

## LAW VERSUS GRACE (35)

**Request #6** - “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” **Matt. 6:13a**

The word “evil” is articular and singular, indicating this refers to a specific evil and a specific one behind the evil. Again, we must keep in mind that this is a pre-Kingdom Tribulation prayer for God to protect and deliver Israel out of the Great Tribulation. Jesus would later say that unless those days were shortened, there would be no flesh saved during the Tribulation (**Matt. 24:21-22**). Jewish people will be crying out to God for deliverance on a national level as never before during this time. They will be specifically asking God not to lead them further into the time of Jacob’s trouble, but to deliver them from it. They will be forced to turn to God nationally for deliverance, and when they finally do, His deliverance will come.

**Now carefully observe that there is no mention of praying these things in Jesus’ name.** Later, when Christ would teach on the subject of prayer as it related to Grace Age truth, He would stress that prayer should be made in His name (**John 16:23, 26**). **The reason why this prayer is not prayed in Jesus’ name is because this is a Kingdom Age prayer, not a Grace Age prayer.** To overlook this important point is to miss the beauty and the theology of this important text.

We conclude this section with the words of Dr. Chafer: “Sad, indeed, is the spectacle when Christians assume that the Sermon on the Mount represents the high calling of the Church and attempt to modify the character of sovereign grace to the end that it may conform to a merit system.” This is a “Kingdom manifesto.”

**QUESTION #20** – How much of the O.T. law is to be specifically applied to the N.T. believer’s life today?

We know that all Scripture is profitable (**II Tim. 3:16**) and we also know that there is a right way to use the O.T. law even in the Grace Age and there are many wrong ways to use it (**I Tim. 1:6-11**).

**The Word of God is clear that under no circumstances in the use of the O.T. law, will a true teacher promote any application that tries to put a N.T. believer back under the O.T. law.** Every application of the O.T. law must be filtered through and consistent with N.T. Grace Age teaching.

As far as righteousness is concerned in this Grace Age, our righteousness is found totally and only in Jesus Christ and none of the O.T. law may be merged into this great Gospel of grace (**Rom. 3:21-22**):

- 1) This Biblical point is taught in many passages of Scripture. **Rom. 6:14; Gal. 5:10**
- 2) The Biblical record is clear that we cannot mingle the system of law with grace.  
**Gal. 3:10-11; 5:2-5**

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**QUESTION #21** – As some religious people think in terms of observing a Sabbath Day, what becomes the real theological and fundamental question?

The critical question on this matter is whether or not grace is to be mingled with law.  
**Rom. 6:14; Gal. 2:21**

**QUESTION #22** – Is there a Biblical term or Biblical concept of a New Testament Christian Sabbath Day?

The answer is a dogmatic No! There is absolutely no Biblical evidence or support for a day known as the Christian Sabbath.

**QUESTION #23** – Why is understanding this matter so critical to New Testament life?

**Reason #1** - It is a gauge as to an individual's concept of grace. **Rom. 11:6**

**Reason #2** - It is a gauge as to a believer's comprehension of his obligation to God. **Rom. 4:4-5**

**Reason #3** - It becomes a crucial issue of demonic legalism. **I Tim. 4:1**  
Day observances are central to forbidden legalism. **Col. 2:16**

**Reason #4** - It becomes crucial for our ministry to the lost in reaching them, not condemning them. **I Cor. 9:20-23**

**QUESTION #24** – What are the two Biblical evidences that must be examined to form a proper conclusion concerning the Sabbath Day?

**Biblical Evidence #1** - Biblical testimony regarding the Jewish Sabbath.

**Biblical Evidence #2** – Biblical testimony regarding the Lord's Day.

**QUESTION #25** – Is there any Biblical support for the idea that a Sabbath existed from Adam to Moses?

The answer is No! **Genesis 2:1-3** is often cited as a proof that the Sabbath did exist. However, upon close examination of the Word of God, it is clear that it did not exist. One passage that specifically answers this question is **Neh. 9:13-14**. Here it is revealed that the Sabbath was instituted between God and Moses. It may also be observed that Job, who many assume lived about 500 years before Moses, discusses in great detail the creative work of God and in no place does he mention a Sabbath day as existing (i.e. **Job 38-40**). **What this means is that prior to God giving the Sabbath day to Moses and Israel, man worshipped God without a legal Sabbath day.**

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**QUESTION #26** – What was the actual purpose of the Old Testament Sabbath?

**Purpose #1** - It was a sign between Jehovah and Israel in the O.T. economy. **Ex. 31:12-17**

**Purpose #2** - It was never a sign between Jehovah and Gentiles.

**Purpose #3** - It was a reminder to Israel that as a nation she was separated unto Jehovah.

**QUESTION #27** – What characterized the Old Testament Sabbath Day?

**The thing that characterized the O.T. Sabbath was that it was a day of complete physical rest from any sort of physical activity.** No fire was to be kindled; no food was to be prepared; no journey was to be undertaken; no buying or selling; no burden was to be borne; no work was to be done. Whoever broke this legal requirement of the O.T. law was in grave danger of being put to death (**Num. 15:32-36; Ex. 31:12-17; 35:3; 16:22-26; Neh. 10:31; 13:15-21; Lev. 25:4**).

**QUESTION #28** – When exactly did the dispensation of the law end?

It ended with Jesus Christ and specifically it ended with His work on Calvary. **John 1:16-17; Rom. 6:14; 7:6; Gal. 3:19-25; Col. 2:14**

**QUESTION #29** – What did Christ mean when He said that He was Lord over the Sabbath?  
**Mark 2:27-28; Luke 6:5**

**What Jesus meant was that He had absolute authority to change and even abolish the Sabbath Day.**

**QUESTION #30** – What is the significance of **Mark 2:27** to Sabbath Day theology?

In the original Greek text there is an article “the” before each noun “man.” This clearly indicates that Jesus had a specific man in mind. If we take into consideration that: 1) The Sabbath is never applied to Gentiles; 2) That man is used in the O.T. many times as a reference to Israel, it becomes very clear that Christ’s meaning is the Sabbath Day was made for Israel and not Israel for the Sabbath Day.

Dr. Chafer picked up on this point when he said, “...the word man is used in the Old Testament no less than 336 times, when referring to Israel alone...It is therefore evident that Christ said, in harmony with all Scripture, that the Sabbath was made for Israel; for there is no Biblical evidence that Christ ever imposed the Jewish Sabbath on either Gentiles or Christians...” (*Grace*, p. 255).