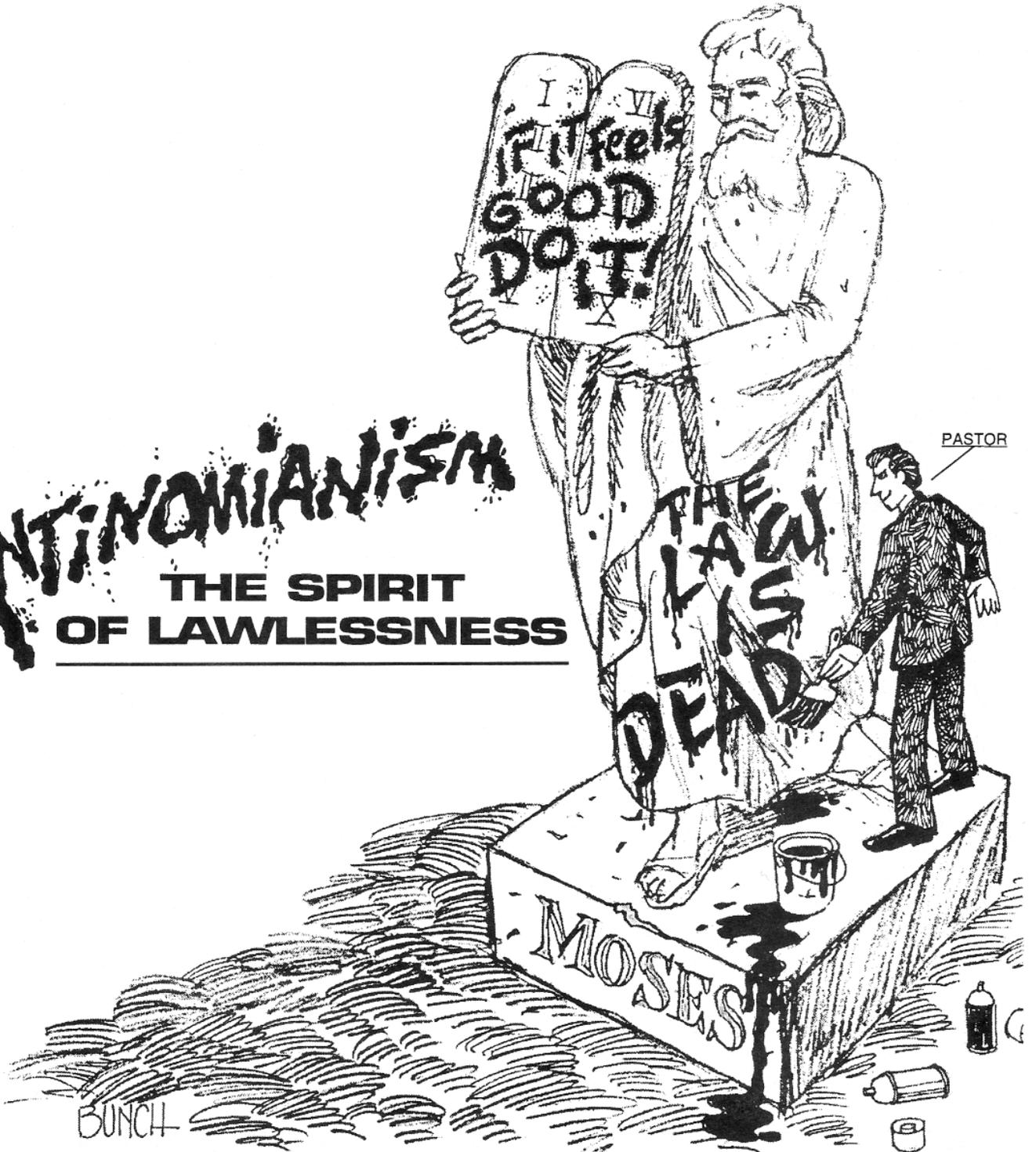


THE AMERICAN CHRISTIAN

MAR-APR 1997

"... let Facts be submitted to a candid world."

