

## WILL OUR WORKS SAVE US

Stewarton Bible School

### Question

I've heard it said that the law of God has been abolished at the cross and is now obsolete. Is this the case?

### Answer

No it isn't. The Saviour did not come to abolish his father's law, but to fulfil it. (Matt 5:17-20) The word fulfil means to carry out, to do, to perform, to \*obey\*. Had the Messiah abolished the law, He would have contradicted his own words, for heaven and earth are still here.

Besides, \*we\* could hardly be called \*sinners\*, for "sin" by definition is /"the transgression of the law"/ (1 John 3:4) and as Paul so clearly puts it /"where there is no law there is no transgression."/ (Romans 4:15)

The Bible classifies \*all\* men as sinners: this means that Yahweh's law must still exist, for no one can break or transgress a non-existing law. Christians who speak and write against the law of the Most High are unwittingly furthering the cause of Satan the \*Lawless One\*; and are adding to the enormous catalogue of sin of which the world is already guilty.

---

### Question

Where does faith and grace come into this matter of keeping the law? Surely the Bible teaches that Christians are \*under grace\* and not under law!

### Answer

To begin with, let us make it perfectly clear that we know that every sinner who accepts salvation \*is saved by the grace of the Almighty; and that salvation is a free gift made available to us by God through His Son

Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah\*. This is a well known fact. We also know that the main reason for our salvation is not merely that we live forever, but that Ephesians 2:5&8 "in \*the ages to come\* He (Yahweh) will shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness towards us through Jesus Christ." Furthermore we know that Yahweh's grace towards mankind was evident in the \*past ages\*: Genesis 6:8 "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

Exodus 33:13-16 "Moses found grace in Yahweh's sight."

Jeremiah 31:2 "Israel found grace in the wilderness."

Indeed "He (Yahweh) giveth grace unto the lowly", no matter what age they may happen to live in. (Prov 3:34) The Almighty's grace, we conclude, is not just a new Covenant feature, but an age-old environment and personal trait of the Most High which immediately manifested itself when man sinned and salvation became necessary. Yahweh's grace, in other words, has been extended to \*all\* His followers since Adam sinned in the garden of Eden.

What, then, is the relationship between grace and law? And what does it mean to be \*under grace\*? Briefly here are the facts concerning this misunderstood matter.

1. All mankind has sinned; and all have come short of the glory of God. What is sin? Sin, as stated above, is the transgression of Yahweh's law. Sin is doing what the Almighty tell us not to do. Sin is breaking Yahweh's commandments. Sin is disobedience, and all of us have sinned. (1 John 3:4, Isa. 53:6)

2. The punishment for sin, according to another section of Yahweh's law, is death - eternal death. This means that all mankind are under a death sentence, for all have sinned (Romans 6:23). Being under the death sentence of the law is referred to in the Scriptures as being "under the law."

3. But Yahweh in His infinite mercy provided a way of escape from that death sentence, the sentence we all came under because we all sinned. \*That way of escape is Christ\*, who died on our behalf. And

because of this provision, because Messiah has paid the price, the death penalty. Yahweh offers pardon and life through him to all who accept it.

4. All repentant sinners who accept Yahweh's wonderful offer of mercy and who place their faith in the Messiah (Yahweh's son) are pardoned of their sins and they find grace in His sight. In other words in His manifold mercies Yahweh forgives the repentant sinner his transgressions, cancels the terrible death sentence hanging over us and places us \*under grace\*. Please note that the Almighty did not cancel the law. Had He done that at Calvary we would not be sinners, for we could hardly transgress a non-existing law. No, what He did cancel was the "sentence of death" we were under before we repented. To be "under grace" means to be a recipient of Yahweh's mercy, grace and favour, to have one's sins forgiven and to be no longer under the death sentence of the law. That is what being "under grace" means.

5. Now then, while we are in Christ - "under grace" - on the Highway of Life so to speak, the question is: Are we now permitted to break Yahweh's law? Are we at liberty to do those things which constitute sin? Are we now free to worship idols, to blaspheme, to forget the Sabbath day, to dishonor our parents, to murder, commit adultery, steal, lie and covet another's goods etc? The answer is perfectly obvious: we must stop doing these things. Indeed it was for doing these very things that we came to be under the death sentence of the law in the first place. Being "under grace" if anything should prompt a person to be more obedient, more righteous and more holy than he ever was. Being "under grace" does not mean that you are at liberty to break the law of the Most High. For if you continue to do that you are being disobedient; and disobedience is sin. That is exactly the point the Apostle Paul makes when he asks: Romans 6:15-16 "Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace?" His answer is: Romans 6:15-16 "God forbid. Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

6. What does all this mean? It means that all believers who have accepted Yahweh's offer of life are no longer under the death sentence of the law, but under His grace. It also means that in that environment of grace they are to live lives of obedience - unto righteousness. Not that our obedience will save us. Oh no; for we are saved by grace, by placing our faith in Christ, by personally accepting Yahweh's measureless mercy and free gift of life. That's how we are saved. But obedience is nevertheless vital. It exhibits a believer's faith. It testifies to men and angels more effectively than a million words that believer is no longer a blatant sinner but a person who is actually doing what the Almighty commands. (James 2:17-26) How very true is Paul's statement when he says: "Whose servants ye are whom ye obey."