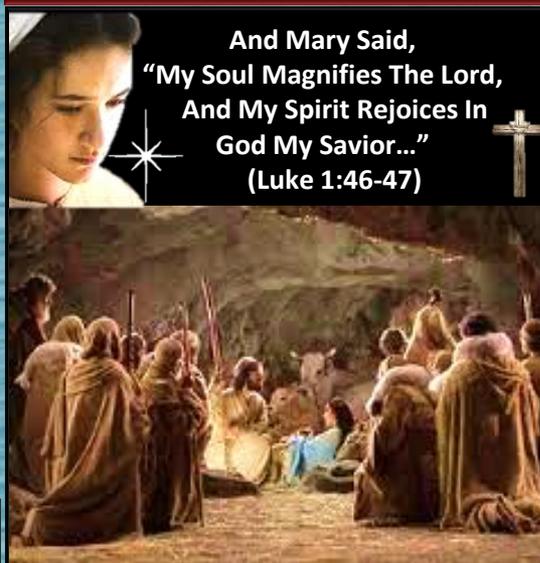


But take out of the picture seeing God and what you end up with is LAW. You end up with natural thinking and inclination governing all that a Christian does. You end up with all of these teachings that state that only to the extent that you give to God will He give to you. It is amazing how the God of most people looks exactly like them. We won't give unless we get. So we fashion a God Who demands that we give to Him before He will give to us. It is amazing how many Christians who believe that God saves us by grace then move on into a Christian life that is governed by law. We say we believe the Truth of Grace and then walk in the error of being under the law on most everything else. We repeat the error of the Galatian church. Do most of us really have any idea what it means to be, "Under The Law?" I think not. Yet, according to the Apostle Paul, to live as a Christian UNDER THE LAW – under ANY law – is to live under the error of, "Another Gospel." "But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses." (Galatians 5:18)

"Love Fulfills All The Law"

The promise that is given by Christ when He said, **"Give and it will be given unto you."** (Luke 6:38) But while this is a promise, can we see that it is more a statement of fact? In other words, it is not a LAW given that ought to motivate us to GIVE in order to GET. Neither is it a law given that we must follow as a law. Rather, it is the outcome of a relationship with God. What I am saying is this: Jesus is not saying that we ought to GIVE to God in order to GET from God. Rather, He is promising a fact: That if we give to God, God will give to us. It is not a law that Jesus is laying out. It is a simply a promise of fact. Now, as is usually the case, we must include the rest of the verse. Jesus also added, "The measure with which you measure will be the measure that is measured unto you." If you look up the word translated, "measure," you will find that it means, "the method of calculation." Or, "the standard that is used to measure." So Jesus is not talking about the amount given. He is referring instead to motive behind our giving – He is talking about WHY we are giving and HOW we came to give. Jesus said, **"Freely you have received, and so freely give."** What do we think it means to, "freely receive," or to, "freely give." It means that there are no strings attached. There is no thought of rewards or punishments. No. Rather, I give because giving is the only possible outcome of being in a true relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not a matter of following a law. It is not a matter of giving to get. It is not about earning, meriting, or losing a reward. It is about LOVE. **"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."** (Romans 13:8-10)



And Mary Said,
 "My Soul Magnifies The Lord,
 And My Spirit Rejoices In
 God My Savior..."
 (Luke 1:46-47)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)
"He that spared not His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things"? (Romans 8:32)
"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." (1 Corinthians 2:12)

"Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8) That one verse, **"Freely you have received, freely give,"** is really a summary of the entire Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the impact that the Truth ought to have upon us. God has given us all things freely in Christ. The result ought to be that we freely give of ourselves to God, and then to others. But there is no possibility that any of us can receive freely from God, nor freely give to others – unless a miracle takes place in us through a revelation of the Truth. What does it mean to freely receive? It means to receive from God without strings attached – meaning without consideration of my merits or entitlement or works. In other words, I must receive from God solely by grace; solely upon the basis of His Son, Jesus Christ. And what does it mean to freely give? It means that I will give to God and to others without strings attached. Indeed it means that I will give because I have received. It is a fact that unless we first receive from God – solely by His grace – that we will not give solely by His grace. We will not because we cannot. It is likewise a fact that if we do receive from God solely by His grace that the result will be that we will give solely by His grace. In short, how we receive will impact how we give. The Truth states that we receive everything that god has – freely in His Son. But the Truth also states that in order to receive everything we must be brought to nothing. "I Am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5) We can freely GIVE because we have freely RECEIVED. That is freedom and it is the Truth.

