

Have You Heard? Salvation by Grace Does Not Exclude Obedience to Law
By David R. Kenney

When studying the Bible, it is imperative to do so with proper discernment. We should be able to recognize teachings which do not match the teachings of the Bible. One passage some misunderstand is *"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace"* (Romans 6:14, NKJV). Some incorrectly assume that since we are now under grace, we are no longer under a law. Keeping the passage in context, one will realize that Paul has a certain law in view, the Law of Moses. We are under law, but not the Law of Moses.

Christ came to fulfill and take away the Law of Moses—*"And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross"* (Colossians 2:13-14, NKJV). Christ did not come to do away with "law" but to do away with the Law of Moses which could not take away sin and establish His law which provided remission of sins—*"Previously saying, 'Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them' (which are offered according to the law), then He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first that He may establish the second"* (Hebrews 10:8-9, NKJV).

Some are repulsed by the idea of submission to anyone or anything. The reality is that we are either driving our souls on the "broad way" or "difficult way", both have final destinations--*"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it"* (Matthew 7:13-14, NKJV). The law of liberty is one that frees us from sin, not laws—*"But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does"* (James 1:25, NKJV). Jesus as high priest and mediator is a surety of a better covenant, not "no covenant"—*"by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant"* (Hebrews 7:22, NKJV). We are to fulfill the law of Christ—*"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ"* (Galatians 6:1-2, NKJV).

There are two parts for salvation—God's part (established the plan of salvation) and man's part (obedience to that plan of salvation). Both God's part and man's part are spelled out in Christ's law for us, the New Testament. Remember, without God's grace, there would be no plan of salvation. Are you willing to submit to God's plan?

David preaches for the church of Christ in Wadsworth, Ohio.

This article appeared in the Wadsworth edition of *House to House*, Jul/Aug 2013.