ANTINOMIANISM THE SPIRIT OF LAWLESSNESS



ANTINOMIANISM

The Spirit Of Lawlessness

by Ben Williams

For the mystery of lawlessness is already working within;

2 Thess. 2:7

THE term *Antinomianism* applies to a doctrine of theology that interprets Scripture to say that “faith” and “grace” have replaced and done away with God’s law, and that law is repugnant to Jesus and the New Testament.

The word, *antinomianism*, is actually an Anglicized form of the Greek word “*anomia*.” “*Anomos*” means “no law” or “lawless.” The prefix “*a*” means negative, and “*nomos*” means “law.”

“*Anomia*” means “lawlessness.”

“*Antinomianism*” is a clumsy Anglicized attempt at “*anomia*.” The prefix “*anti*,” in modern dictionaries usually means “against,” or “aversion to.” The Greek “*nomos*” means “law.”

Together, *anti-nomianism* (the English usage) signifies “against belief in law.” And while the Anglicized term *Antinomianism* itself does not appear in scripture, the Greek counterparts – *anomos* (“lawless”) and *anomia* (“lawlessness”) – appear twenty times. The KJV wrongly renders these: “*iniquity*,” “*transgression*,” “*unrighteousness*,” or “*wicked*” (see cites below). Those who authorized the *Authorized Version* (KJV) obviously did not want people aware that the New Testament condemns lawlessness (i.e., antinomianism).

SELF WORSHIP

For the past several centuries, the religious church industry (wrongly calling itself “Christianity”) has rejected God’s law, claiming that it was replaced by “grace” or “faith.” Antinomianists claim that Jesus did away with law and replaced it with “grace” under a new and different “dispensation.” They dismiss God’s law as being contrary to the prin-

ciples of Christ. They teach that law was a bad idea which had to be corrected under the new dispensation of Christ. In other words, God tried to get man to heaven by using law, but later realized He had made a mistake.

Now, reflecting upon what we just covered, one must ask: what could possibly lead man to such an arrogant, ludicrous, blasphemous doctrine? The answer is ... it was the very thing we’ve just talked about: the spirit of lawlessness! I’m not saying that everyone who accepts this error has a lawless heart. Many are just deceived. But, the organized campaign by the church industry to instate this doctrine into the hearts of millions of churchgoers was certainly spawned by the spirit of lawlessness.

7. *For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work among you; now only he that resists will come out from among you.*

(Those who resist the spirit of lawlessness are separated out from others).

8. *And then shall the lawless be exposed, whom the lord Jesus will slay through the spirit of his mouth, and will destroy by exposing his presence.*

(The lawless is exposed and judged.)

9. *Whose presence is according to the inner working of the adversary’ in all power and signs and lying predictions;*

10. *And in every deception of injustice of the ones destroying themselves because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved.*

(The spirit of lawlessness is in accord with the Beast System and all its power, lies, and injustices whereby they are destroying themselves through their rejection of truth).

11. *And through this, God sends them mental delusion that they might believe a lie,*

12. *In order that they all might be judged who believed not the truth but took pleasure in injustice.*

(Those who do not love truth, and who take pleasure in injustice, receive delusions to follow their depravity).

– 2 Thess. 2:7-12

The spirit of lawlessness incites man to search for ways to ignore and reject common sense principles and laws of the Creator. This is not about ignorance. It is about preference. Ignorance is totally another thing. Ignorance of the law means being unaware of it. But, to know the law and reject it is lawlessness and rebellion, for to reject law is to reject its Maker: Yahweh.

Antinomianism is epidemic today because man has rejected God and become obsessed with self. Rejection of God and law is the natural result of idolatry. Worshipers of self will not voluntarily submit themselves to God’s rules or laws. They jealously cling to their “options” ... the option to ignore law and act upon their own impulses and lusts. They prefer changeable standards that adjust to their changeable moods and perceived needs.

