

**Intro:**

READ WLC 94. Introduces 95-97. Law applies to all in gen., redeemed/unredeemed in specifics.

Main Point of Text: While Paul argues that God's Law is misused by those who teach personal works-righteousness, He pauses to point out that the Law itself is good and should be used the right way.

Sermon Point: *Bear the Sword wisely.*

**Move 1: Remember that the Law only condemns fallen mankind.**

LC: “no man, since the fall, can attain to righteousness and life by the moral law”:

- Notice, the Westminster Standards emphasize you *cannot* be saved by the Law.
- *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (Rom 8:3)*
- *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (Gal 2:16)*

**Move 2: Still, the Law still has its uses for all of mankind.**

LC: “Although [the above be the case] yet there is great use thereof, as well common to all men”:

The Law condemns us as bad. But it is not bad itself. Our conscience proves it good: READ Romans 7:12, 14, 16. The Law is good and tells us we are not good, but should be.

**Move 3: The Law condemns non-Christians and acquits Christians.**

LC: “as peculiar either to the unregenerate, or the regenerate”:

The Gospel based on the Law. Condemns those who will not turn to Jesus to be righteous by it. Acquits you who turned to Jesus.

Acts 20:21: repentance toward God, faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. Repent for what? Lawbreaking.

1 Tim. 1:8: Paul says there's nothing wrong with the Law. Just use it safely/rightly:

- Verse is a “parenthetical pause”. Careful qualification. Against Antinomianism.
- Context vss. 3-7, The misuse of the Law. Vs. 5 the point (Romans 10:4).
- Vss. 9-11, the Law only for those who need to be corrected. Negatively instructs/corrects.
- Gospel is that the Law condemns all for not living up to it, so they need to look up to *Jesus* living it to live. Jesus: did not come to destroy the Law, but fulfill it. No peace, but sword.

**Conclusion:**

Ephesians 6. Hebrews 4:12. Sword/Word to be unsheathed. Just be sure to ***Bear the Sword wisely.***