

THE LAW OF THE NEW COVENANT

By: Phillip Hayes

Excerpt from "The Royal Law"

Throughout my ministry I have said, "Dead men don't sin." What did the Word of God say in Hebrews eight? *"I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts."* The Grace we are saved by teaches us! *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world"* [Titus 2:11-12]. How does Grace teach you? By written instructions and laws? No! Grace teaches you by the Spirit from within! Jesus said, *"When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth."* (See John 16:13).

True Christians are born again! They are new creatures in Christ! They don't have to sin! Their *"want to"* has been changed! They no longer "want to" sin! They don't "want to" get drunk, get high, steal, kill, or commit adultery! God has written a Law on their hearts that has transformed their desires!

When you are truly born again, your mind is impacted. Repentance is a change of direction, a change of mind! When you are born again you no longer "want to" live in sin! You want to live a holy life! You want to abstain from all appearances of evil! You want to please God in all things. You want to keep His commandments! When your "want to" is changed you know the Royal Law has taken residence in your

inner man! It's a born again thing! Glory to God!

Now we shall compare some very unique differences between the Old Covenant Law written on tables of stone and the New Covenant Law written on the heart of "born again" men and women. In Matthew the fifth chapter, Jesus referred to the Old Covenant Law this way, *"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time . . ."* He then proclaimed the Law of the New Covenant in this manner, *"But I say unto you . . ."*

Let's take a look at this New Law of our Lord as He introduces it to mankind. Please take note how bold He is as He expresses the change in God's covenant to man. He doesn't speak as the Scribes and the Pharisees (the religious order of His day), but He speaks as One with authority:

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery" [Matthew 5:27].

I want you to see this! Let me ask you, "who was it of old time that said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery . . . ?" It was Moses of course. This was one of the Ten Commandments. Now look at what Jesus said about this commandment.

"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" [Matthew 5:28].

"But, I say unto you!" _Jesus is plainly saying that He is changing what Moses had commanded the people! And look how He changed this Law *"That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."* Jesus said if you *looked* upon a woman to lust after her, you had committed adultery with her! Jesus was removing the Law of God to the natural man and spiritually implanting them in the heart! No longer could you look and

lust and not be found guilty of sin! God would write His laws in the minds of His new creation man! It was the heart that God was going to change!

Before Christ came, you would have to physically commit adultery to commit the sin of adultery. However, when Christ finished His work at Calvary, the New Covenant was established, so your mind must be changed! God's New Covenant Law is now to your inward man. You now have to overcome your negative, carnal thoughts. For you to accomplish that, your heart would have to be changed! You know as well as I know, the battle has always been in the mind! Later, the Apostle would implore God's people to direct their thoughts only to Christ. *"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ"* [2Corinthians 10:5].

Yes, the New Covenant Law of God was to the inward man! It is the Royal Law of Christ! Today, if you look at a woman long enough to begin to desire and lust after her, you have already committed adultery with her, and this is just as true for a woman to lust after a man. God deals with your heart, the residence of your "want to". The Life of God has been implanted in the inner man of your heart. You are being perfected from within, *not from without*.

Today, we live in a very religious world. Many churches have rules and regulations as to what you can or cannot do. One denomination will not let you preach or become one of their ministers if you have a television. The men must not have their hair touching their collar, neither can they have beards or mustaches, etc. The women cannot wear their hair down, but must have their hair rolled up on top of their heads. Some call it a "Hallelujah Bun." Some require a little "dolly" or

a "bonnet" for a head covering. The men must have ties, the women can't have open toed shoes, you can't wear jewelry, or a wristwatch, etc, etc! What folks don't realize is this: All these rules and regulations will never manifest true holiness! If their "want to" hasn't been changed, they will never truly please God! There is nothing wrong with living a lifestyle that embraces outward holiness. A real Christian would never "want" to do anything that would bring a reproach or be displeasing to their Lord whether it is in their dress or conduct. But obeying the carnal rules and traditions of men thinking their obedience makes them holy is absurd. These kind of rules are being commanded by men that are removing the influence of the Holy Ghost in the lives of their congregations.

Years back I overheard two Pentecostal preachers talking about how they should stand strong and not allow their members to have television sets and VCR's. They were really getting heated up over this issue as one began talking about how some of the ministers he knew didn't have TV's, but had VCR's, and he believed they might be watching X rated movies on them. He said, "We must have rules and laws governing against these things." Then, they asked me how I felt about this.