In the churches, self-worshippers dismiss God’s laws by claiming that they personally have “spiritual guidance” and have no need of law. Sometimes they use a misinterpretation of 1 Jn. 2:27 to excuse their lawlessness.

(**ANOMOS** [lawless] & **ANOMIA** [lawlessness] in the New Testament: Matt. 7:23; Matt. 13:41; Matt. 23:28; Matt. 24:12; Lk 22:37; Acts 2:23; Rom. 2:12; Rom. 4:7; Rom. 6:19; 1Cor. 9:21; 2Cor. 6:14; 2Ths. 2:3; 2Ths. 2:7; 2Ths. 2:8; 1Tim. 1:9; Titus 2:14; Heb. 1:9; Heb. 10:17; 2Pet. 2:8; 1Jn 3:4.)

27. *But the anointing which you received from him is remaining in you, and you have no need for anyone to be teaching you ...*

1 Jn. 2:27

This actually refers to the ability to discern between truth and error, which is a benefit of receiving the holy spirit. It does not suggest that we have no further need of law. The KJV, however, renders the verse so that it seems to suggest that very thing: "...ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things,..." It appears that those who authorized the *Authorized Version* prefer that people believe that God's law is not viable.

With this sentiment having had such success among our people, it appears that the original message of lawlessness (as propounded by the serpent in Eden) has flourished and found permanent residence in the hearts of churchgoers and pagans around the world:

5. *"... then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."*

Gen. 3:5

DEIFICATION OF MAN

This leaves man to decide for himself what is right or wrong, and to be his own lawmaker. The man who knows good and evil has no need of law. In fact, he who knows good and evil can make his own law, and whoever makes law is god. When man becomes a lawmaker he makes himself a god. It makes no difference whether he makes law for a nation or for himself only. The great lie of the churches (from Genesis 3:5) is that man should create his own law rather than obey God's.

When man is god, law follows man instead of the other way around. Law becomes transient and capricious; changeable and optional. For instance, one's convictions against usury could easily be adjusted to suit a new desire.

According to man's law, abortion was once an atrocity; but now, under Supreme Court ruling, it is both moral and legal.

The 18th amendment once made drinking alcohol a crime. The 21st amendment repealed the 18th amendment and made the drinking of alcohol

legal again.

That which is a crime one day is no crime the next – and vice versa. It is not uncommon for men to languish in jail for having committed a "crime" which has since been legalized. The crime for which he is in jail is no longer a crime. One day, driving 65 miles per hour makes you a criminal; the next day it does not. The examples are endless. Congress creates laws faster than we can keep up with them. Thus it goes when men make law.

On the personal level, being your own lawmaker is convenient. In the case where some particular lust overtakes you, driving you to sin, you simply adjust the law by legislating a new conviction in your conscience. Anything can be justified in the mind that recognizes no law but its own.

I'M OK, YOU'RE OK

When man empowers himself with the belief that he can make his own laws to suit whatever mood he is in – when he sees himself above judgment – he feels no guilt. He disables his conscience. He is a godless psychopath. Sin (crime) ceases to be a problem to him because he is the only one to whom he must answer. It is a great relief, to a lawbreaker, to dismiss from his life the existence of law.

I'm OK; you're OK. What's wrong for you may not be wrong for me. What's right today may not be right tomorrow.

Unchanging standards are unpopular in today's world. Man, as lawmaker, has created his own system. Indeed, the spirit of lawlessness is working.

In the '50's and '60's we often heard the term "situation ethics" to describe the lawless mentality. With the further decline of morality over the past four decades, society has dropped the use of that term. Sadly, the current generation no longer has the ability to relate to the inherent ugliness inferred by the term and understood only four decades ago. Following this pattern, the term "Humanism" has also lost its inherent ugliness ... like the term New World Order.

