

## INTRODUCTION

Last time, we learned that the law of God is not laid down for the righteous, who already know themselves sinners before God, have already repented, turning to God for forgiveness of sins, trusting in Jesus Christ for righteousness.

Instead, the law of God is laid down for the unrighteous, the lawless and insubordinate, the disobedient; it is laid down for sinners.

the law makes the sinner known his sin; know he is a sinner

the law stops the sinners mouth, so that he no longer claims his own righteousness

the law shows the sinner how guilty he is before God, the righteous judge

Today, we go on through what Paul says next about that, understanding better this sense in which the law is not for the righteous, but is for the sinner.

Understand what Paul has written here, and then see with me how he and Peter use the law for the sake of sinners, to show them forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 1:9-10

## BODY

- I. The Part of the Law Paul Particularly Had in Mind Is the Ten Commandments
  - A. see “murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers”
  - B. proceeding down through the second table of the law from there is easy
  - C. Does it work to proceed up through the first table?
    1. possibly Paul is speaking from the first table of the law generally, not in terms of the first four commandments
    2. but I think the clues are sufficient to see that he does have the first four commandments in mind
  - D. Many places in the letters, you can see where Paul writes about sin and sinners with no obvious organization according to the ten commandments
  - E. But here he specifically writes about the law of God, and so shows that he has in his mind the ten commandments, and all sinners categorized by their disobedience to those commandments in particular
  
- II. Peter
  - A. Acts 2:22-24 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- (23) Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, **you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;** (24) whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.
  - B. Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, **whom you crucified,** both Lord and Christ."
  - C. Acts 2:37-38 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (38) Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;** and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - D. Note that Peter has preached these men’s breaking of a commandment from the second table of the law, those about loving your neighbor

### III. Paul

- A. Acts 17:22-25 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; (23) for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: (24) God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. (25) Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.
- B. Acts 17:29-31 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, **we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.** (30) Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now **commands all men everywhere to repent,** (31) because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
- C. Note that Paul has preached these men's breaking of a commandment from the first table of the law, those about loving God

## CONCLUSION

Think about Peter and Paul, who have learned the lawful use of the law from Jesus Christ directly, and have been out on the front lines using the law lawfully, preaching it to the lawless and disobedient, to make them know their sins, to shut their mouths, and to make them understand their guilt before God, that they might then proclaim to them the gospel of repentance and forgiveness of sin. They have been using the law lawfully to teach the disciples about what our Lord Jesus has done for us, about how to love one another, about how to live holy in their daily lives, about how to do everything in the church in a decent and orderly way.

Now they hear about men who are in the fellowship of the church, setting themselves up as teachers of the law, when they don't understand what it means, and are preaching it to the disciples in ways that are not even for them.

Let any who would teach from the law of God understand that it is a serious business, that should be done according to the pattern laid down by our Lord and His apostles, that it be beneficial for the church, and that it be for the salvation of sinners who desperately need to know their sinfulness, repent, and be forgiven.

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Sermon: “The Law Used Lawfully for the Sake of the Lawless”

Benediction: Colossians 1:13-14

T 63 God is known among his people (Prelude)

G 13- All Praise To Him

T 70 Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

G 29 Come Enter By The Narrow Gate

G 35- Count Your Blessings