Well, I know I must have surprised them, for I said, "If these preachers and church members must be ordered to get rid of something that was obviously evil then they most likely didn't have the Holy Ghost!" Getting the televisions and video recorders out of their homes is not going to get the spirit of lust out of the hearts of the people! They need deliverance! What people don't realize is morality cannot be legislated! Rules won't change a person's heart, just as the Ten Commandments written on stone could not change a man's

heart.

Most Pentecostals believe speaking in tongues is the evidence of the Holy Ghost. You may speak in tongues, but you are not going to convince me that you have the Holy Ghost when you have to be told by some man or organization what is good or evil! Any man or woman that is filled with the Holy Ghost cannot watch programs filled with sex, violence, nudity, homosexuality, cursing and worldliness without being convicted that it is wrong. Viewing such evil is unacceptable to any born again Christian no matter their denominational preference.

Several years ago I was teaching on evil influences in the home and television was one of them, (there are others; the internet, the games you allow your children to play, etc.). I told the people that I was not telling them to get rid of anything; that I had given them the truth and wanted God to speak to each individual. Simply, if you could not control what you were watching, you might want to get rid of your television. I believed the Voice of God was convicting some of them, and I wanted them to learn to obey God rather than man. What good would it have done if they had gotten rid of their television sets because of me? They would probably still be under the control of the spirit that was causing them to watch and lust after the things I had warned them of in the message. And when they came out from under the influence of my ministry, they would just go get another one! I was hoping the message I preached challenged their "want to".

The Christ that is supposed to live in your heart is the One that will speak to you on these issues! If you won't listen to Him, why should preachers think people will listen to them?! I will always preach against sin, but I'm not going to get all bent out of shape because folks won't listen and rejoice in what

I am saying. You can't save a tare! God is not mocked, He knows them that are His! Jesus said, *"My sheep hear and my Voice and a stranger, they will not follow."* Let's face it, if Jesus is not in their hearts, they will not listen to you, but if He is there, they will not only obey a message of holy living, they will rejoice in it!

Simply put, if you have God in your life, you won't want to do the things that are evil. You must be born again! And when you are born again, God Himself will begin to teach you what is right and what is wrong from within! Some today fail to excel in their relationship with God. They won't press and be filled with the Spirit. Some think they can shake the preachers hand, join the church, learn to speak in tongues, follow some rules and make it to Heaven. They think they know what to do, but their lives reveal they are far from God.

A person that has really experienced the New Covenant and it's Royal Law, will rejoice in the ministry that God has given His church. They will express their love by giving, praying and lifting up His ministry. They will love and rejoice in the Truth! Oh, they make mistakes, but they don't try to cover them up, they acknowledge their sins, they repent and get back on their feet and use that stumbling block for a stepping stone. A real Christian will always get up and get back in the heat of the battle. They are over comers!

Many today are filled with the spirit of the lawless one and seek to find fault with others that refuse to submit to man made standards. Their mouths are filled with contempt and criticism. Oh, they are very religious! They put on a pretense of outwardly living for God but inwardly they are ravaging wolves! They are full of dead men's bones! Their inward "want to" has never been changed by a real experience with

God. They have to be told by some man what they can, or can't do!

Most do not understand that God will help them change their minds and alter the direction of our lives. Our problem is we are trying to do things to save ourselves when we need to turn our lives over to God that said He would walk in us, talk in us, be our God, and write His laws upon our hearts. That He would guide us by His Spirit into all truth!

When you were in the world, did you enjoy the things you were doing? Did you do those things because you "wanted to" or because you had to? Of course you enjoyed what you were doing, and you did the things the world does, because you *"wanted to"*. Well, all I am saying is when you come to Jesus He replaces the "want to" in your heart for the world, with a "want to", *for the things of God*. Have you experienced this kind of transformation? If you haven't, you need a heart transplant that only God can perform.

You need a real experience with God! An experience that will cause you to love godly living! You need an experience that will change the direction of your life. You need to let Jesus live this life for you, and in you, instead of you trying to imitate some man's perception of what godly living is. Paul said, *"Nevertheless not I that liveth, but Christ."* We need to, *"Put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness"* [Ephesians 4:22-24]. Our minds (our thoughts) need to be renewed.