It seems that modern man thinks he has finally come into his own. Now, in this age of easy godship, man has freed himself of God, unplugged his conscience, and discovered he can do whatever he wants. He can change the rules if he wants. He can partake of the for-

bidden fruit with no recrimination. He can sin and call it "creativity" and "freedom" ... even "grace."

Has man come a long way? Not really. In truth, he is right back to the scenario of Genesis 3:5. Some things just don't change.

Idioms of our culture are obvious: "self-assertiveness," "self-awareness," "self-adjustment," "self-actualization," "self, self, self"! This syndrome is sort of *self-explanatory*. It points to self-worship! It all points to the deification of the spirit of natural man, and the rejection of Yahweh and his law.

Thus, the spirit of natural man is the spirit of lawlessness. It is the natural result of self-worship. Anarchy (rejection of God) starts in childhood and develops through church and public school teachings. It is nurtured by commerce and entertainment. It's greatest fulfillment is seen in Washington D.C., where godlessness is officially established as the dragon on the Potomac: *the Beast who disguises itself as a lamb, but speaks as a dragon* (Rev. 13:11).

The "mystery of lawlessness" begins in the heart of a child, and matures into the spirit of church and state ... whose image stands in every church and state house.

The irony of it is that this same Beast which is the epitome of lawlessness has itself become the American symbol of "law and order."

LAWLESSNESS: THE AMERICAN RELIGION

Self-power is the religion of the people of America today. Democracy is one of its names. Voting is one of its ploys to draw citizens into complicity.

Self-worship is idolatry at its worst, highly evolved and deeply rooted in pride. Self-centeredness begins at youth. Thus we see that the roots of lawlessness extend all the way back to childhood. The *foolishness that is bound in the heart of a child* (Prov. 22:15), if not driven from him, will without fail lead to lawlessness. The "rod of correction," in its many forms, is essential – it is NOT an option if we are to save our children from lawlessness.

In America, children have been insulated from Jesus' *rod of correction*. Children who survive the terror of abortion in the womb must face more terrors in the outside world. Ahead for them

is a long future of mental and spiritual brutalization and abuse by the T.V. and public schools where they will be demoralized, denuded, and brainwashed so that they no longer can hear Christ's truth. Good is bad, right is wrong, light is dark ... and dark is light.

Lawlessness is learned in public school ... both by principle and example. The churches lock step with the schools promoting lawlessness, teaching that Jesus came to do away with the law. Children are assaulted with this on every front.

The elements of modern society point children toward lawlessness. Now, in the final years of the 20th century, lawlessness – like a noxious weed – has taken over the hearts and minds of children and adults alike. It has grown so thick that the seeds of truth are prevented from germinating and competing with the weeds. Very few of us even remember when things weren't this way. Antinomianism is now taken for granted. It is "normal." In fact, people who believe in unchanging standards of right and wrong based on God's law are looked upon as hateful. Why? Because God's law condemns the doing of wrong things. Condemning anyone for anything – especially for reasons of immorality – is called "hate" in this generation. The epidemic of lawlessness has made morality irrelevant. And since there is no way to define morality aside from law, anyone who rejects immoral company today is seen only as a hater ... a mean person who condemns others without cause.

LAWLESSNESS RENAMED

And then there is the conundrum of modern law terms: "courts of law," "lawmen," and "lawenforcement." The gigantic law enforcement growth industry has completely swallowed up and monopolized the concept of "law" in America. "Law" and "lawfulness" is now defined strictly by the police and the courts. Law has become whatever they say it is. The irony here is that these who define "law" in America exist expressly for the purpose of making their masters in government immune to law. Since central government is the epitome of anarchy and lawlessness, it follows that America's "law" system defends lawlessness at its pinnacle of expression. Lawlessness and anarchy has been renamed "gov-

ernment" and equated with "law and order." For that concept to work one must mentally reconcile elements that are mutually exclusive. That usually requires a lawyer or a preacher. And with most of the church world attempting to do just that, it is no wonder that America has so much insanity and so many hospitals for the mentally ill.

