

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

DESTROYING THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

RLJ-1247

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PART 7B: DEFENDING THE BIBLE

The New Testament is a collection of historical documents which shows how a young and vibrant Jewish Apostolic church waged war against Judaism and successfully broke loose but was never able to convince the Jewish leadership and the bulk of the Jewish people that Jesus was the Messiah.

NOT KNOWING THE FACTS

Pastors and well-meaning Bible teachers usually tell new believers in Christ to read the New Testament first, beginning with the Gospel of John. This is what I was told as a new believer in 1965 and this is what I have recommended as a minister.

As an engineer, I was trained to investigate and solve problems. I remember quickly reading through the New Testament and being disappointed because I didn't know what happened after the last chapter in the Book of Acts. I went to my pastor and asked if he had any information about the church after the last chapter and he began to loan me his theological books which included history books covering the Christian church. It better helped me to understand who I was and how the church had developed during the last 1,900 years.

No one told me that I had to read the Old Testament first ***since the New Testament is a commentary on the Old Testament.*** Consequently, I was subjected to errors when it came to understanding what certain passages were stating in the New Testament, and as a shepherd, I passed these errors to my sheep. I was saved and led other people to Christ but I was not able to fully serve God and obey Him since I did not have full knowledge. **Hosea 4:6**

THE MISSING FACTS

I was not given a solid teaching on the First and Second Covenants, and as a result, I became a Christian Zionist like most born again evangelical Christians. There was no clear teaching that Jesus is the God of the Old Testament; instead, I had the belief that God the Father was the creator and the person of the Godhead that was leading the people of Israel. I was not taught that Jesus is God and has always existed and believed that Jesus came into existence when Mary conceived Him through the Holy Spirit.

I was not given a teaching on the meaning of "law" and so I violated many of the commandments that Jesus had given in the Old Testament. Even though I had read the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:17-19, I didn't know these verses applied to me and didn't understand the consequences they had in my life.



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I attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, California for three and a half years and received a Master of Divinity degree from this academically accredited school and none of these issues were cleared up for me.

It was the Holy Spirit and some minister friends of mine that gave me insight and understanding of the Old and New Testament. All the information is freely available in the Bible but I didn't know what I was missing and so I didn't look for it. **If you do not know that something exists, you are not going to look for it!**

In the previous sermon, I laid down the foundation of the First and Second Covenant, building upon this teaching we are now going to find out the meaning of the word "law."

THE LAW

The Hebrew word for "law" is "Torah" and it stands for the "Five Books of Moses." Thus, any time you read the word "law" in the Old or New Testament, the writer is referring to the "five books of Moses" found in the beginning of the Bible:

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy.

By the time Jesus walked on the earth, the Jewish theological scholars had divided the Old Testament into three parts:

1. **THE TORAH**
2. **THE PROPHETS**
3. **THE WRITINGS**

We know this division was accepted by Jesus because He referred to the Old Testament by these divisions: ***"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)

The Torah was further divided into three parts:

1. **MORAL LAW**
2. **PRACTICAL LAW**
3. **SACRIFICIAL LAW**

The Moral Law was given by Jesus to be the foundation of national laws which instruct us on how to treat God and our fellow man. The Ten Commandments are part of this law. **Exodus 20:1-17**

The Practical Law was given to teach man about hygiene, family life, sexual relations, foods, etc. **Deuteronomy 23:12-14; Leviticus 11:1-8; 44-47**

The Sacrificial Law was given to the children of Israel so that they could give sacrifices unto God while they were waiting for the Messiah.

There was no salvation in the Moral Law.

There was no salvation in the Practical Law.

There was a promise of salvation in the Sacrificial Law.

There was nothing to fulfill in the Moral and Practical Law **BUT JESUS FULFILLED THE SACRIFICIAL LAW! Hebrews 7:11-28**

READING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Let us look at some passages in the New Testament in context of what we just learned.

Paul was referring to the Sacrificial Law when he said that no flesh can be justified by the law. In verse 31, he doesn't make the law void but establishes the law because it is a reference to the entire Torah. **Romans 3:20-31**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Have you made plans on how to finish your life or are you just drifting?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?

For an exhaustive study on the First and Second Covenant along with the Law, please see Lesson 5 of Christian Dynamics Course 1.