"Living Under The Law Verses Living Under Grace"

OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICES

JOB'S BURNT OFFERINGS

For his family's sins (Job 1-5)
For his friends' sins (Job 42:8)

Law of Moses Many Sacrifices

Various Purposes: Sin, Peace, Firstborn, Redemption

Various Things Offered: Beasts, Birds, Grain, Oil, Lambs.

Various Occasions: Passover, Harvest, Day Of Atonement.

One side says, "Salvation is by grace and grace alone." The other side counters, "That idea leads to lawlessness. God's righteous standard in the Law must be upheld." And someone else chimes in with, "Salvation is by grace, but grace only comes to those who obey God's Law." At the root of the debate are differing views on the basis of salvation. The importance of the issue helps fuel the intensity of the discussion. When the Bible speaks of "The Law," it refers to the detailed standard God gave to Moses, beginning in Exodus 20 with

the Ten Commandments. God's Law explained His requirements for a holy people and included three categories: civil, ceremonial, and moral laws. The Law was given to separate God's people from the evil nations around them and to define sin (Ezra 10:11) "So now confess your sin to the LORD, the God of your ancestors, and do what he demands. Separate yourselves from the people of the land and from these pagan women." The Law also clearly demonstrated that no human being could purify himself enough to please God. The Law revealed our need for a Savior. By New Testament times, the religious leaders had hijacked the Law and added to it their own rules and traditions (Mark 7:7-9) "Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.' For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition." Then he said, "You skillfully sidestep God's law in order to hold on to your own tradition." While the Law itself was good, it was weak in that it lacked the power to change a sinful heart (Romans 8:3) "The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins." Keeping the Law, as interpreted by the Pharisees, had become an oppressive and overwhelming burden (Luke 11:46) "Yes," said Jesus, "what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden." God has always been full of grace (Psalm 116:5) "How kind the LORD is! How good He is!" So merciful, this God of ours!

(Joel 2:13), "Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead." Return to the LORD your God, for He is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish." and people have always been saved by faith in God (Genesis 15:6) "And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith." God did not change between the Old and New Testaments. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." The same God Who gave the Law also gave Jesus (John 3:16). His grace was demonstrated through the Law by providing the sacrificial system to cover sin. Jesus was born "Under The Law" (Galatians 4:4) and became the final sacrifice to bring the Law to fulfillment and establish the New Covenant (Luke 22:20) "And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood." Now, everyone who comes to God through Christ is declared righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21) "For our sake He made Him to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." (1 Peter 3:18) "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit..." (Hebrews 9:15) "For this reason He is the Mediator of a New Covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant."

"Only Grace Has The Power To Motivate"

There is no conflict between Grace and the Law, properly understood. Christ fulfilled the Law on our behalf and offers the power of the Holy Spirit, Who motivates a regenerated heart to live in obedience to Him. James 2:26 says, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." A grace that has the power to save also has the power to motivate a sinful heart toward godliness. Where there is no impulse to be godly, there is no saving faith.

"The Lie"

The Truth on this matter runs contrary to almost everything about natural man. Indeed, it runs contrary to most everything in the church today. To listen to much Christian teaching, you would think that we are still under the Old Testament system of offerings. So much that is taught is flavored with that system. We are told that if we want to receive from God, that we must give to God. We are told to give money, time, talents, and most anything else. Only then, we are told, will God give to us. This is a lie. But it is impossible to see that it is a lie unless we see God Himself. If we would see God Himself we would see that He gives all things freely. And then we would give ourselves freely.