

THE NATURE OF GOD'S LAW- SANCTIFICATION

The BASIS of salvation in every age is DEATH OF MESSIAH

The REQUIREMENT for salvation in every is FAITH

The OBJECT of faith in every age is GOD

The CONTENT of faith changes in the various dispensations (Progressive Revelation)

^{NET} **John 1:17** "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ." (Romans 6:14)

Israel under OT economy were saved by faith, but were sanctified by Law (Genesis 15:6; Lev 18:5; Deut 32:46-47; John 17:17)

RECIPIENTS OF LAW- Deut 4:7-8; Ps 147:19-20; Mal 4:4; Ex 19:3-6; Rom 3:2; 9:2)

NULLIFYING OF LAW

^{NKJ} **Hebrews 7:12** For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. ¹³ For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. ¹⁴ For *it is* evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. ¹⁵ And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest ¹⁶ who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. ¹⁷ For He testifies: "You *are* a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." ¹⁸ For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, ¹⁹ for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, *there is the* bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. (Unity of Mosaic Law- James 2:10; Gal 3:10-all; 5:3).

^{NKJ} **Hebrews 8:7** For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

^{NKJ} **Hebrews 8:13** In that He says, "A new *covenant*," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

^{NKJ} **2 Corinthians 3:3** clearly *you are* an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart. ⁴ And we have such trust through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God, ⁶ who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷ But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away, ⁸ how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? ⁹ For if the ministry of condemnation *had* glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. ¹⁰ For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. ¹¹ For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains *is* much more glorious.

ACTS 15:1-22 (yoke of Law of Moses; See Galatians 5:1-3 for same terminology).

^{NET} **Galatians 3:17** What I am saying is this: The law that came four hundred thirty years later does not cancel a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to invalidate the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is based on the law, it is no longer based on the promise, but God graciously gave it to Abraham through the promise. ¹⁹ Why then was the law given? It was added because of transgressions, until the arrival of the descendant to whom the promise had been made. It was administered through angels by an intermediary. ²⁰ Now an intermediary is not for one party alone, but God is one. ²¹ Is the law therefore opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that was able to give life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. ²² But the scripture imprisoned everything and everyone under sin so that the promise could be given--because of the faithfulness of Jesus Christ--to those who believe. ²³ Now before faith came we were held in custody under the law, being kept as prisoners until the

coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Thus the law had become our guardian until Christ, so that we could be declared righteous by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

^{NET} **Ephesians 2:14** "For he is our peace, the one who made both groups into one and who destroyed the middle wall of partition, the hostility, ¹⁵ when he nullified²⁹ in his flesh the law of commandments in decrees. He did this to create in himself one new man out of two, thus making peace..."

²⁹ **tn** Or "rendered inoperative." This is a difficult text to translate because it is not easy to find an English term which communicates well the essence of the author's meaning, especially since legal terminology is involved. Many other translations use the term "abolish" (so NRSV, NASB, NIV), but this term implies complete destruction which is not the author's meaning here. The verb *καταργέω* (*katargeō*) can readily have the meaning "to cause someth. to lose its power or effectiveness" (BDAG 525 s.v. 2, where this passage is listed), and this meaning fits quite naturally here within the author's legal mindset. A proper English term which communicates this well is "nullify" since this word carries the denotation of "making something legally null and void." This is not, however, a common English word. An alternate term like "rendered inoperative [or ineffective]" is also accurate but fairly inelegant. For this reason, the translation retains the term "nullify"; it is the best choice of the available options, despite its problems.

^{NET} **1 Corinthians 9:20** To the Jews I became like a Jew to gain the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law)⁹ to gain those under the law. ²¹ To those free from the law I became like one free from the law (though I am not free from God's law but under the law of Christ) to gain those free from the law. (Acts 16:3 – Timothy circumcised versus Titus not circumcised)

^{NKJ} **Galatians 2:3** Yet not even Titus who *was* with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

How are we sanctified? (Galatians 3:1-10; Rom 6:14; 7:4-6) Was Paul a Covenantal Nomist? (No!)

There is a REVELATORY and REGULATIVE function of the Mosaic Law that was introduced at the same time. The NT continues to endorse the Revelatory nature of the Law, but the NT Christian is not under the Regulatory nature of it (1 Cor 9:20-21; Gal 5:18; Rom 6:14-15)

There are lots of disagreements about the Law... Paul teaches clearly not to spend too much time in these disagreements. Why? In my view the OT law is not a priority in God's NT economy. If God truly demanded that we followed kosher laws, feasts, etc., Paul would not have clearly communicated that we are not to be judged in such cases (Col 2:16-17).

^{NET} **Titus 3:9** But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, quarrels, and fights about the law, because they are useless and empty.

^{NET} **1 Timothy 1:3** As I urged you when I was leaving for Macedonia, stay on in Ephesus to instruct certain people not to spread false teachings, ⁴ nor to occupy themselves with myths and interminable genealogies. Such things promote useless speculations rather than God's redemptive plan⁷ that operates by faith. ⁵ But the aim of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. ⁶ Some have strayed from these and turned away to empty discussion. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not understand what they are saying or the things they insist on so confidently.

^{NET} **Titus 1:10** For there are many rebellious people, idle talkers, and deceivers, especially those with Jewish connections (of the circumcision), ¹¹ who must be silenced because they mislead whole families by teaching for dishonest gain what ought not to be taught. ¹² A certain one of them, in fact, one of their own prophets, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³ Such testimony is true. For this reason rebuke them sharply that they may be healthy in the faith ¹⁴ and not pay attention to Jewish myths and commands of people who reject the truth.