We need to die out to the lusts of the flesh, and let Jesus live in us. We need to put on the new man, which after

God is created in righteousness and true holiness. We need to *"Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provisions for the flesh" [Romans 13:14].*

We need to let Christ take possession of our hearts, our thoughts, our spirits, our bodies, our ears and our eyes! Praise God, you can delight in Christ's Royal Law! *"For I delight in the law after the inward man" [Romans 7:22].*

I believe you can literally transform your life by changing the way you think! *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."* (See Romans 12:2).

Jesus said, *"You can't put new wine in old vessels."* He knew the religious order of His day would not receive His Law to the inward man! Jesus was exposing their sinful souls with His Word! They were very religious and had a great outward standard of holiness, but inwardly, they were full of dead men's bones! Just like some today, they look the part, but they have never been truly converted. Inwardly, they are filled with envy, strife, jealousy, malice and hatred. They have a form of godliness, but they deny the power to live according to the law of God after the inward man.

"But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" [Romans 2:29].

They live by the letter rather than in the Spirit. They have the praise of men because they look the part, but sadly they have little praise of the Heavenly Father who judges the heart.

"But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" [Matthew 5:37].

How many of us are keeping a bridle on our tongue, that little member that is able to take us to hell? The Bible tells us that our *conversation* (citizenship) is in Heaven. Would you want all of Heaven to hear what is coming out of your mouth? Have you put off the conversation of the old man? James said, *"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell"* [James 3:6]. And again, James speaks of how the tongue defiles us: *"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be"* [James 3:10].

The fruit of your heart will be manifested out of your mouth! People spend more time talking about others than they do about Jesus. Gossipers and backbiters fill our churches today! Man can't control his tongue, but if you have Jesus living in you, your heart has been changed, therefore it is possible your communication can also be changed. The "good old boy" conversation you use to have, will no longer come out of your mouth. You will not want to listen to their jokes and foul mouth. You will be uncomfortable around those that are of the world, because the things they do, are no longer in your heart . . . , if you walk in the Holy Spirit that God gave you when you were born again. *"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation"* [1Peter 1:15].

"Light hath no fellowship with darkness." *"Can a fountain yield both fresh and salt water?"* How do you control your tongue? I can assure you that it is connected directly to your heart! What comes from your heart is what defiles you as we will see a little later in this message.

Let's look further how Jesus changed the Law of God:

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye,

and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also" [Matthew 5:38-39].

Now here is a law that few obey! The old law was an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, but Jesus said you had to take the fault! If someone slapped you on the cheek, you were to offer the other to him! When reviled my friend, do you revile back! I hope you can see the Law of Love that Jesus is expounding. Carnal man could not keep these sayings! Human nature is to strike back, get even! You know it's the truth! But Jesus came to change the very nature of man! He came that we might partake of His Divine Nature! He came to make us new creatures in Christ! He came that we might have the Eternal Life of God flowing throughout our inner being changing us from glory to glory into His very likeness.

There are professing Christians today that have armed themselves just waiting on someone to cross their path! They plan on blowing away any adversary that would dare oppose them! I have had personal experiences with men that have enough guns and ammunition stored to blow up a small town. They carry weapons, yet claim to love God, and have the Holy Ghost. However, their actions reveal that they are filled with fear of what man can do to them, and they are determined to hate and murder no matter what they profess or appear to be. If you prepare to kill, then my friend, in God's eyes, you are a murderer already! Christians shouldn't live in ungodliness and prepare to murder others.

I am not condemning those who have armed themselves to protect and defend their families because of the spirit of lawlessness that is prevailing in America. We now have to lock our doors to our automobiles, our homes and our churches. I

know those of you that are truly born again would agonize over emotionally or physically hurting anyone. I must say, we should never trust our own abilities but we must fully trust our God to protect and fight for us!

I say to you that we are serving a God that has prepared divine protection for His people! *"No weapon formed shall prosper against you"* (See Isaiah 54:17). That's what the Bible says! *"Don't fear him (man) that is able to kill the body, but Yea, rather fear Him (God) that is able to kill the body and cast your soul into hell"* (See Matthew 10:28).