Contemplating the convolution of the American system can leave you swimmy headed. How on Earth did we get from liberty and common sense to where we are today? It is hard to imagine. But, I must say that the journey undoubtedly started with the church's teaching that God's law was done away in Christ. Lawlessness, in all its variant manifestations is always the same spirit.

RELIGIOUS LAWLESSNESS

Antinomianism is fashionable now. Even people who claim to be "Bible believers" follow the fashion. Never mind that "lawlessness" is condemned over and over in God's Word. They've been told that religious "lawlessness" is OK, and it is good to be lawless today. They aren't even afraid to depict our Savior as the ultimate law breaker. Jesus, they say, saved man from sin by destroying the law that defined sin. Perhaps the ultimate insult is to proclaim lawlessness in the name of God's Son. Churches are temples of insult to both Yahweh and Jesus!

But the plain fact is that the Jesus of the Holy Bible was no lawbreaker. He never taught anyone to break or ignore law. On the contrary, He said:

17. *Think not that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets (the teachings of the old scriptures); I came not to destroy but to fulfill (i.e., follow them and do them).*

19. *Whosoever therefore shall do away with one of the least of these commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of the heavens: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of the heavens.*

Matt. 5:17 & 19

Jesus condemned man's attempt to do away with the commandments.

He informed them that anyone who tried to do away with the commandments would be called least in Christ's Reign. Yet, churchgoers who proclaim that Jesus actually did just that will proclaim in the same breath that Jesus is the greatest in the kingdom. Does that make sense to you?

Jesus brought forgiveness. Forgiving sin does not destroy law – it affirms law. Most churchgoers admit that sin is still in the world. According to Bible definition sin equals lawlessness. Law defines sin. Without law sin cannot exist.

4. *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness; for sin is lawlessness.*

5. *And you know that He shined forth to take away our sins (He took away sin, not law -ed.).*

I Jn. 3:4,5

3. *And in this we know that we have known him, in that we are keeping his commandments.*

4. *He who says he knows Him, and is not keeping his commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him.*

I Jn. 2:3,4

3. *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.*

I Jn. 5:3

IGNORANCE OF FREEDOM

The modern wave of law ignorance has brought with it a flood of freedom ignorance. Men talk of freedom but know nothing of it. They cannot understand freedom until they understand law.

It may be possible for one or two generations to remember the effects of freedom which trickled down to them from former generations. However, if they don't soon come to understand it, their children will eventually neither understand it nor remember it.

To have freedom one must first understand it. To understand freedom, one must first understand law. Freedom cannot be sustained in a society without moral and ethical standards ... and those standards are impossible without law.

For moral and ethical standards to exist they must be understood, and they cannot be understood without definition. They cannot be defined without prin-

ciples of law. This is a fact. Churchgoers (claiming to be Christians) will, on one hand, claim that Christianity stands for moral and ethical standards. Then, on the other hand, they will claim that Jesus – the very founder of Christianity – did away with law. **The notion of lawless morality is oxymoronic.**

Many of our generation can remember earlier decades when the average man could still relate to the concept of freedom. It would be inaccurate to say that we were free in the '50's, but at least the memory of relative freedom, experientially, was still with us – in spite of our general ignorance of its meaning. Many of us would give anything to resurrect a degree of freedom today that would match what we knew in the '50's. Not that this would answer the problems of our people. But it would relieve some of the current oppression, and give us a chance to catch our breath while working toward solving the big problems that have come upon us lately.

This generation has taken the bit in its teeth! It is flying blind in the clouds, without navigational instruments. It neither realizes nor cares that things have not always been this way. People have not always flown blind. Things don't have to be this way. But this current generation has no higher intuition ... due to ignorance of that which is higher.

