

Law Without Grace

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Straight Paths Bible Church

John 5:8-11 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath. The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.

- I. So what we have here is “law” and “grace.”
 - A. We have Jesus who came full of grace and truth, and then we have the Jews are empty of grace, and full of law.
 - B. The rest of this chapter is Jesus trying to explain to them that what they have seen is a work of God the Father, working through his Son, to deliver a lost soul and make a man whole.
 - C. The Jews could not care less about the man, or his infirmity of 38 years, or the fact that he was not made whole in body or soul.
 - D. The honor and reverence of God was not the motive of the Jews for condemning the man who was carrying his bed.
 1. They were in a contest with one another to see who could be the strictest according to the letter of the law.
 2. The glory of God was not their motive, but it was their common pride that they shared in THEIR identity as Jews.
 - E. To people like that other people are just things and very expendable, quickly and easily cast aside.
 1. Love is not their motive, except for love of self and their position in their religious society.
 - F. Jesus did not violate the Sabbath in God’s sight, because God the Father worked the miracle, according to Jesus.
 1. How could God violate his own law?
 - G. No man can be made whole without God.
 1. The devil can fake miracles and make it appear for a moment that a person has been healed, but the devil can make no one whole, and would not if he could.
 - H. Jesus actually fulfilled the law by making a man whole on the Sabbath.
 1. What better day is there for God to work than on the day that is set aside for Him?

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, Isaiah 61:1

2. Twice in the Gospels they watched Him to see if He would heal on the Sabbath; once they asked Him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath days?” Then Jesus asked them:

Luke 14:3-4 And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go;

3. They held their peace because their conscience condemned them and they could not defend their proud and hateful attitudes and opinions in the light of the Scripture, so Jesus healed the man in front of them and let him go.
- I. But these kinds of fanatics never give up and these confronted the man that was carrying his bed.

II. What we see here is an immediate conflict after a man is made whole.

John 5:10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

- A. So blind that they did not even consider the miracle this man had just experienced from the hand of God.
- B. So obsessed with their carnal interpretation and understanding of the Word of God that they feel they must castigate this man for carrying his bed.
- C. They could not see outside of the bubble of carnal religion in which they had contained themselves.
- D. The man who was made whole by Jesus Christ was immediately faced with a demand from the religious people to stop doing what Jesus had told him to do, and this is very often the case even now.
- E. If you simply “rise, take up thy bed, and walk,” it is enough to turn the world, lost family, and most religious people against you.
- F. To be made whole is more specifically defined in this same chapter:

John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

1. He does not just raise up the dead, but He quickens them.
2. Death implies previous life; a tree cut down is different than a rock; there was life in one and not in the other.
3. So, when Jesus said “rise up” He was speaking to a dead man, and the dead man rose up.
4. But the dead man was not resuscitated to resume his old life, he was made to rise up and then given a new life; the old life is gone.
- G. So that is what upsets carnally minded worldly people, as well as carnally minded religious people.
 1. It is a miracle that is outside of their concept of life and happiness.
- H. Now we cannot twist this around so that we do away with the law and truth.
 1. Jesus never instructed or led anyone He healed to have a condemning or rebellious attitude toward the law of God or those who stood in Moses’ seat.

Romans 14:16-18 Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

- I. Those are truly made whole by Jesus will walk in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
- J. The Spirit of God dwelling in us will show us the difference in true righteousness and that righteousness which is of the law, that is void of grace, mercy, and love.

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

- K. This love does not condone, or ignore sin, but it includes God and his love, mercy, and grace in every situation where there is a question like this.
- L. So this is the identifying mark of those who are depending upon the righteousness of the law and those who are depending upon the righteousness of God.