Dear ones, we are to walk even as He walked! No man could take His life! God wants us to place all our trust and confidence in Him that is able to keep us. God has not chosen us to bring death, but He has chosen us to bring life!

Not long ago, I was preaching along these lines and I told the congregation that I was not afraid of a communist takeover! For if they did take over America, it would have certainly been God's judgment: *"To the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of me [Daniel 4:17]."* God is in control over all! He is still on the Throne and He has all power in heaven and in earth! I told them to let them come. Maybe the communists will receive the Gospel! Americans don't seem to want it. I told them that I would still be doing what I am doing and that is preaching the Gospel.

We must obey God's Laws! And His law is to our inward man. We are to always reach out in love and not with wrath or murder. When reviled, we are commanded to not revile back! We are commanded to *render good for evil, not evil for evil.*

Jesus taught us to not fight for ourselves, but to leave

all vengeance to Him. Our hearts surely need to be changed to live in accordance to His Teachings.

Jesus continues with His New Law:

"And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also" [Matthew 5:40].

Today, this whole country is suit conscience! Everybody wants to sue somebody! Lawyers specialize on how to sue your employer, how to sue to get compensation for some minor back problem. They have corrupted many into lying about their injuries, acting as if they hurt far worse than they do. Doctors have become corrupt, working with these money grabbing lawyers, by giving false medical information concerning injuries. Today, folks are so afraid of liable suits that we cannot put up a gospel tent without a substantial liability insurance policy! Folks today will sue anybody if they think they can make a dollar on it!

But this is not what Jesus taught! Paul later addressed this issue in one of his epistles. One of the brothers had no doubt sued another brother and Paul rebuked him for it and told him that one of them should have taken the fault! Why? Because this is the Royal Law of Christ! Jesus said, *"If any man sue thee"*. Not just a brother in the Lord! But any man!

I will tell you what the Lord spoke to my heart concerning all this . . . , He said if I would take the fault (the blame), in every personal situation or confrontation, (even when I knew that I was right), that He would be well pleased with me! I had rather have the confidence in knowing that Jesus is well pleased with me, than the carnal satisfaction of letting everybody know I was right. It only matters to me what God thinks! Listen friends, God will fight your battles for you!

"If you walk in the Spirit, you will not fulfill the lust of

the flesh." And you must have the Spirit in order to walk in the Spirit. These are the two problems facing the church. On the one hand, those that have the Holy Ghost are quenching the Spirit, and refusing to walk in these laws of the Spirit. On the other hand, many think they have the Holy Ghost when in fact, they don't, and it is impossible for them to walk according to the Spirit.

Jesus continues.

"And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain" [Matthew 5:41].

Are you willing to go the extra mile for others? Are you giving of your time, as well as your finances? When someone is in trouble, perhaps calling you for help and it might be a great inconvenience for you to come to their aid, do you put them off on someone else, or just rudely tell them to call someone else? I truly believe if we would question what Jesus would do when confronted with any situation, then do as He would have done, it would be well pleasing to the Lord. It is not so much what you say, it's what you do that really counts! Every born again Christian is called to minister and must submit themselves and become servants! Jesus humbled Himself, though being the King of kings and Lord of lords, He became a servant. Remember, we are to walk as He walked. And if we really become servants as He did, we shall reign with Him!

Jesus continues revealing His Law of Love that He is commanding His people to obey.

"Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away" [Matthew 5:42].

Now the Lord is getting down to where it really hurts. The old pocketbook!

Children of God the Word is clear, we are to be givers,

not takers! *"Give to him that asketh thee!"* Just give it! And those that would borrow from you, lend it, and if you will not expect it to be returned to you, you will be far better off. This is what the Lord is really teaching us, "Lend and don't expect it in return." A lot of bad feelings that happen among close friends, family, or neighbors is over money or possessions that have been loaned. If someone borrows something from you, it is their responsibility to pay it back. But if you will lend it not expecting to get it back, when that person does pay you back, you will be able to rejoice. But if you are expecting that person to pay you back, and they don't, hard feelings will begin to take root in your heart. One thing will lead to another, and before you know it, you will have a root of bitterness in you that will be hard to get out. The one that you used to love, you will now despise. You are the one that will truly suffer loss then. But it will be more than a monetary loss, it could develop into the loss of your very soul. It's just not worth it!

I hope you have enjoyed this excerpt from "The Royal Law"

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