JESUS: THE LIGHT OF "THE WORLD"

Those who live in darkness may not understand their predicament. If they have not seen light they cannot relate to it. They cannot appreciate its advantage. It is like trying to describe a color to a blind person. It is nearly impossible for him to relate to it. Only when light shines upon man from an outside source can he relate to it ... even if he does not yet understand it. That, then, can lead him to search out its meaning. In other words, man does not discover light; rather, it discovers him.

Some, however, will reject light because they love darkness. A case in point – the Judeans rejected Christ.

The Judean system contained a minority of Israelites, and a majority of Edomites, Canaanites, Babylonians, and other non-Israelites. It was an amalgamation of Israelite culture with Babylonian culture (Babylon was still revered

as their spiritual mother). It incorporated parts of the Bible, and parts of the traditions of Babylon. It was a dark system lost and confused by Judean religion and politics.

To this system came Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus shined a bright beam of light through the darkness. He showed them that they were misinterpreting the ancient documents and prophecies ... and that they pointed to Him. He shined the light for them, and a few appreciated it. Most didn't.

Some of the true Israelites accepted the gospel. But many didn't. Most of the non-Israelites did not – and those outnumbered the Israelites. The sheep who did hear the Shepherd's call were persecuted and driven out of Judea.

9. The true Light which enlightens every man was shining into the (Judean) system.

10. He was in the system, and the system existed through him, and the system knew him not.

11. He came to his own, and his own received him not.

John 1:9-11

39. You search the scriptures because you think that by them you can have eonian life; but these bear witness of me.

40. And you are not willing to come to me in order that you may have life.

John 5:39-40

This is also the case with freedom. Very rarely will anyone aspire to seek freedom without first being permitted to taste of it. Without a foretaste, people generally cannot relate to freedom or the lack of it. Of course politicians and priests always reject light because they need darkness to ply their trade.

JESUS: THE LIGHTHOUSE OF FREEDOM

Shining the light of freedom upon the people, not only to place it in their memory, but to make them understand it, is no easy task. Breaking through the barriers of confusion and prejudice takes persistence, dedication and God's intervention. To comprehend freedom, one must first truly believe it is impor-

tant. The men who think of freedom as an academic topic will never understand it. Freedom can be understood only by men who deal with it in real life. Sometimes men must lose freedom in order to be motivated to understand it.

My generation was lazy and inattentive. We experienced something of freedom, but we didn't understand it. Our parents did not teach us about it. They didn't see the necessity. Especially here in the west, the wide-open spaces provided a kind of freedom, and our parents took it for granted. And very few of their generation, or our generation, cared enough to try to learn of it. Even fewer of us were called of God, and FORCED to learn of it. Now, we who can see it have the unenviable task of trying to teach it to people who cannot relate to it and have no desire for it. God help us!

BAD THEOLOGY

We have a freedom problem in America. Most everyone will agree with that. Our freedom problem is an outgrowth of lawlessness. And our lawlessness problem is an outgrowth of our most basic idolatry: **self-worship.**

Mankind's most basic problem (self-worship) was addressed by the word of God, based upon law. But something happened. God's word was twisted and thus rendered powerless. Theologians, guided by politicians, twisted it and gave us bad theology. By inserting the wrong premises at the start of their teachings, they made sure that only wrong conclusions would follow. The ability of the Bible to show us truth was cut off before we could get started.

Without truth we cannot be free. **Bad theology and bad versions of the Bible have ruined our people!**

The churches are our adversaries in this. They are our satans. They teach children, from a tender age, that the objective of Christianity is to provide an escape from law, and from Earth, and a way to get into "Heaven." Some churches teach an alternative "heaven" ... calling it a "future kingdom." It serves the same purpose. Whether it is a "heaven" in outer space, or a "future kingdom" falling out of the sky to be set up here on Earth, the theological ramification is the same. It is Futurist Escapism. The ostensible objective of the churches is to get man a ticket that will

permit him to enter through the gates of a future, other-worldly existence. This view completely misses the fact that God communicated with man to instruct him how to live in this life on this planet. The Bible is a plan for living – not a plan for escaping.

