

Psalm 119; Lord's Day 34
GOD'S LAW FOR THE CHRISTIAN

- I. Still valid.
 - A. "The law is good, if a man use it lawfully" (I Timothy 1:8).
 - 1. The worst use of the law is that one is justified by obeying it: Pharisees and Judaizers
 - 2. The law was never intended to be the/a means to salvation by meritorious works.
 - B. The law remains valid and good because it reveals God and reflects the righteous standard of His holiness.
 - 1. As Creator, He still has the right to demand obedience of His creatures (Rom. 2:14,15).
 - 2. This is why God's law always defines sin, exposing sin to man's consciousness (Rom. 3:19,20; 7:7,13b).
 - 3. In this way the law drives the believers to Christ for salvation.
 - C. Also, the law's validity for believers is evident in the introduction to the law (Exodus 20:2).
- II. What the law does not do for the Christian.
 - A. As those saved in Jesus, we can say that the Christian is free from the law.
 - 1. First, we are free from the curse of the law (because Jesus became that curse for us, Gal. 3:13,14).
 - 2. Second, the Christian is free in the sense that the law can never be a way of salvation to us.
 - B. That we are free from having to do good works to be saved does not mean that we are free from the law to love.
- III. What the law is to do.
 - A. True knowledge of God is efficacious, always leading to an obeying of Him (I John 2:3,4; 5:2,3).
 - B. The law teaches us how to express our returning love to God.
 - 1. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments (John 14:15).
 - 2. Love for God means that we honor Him as He would have Himself to be honored.
 - C. Because we are still in the body of flesh, it is good to instruct and to warn us.
- IV. There is a three-fold effect and a three-fold fruit the law has on the sanctified, believing heart.
 - A. It continually helps us see the horror of our own sin.
 - B. Two, we grow in the knowledge of the preciousness of Jesus Christ.
 - C. Three, we grow in the knowledge of God's will, to which we want to comply as an expression of gratitude.