant relationship that God established in the beginning with the end in mind.**

**Deuteronomy 4:13** Now I want you to notice **Matthew 25:21** - **Context (Point commandment keepers – (Revelation 14:12)** This includes the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment.

**By the way isn't Jesus described in Scripture to us as the “Good Shepard” – John 10:11** Beloved I hope you are hearing His voice today Think about for a moment, we have been studying mainly from the writings of Paul and there is not one case where he says we no longer need to keep the commandments, because he doesn't.

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## The Seventh-day in the New Testament (Wednesday's Lesson)

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If there were one commandment greater than another it would be the Seventh-day Sabbath. Of course, there is not. Yet Paul writes again going back to creation.

**“For we who believe do enter that rest ...For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”;... there remains therefore a rest (i.e. a special religiously significant period for rest and worship—“a Sabbath rest, a period of rest.”<sup>1</sup>) for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.” Hebrews 4:4, 9-10**

Paul’s understanding comes from Christ, for Jesus said, **“If you love Me keep my commandments” John 14:15**

Something He himself did regularly even the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment.

Luke 4:14-16 – Being empowered by the Spirit of God Jesus went into the synagogue, as was His custom since boyhood.

Luke 23:55-56 - Even after the death of Christ His disciples continued to keep the Sabbath.

**Acts 13:14, 42-44** – Notice the Sabbath and being encouraged to continue in the Grace of God – After the resurrection and ascension of Christ. **This was Paul’s custom** as well, that even after coming to Christ and preaching grace continued keeping the Sabbath. Because Paul was daily dying to self, living a Christ-like life. Growing in his covenant relationship with Christ.

### **New Heaven and New Earth Isaiah 66:22, 23**

Friends the papacy wants people to think that Sunday is the new Sabbath, but there is nowhere in scripture where the first day ever becomes the Seventh-day (Placed value – Ordinal Names) Everywhere the first day is spoken about in the New Testament there is no evidence of any change by God or by His disciples. This power will be spoken about more in Lesson 10.

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<sup>1</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [\*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains\*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 651). New York: United Bible Societies.