God never gave man a plan to escape. He gave man a plan to occupy. And, as far as the next life goes, that is in God's hands. There is nothing at all man can do to affect it one way or the other. Scripture is clear on that.

If you start your study of the Bible with the premise that God's reason for giving his Word to man was to show him how to escape the Earth and this life, your resulting conclusions will be faulty. Wrong premises produce faulty conclusions. You will find yourself forced to accept the contrived explanations of "experts" who cunningly circumvent the truth and advance their own agendas. With the wrong premise, the Bible will remain a mystery to the reader. Explanations become purely speculative. They are accepted or rejected based solely upon how authoritative the speaker sounds – not upon proof or reason of any kind. It becomes a confidence game. Deposit your dime and take your choice.

LAW CANNOT JUSTIFY

The theologian envisions his duty, not from Scripture, but from the ensuing confusion. If his objective is to escape the Earth and go to Heaven, what purpose could the law serve? How can the law get him to heaven?

16. 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

There you have it! Paul says, "The law cannot justify anyone." Therefore, it cannot get churchgoers into heaven. And since the church world believes that the objective of all religion, and all scripture, is to get them into heaven, they are left with a peculiar problem. You see, law came from God, but they see it as useless ... even bad. This presents a

palpable conflict. The fact that law was a major factor in the Old Testament is uncontested. It is there. God gave it. Yet it is seen as useless. What can be done with it?

If law cannot get them into heaven, what use is it? Well, according to them, it seems that God gave Israel law as sort of an experiment to see *if* it might get men into heaven. Apparently, back then God wondered if possibly law might work. Unfortunately, it failed. God was subsequently forced to admit that He failed. So He put plan B into operation. Thus, He brought Jesus into the picture for the purpose of cleaning up and correcting the mess He had caused by trying to get man into heaven through law.

This farcical church-created scenario plays out in church fantasies thusly: Jesus comes to Jerusalem about 29 AD. According to the churches, the Old Covenant was still in force and being kept in Judea (it really wasn't). Jesus supposedly proclaimed that anyone who wanted to get to heaven had to give up the law and let the church "save" them through grace and faith. Salvation was through the church, the priest, the church altar and church membership. Support the church, forget the law, and when you die you receive the keys to the pearly gates.

The only conclusion left to the millions who had become churchgoers was that law had been a mistake. God's intentions had been good, but his plan was a colossal failure. Now, the only thing that can be salvaged from those thirty-nine books, and all the history they represent, are "examples" of how not to get to heaven. Aside from that they are without authority or merit.

The more the theologians discuss this scenario, the higher the *insanity index* rises. Joining the discussion, in any way, is like attempting to swim in a vortex. The only sensible thing to do is stay out of the water. Or if you are already in the water, get out.

Only by returning to the original premise can the error be addressed.

Could it be that the premise of the churches was wrong? What if the objective was never really to escape this Earth and "get to heaven"? If the objective was different it would produce a different paradigm: a different way to interpret man's problem, and a different way to hear God's answer.

DIFFERENT PARADIGM

If the churches have been starting their people with the wrong basic premise all these years, it is no wonder churchgoers have ended up with wrong conclusions. Therefore, churchgoers need to reexamine their paradigm.

What if God's message to mankind is not how to get to heaven, but how to live here ON Earth? In that case we might reason that a loving God would give man principles of law to show him how to live here, on earth, and actually understand the world in which he lives.

So, with that thought we can possibly see the correct purpose for law. Law is to help people live ON Earth, rather than escape Earth. If that is true then it would make sense that the New Testament tells us that law was never intended for the purpose of "justifying" (pardon-ing) man. Law cannot justify anyone. That was never its purpose. The Father pardons man. Jesus, also, pardons man. That is grace. But justification (pardon-ing) is not a function of law – thus, Gal. 2:16.

