

What the Law Cannot Do

“...by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” - Romans 3:20

1. What would a true believer do?

- a. The response of many: “A true believer will do good works.” Why might they think this?
- b. Jesus said: “You will know them by their fruits.” What fruit? Many, whom the Lord does not know, do works in His name. Yet what Jesus taught was required. (Mt 7:20-22, 26)
- c. The commandments of the Lord during His earthly ministry were the law which He came to fulfil. (Mt 5:17, 22:37-40, 23:2-3, Mk 10:19-22)
- d. Ye that desire to be under the law... do ye not hear the law? (Gal 4:21)

2. What the law could not do

- a. The law was given in a covenant (agreement) with God's nation. (Ex 19:3-8, Rom 9:4)
- b. This covenant sought to produce of this nation:
 - i. **Righteousness/justification** - those who did the law could be declared righteous and justified (Deu 6:25, Lev 11:44)
 - ii. **Holiness/Sanctification** - those under the law were required to circumcise their hearts (Deu 10:16, Jer 4:4, Lev 19:2)
 - iii. **Eternal Life** - faith and works to inherit. Do the commandments and live. (Lev 18:5, Hab 2:4)
 - iv. **Liberty** - the law was one of liberty if it was being kept. (Ps 119:44-45)
- c. The curse of the law follows when those under it do not obey. (Ex 31:14, Gal 3:10)
 - i. There is none righteous, there is none that do good. (Ex 23:7, Rom 3:10, 20)
 - ii. Those who have not circumcised their heart are uncircumcised. (Jer 9:26, Rom 2:25)
 - iii. The law was the ministration of death not life. (2 Cor 3:7, Gal 3:21)
 - iv. The law could only condemn. (Rom 8:3, Gal 4:5)

3. Christ was made a curse for us

- a. The law offered the things you needed: Wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption, salvation. But the flesh prevents the law from ever delivering blessings, only ensuring a curse.
- b. If you are in Christ, you've learned what the law had to offer. That you're a sinner in need of God's grace and mercy. (Gal 3:24-25)
- c. As a saved individual the law cannot give you what you already have in Christ. (Col 2:10)
 - i. **Righteousness/justification** - the mystery of Christ explains how God can give this by faith alone. (Rom 3:26, 4:5)
 - ii. **Holiness/Sanctification** - Christ has been made these for us. (1 Cor 1:30-31)
 - iii. **Eternal Life** - the gift of God through Jesus Christ. (Rom 6:23)
 - iv. **Liberty** - Christ has made us free. (Gal 5:1)