Law defines right and wrong. It doesn't erase sin. Only grace can do that. The spirit of God changes man's nature and redeems him. Law cannot do that, and was never intended for that. Law was given to man, not for the purpose of changing his nature or redeeming him from his sins, but to guide and govern his conscience, which in turn guides and governs his life ... directing him away from sins. Jesus gives man holy spirit, which redirects his nature by giving him a new conscience. The new conscience governs his nature by discriminating between good and evil; between what is wholesome and what is destructive. Soon, the essence of his nature begins to evolve into a malleable vessel for the Lord's use. This requires regeneration of the spirit (heart). It also requires a road map (law) to guide the new man in his new life.

CHAOS OR CHRIST

Man has the option of either governing his nature ... or being governed by it. He can be ruled by his belly and let himself be pulled into degradation, or he can opt for God's plan to govern him and rise to a higher paradigm. God's law gives man the option to avoid

degradation. It shows him the way to govern his nature and his life so that a better life is possible. Law cannot give man a new nature (higher conscience) – only God’s spirit can do that. But God’s law is meant for the new man in Christ. It gives him the necessary tools to pursue his good intentions born of his new conscience, so he can put them to work. God’s law is the godly man’s road map to success and blessing. Thus we are not left to guess how to engage the enemy in our battle against the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (I Jn: 2:16).

It is God’s spirit that gives higher life to man’s conscience. But it is law that gives the new conscience a context and a reference: a road map, if you will, whereby it can find its intended way and do its job, guiding the new man in Christ through all the trials of life and its many pitfalls.

4. *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit.*

Rom. 8:4

12. *...the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*

14. *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*

Rom. 7:12, 14

The churches have taught millions of religious dupes that the law was carnal and had to be replaced by faith and grace. But the truth is that faith and grace are pointless without law. Faith and grace are intrinsic WITH law – not alternatives to it. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Yahweh (Gen. 6:8, Heb. 11:7). And Abraham was the father of the faithful (Rom. 4:6, Heb 11:8-10).

Grace does not do away with law. Rather, it forgives sin. Sin demands judgment. Judgment demands a penalty; a sentence. Grace lifts away the penalty without affecting the law. We weren’t saved from law. We were saved from the “curse” (penalty), which is death. Christ died for our sins.

23. *For the wages of sin is death;*

Rom. 6:23

2. *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

Rom. 8:2

Without law there can be no sin. Without sin there is no need for grace. On the other hand, if there is need for grace then there must be sin, and therefore law. Grace and law come as a set. They offset one another. Without one the other would be pointless.

The “handwriting of ordinances that was against us,” which Yahweh nailed to Jesus’ cross (Col. 2:14) was the pen-

alty for our sins. God’s laws were not nailed to the cross. The debts (penalties) incurred from past sins were nailed to the cross. Those sins were canceled and justified (pardoned) whereby God reconciled (redeemed) us.

18. *But if you are led of the Spirit, you are not under (in debt to) the law.*

Gal. 5:18

Thus, we are not “under the law.” “Under the law” means “in debt to the law” – i.e., having unpaid penalties from past judgments. Jesus canceled our debts. Now we are “under” (in debt to) grace, for it was grace – not law – that forgave and redeemed us.

14. *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under (in debt to) the law, but under (in debt to) grace.*

Rom. 6:14

God saved man so many times and in so many ways. He saved us by giving us LAW to guide us; FAITH to seek Him and his favor; and GRACE to forgive our sins. And his greatest gift of grace was Jesus Himself ... to show us the Father and teach us of his law. Jesus gave us an example to live by, and spirit to motivate us.

God’s law is “the law of liberty” (Jms. 1:25). If man will follow it he can live free.



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