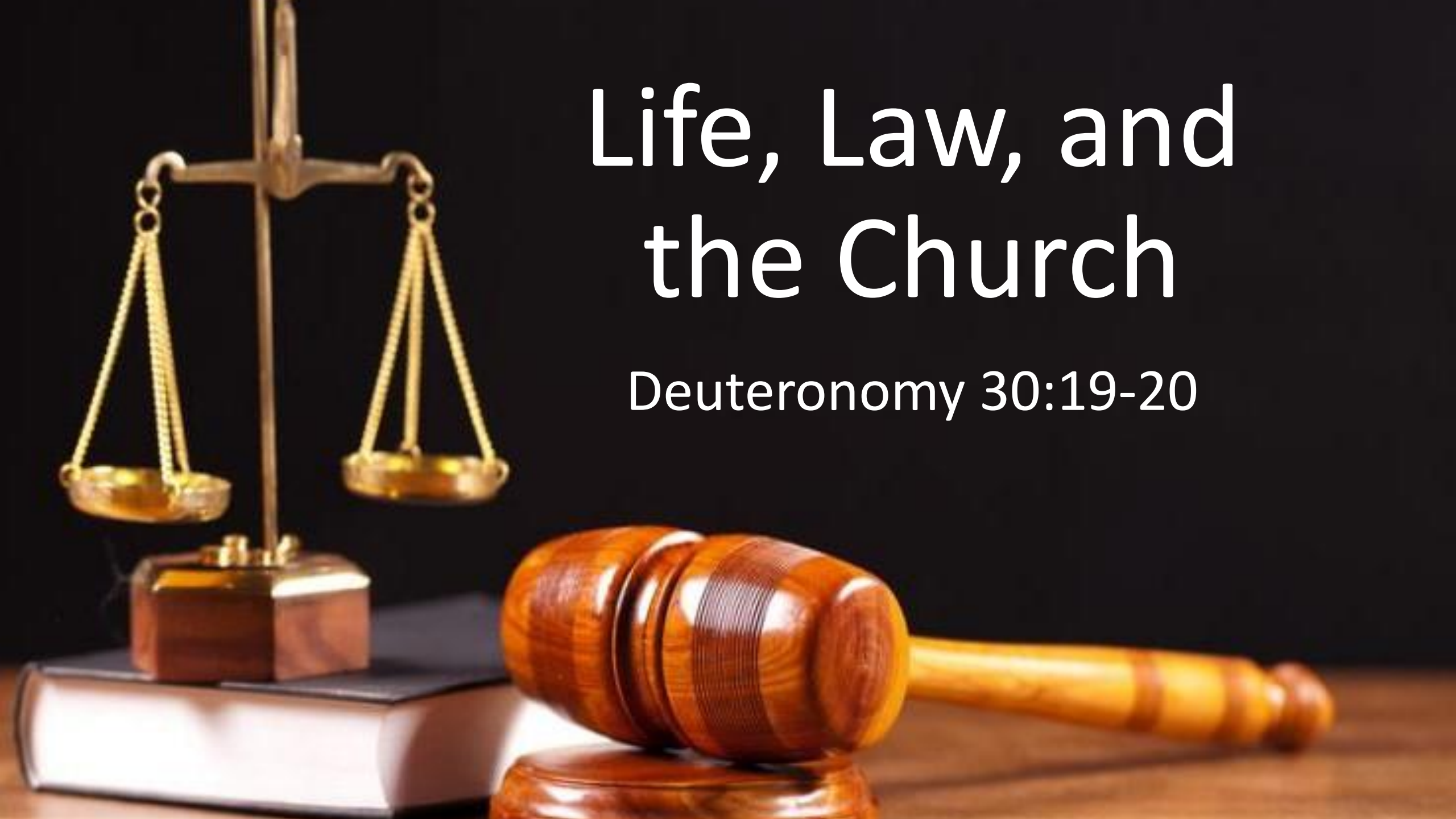


Life, Law, and the Church

Deuteronomy 30:19-20



Preliminary Points

When reading Scripture, we must be careful not to inappropriately flatten its meaning.

As a people with a completed Canon of Scripture, we have a great advantage in the interpretation of it over those who only had a part.

1 Peter 1:10-12

As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.

Preliminary Points

When reading Scripture, we must be careful not to inappropriately flatten its meaning.

As a people with a completed Canon of Scripture, we have a great advantage in the interpretation of it over those who only had a part.

We must not separate the Old Testament from the New Testament, rather we must use the New to inform our understanding of the Old.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today,
that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.

Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,
loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to
him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell
in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham,
to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Main Point

If we are to please Christ, we must understand the life and the Law He has given, and how His Law bears upon Church life now.

Life, Law, and the Church Life



Life

Its nature

The Nature of Life

It is physical/temporal

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I have set before you **life and death**, blessing and curse.

Therefore **choose life, that you...may live...**

...for he is **your life** and **length of days**,

...that you may dwell **in the land**.

Moses' exhortations clearly speak to *physical* life and to the *temporal* nature of that life.

The Nature of Life

It is physical/temporal

It is spiritual/eternal

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I have set before you **life** and death, **blessing** and curse.

Therefore choose **life**, that you and your offspring may **live**...

...for he is your **life** and length of days,

...that you may **dwell** in the land.

Though explicitly physical/temporal,
we know that spiritual/eternal life was also
included in these and other exhortations.

John 3:3-6

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

Physical Life

John 3:3-6

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

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Spiritual Life

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Eternal Life

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Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of

water and the Spirit **he cannot enter into the
kingdom of God.**

That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

John 3:9-10

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?”

Jesus answered and said to him,

“Are you the teacher of Israel
and do not understand these things?

Jesus expected Nicodemus to know these
things, but how would he know them
if not from the Law and Prophets?

Remember our Preliminary Point

When reading Scripture, we must be careful
not to inappropriately flatten its meaning.

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Remember our Preliminary Point

Because we only see and handle the physical and because we are immersed in a materialistic culture, we are tempted to separate life into physical/spiritual categories forgetting that these were not meant to be separated.

The Nature of Life

It is physical/temporal

It is spiritual/eternal

It is individual/communal

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that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.

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loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to
him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell
in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham,
to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

This “you” must be individual!

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth to witness against **you** today,

that I have set before **you** life and death, blessing and curse.

Therefore choose life, that **you** and your offspring may live,
loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to

him, for he is your life and length of days, that **you** may dwell
in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham,
to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

This “you” must also be communal!

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that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.

Therefore choose life, that **you and your offspring** may live,
loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to

him, for he is your life and length of days, **that you may dwell**

in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham,
to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Jeremiah 7:23

But this is what I commanded them, saying,
“Obey My voice, and I will be your God,
and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way
which I command you, that it may be well with you.”

Covenant Belonging = Communal Belonging

Jeremiah 7:23

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“Obey My voice, and I will be your God,

and **you will be My people**; and you will walk in all the way
which I command you, that it may be well with you.”

Life

Its nature

Its necessities

The Necessities of Life

Generation and regeneration

John 3:3-6

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

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Generation

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Regeneration

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Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit.”

John 3:7

“You **must be** born again.”

The greatest necessity of true and lasting life is regeneration by grace!

The Necessities of Life

Generation and regeneration

Knowledge and instruction

John 3:10

“Are you the teacher of Israel
and do not understand these things?”

Jesus expected Nicodemus
to have a *knowledge* that formed
his basis of *instruction*.

Life-saving faith requires knowledge
which requires instruction.

Romans 10:13-14

“Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?

How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard?

And how will they hear without a preacher?

We believe in Someone, and that
Someone must be known in truth
if there is to be true faith.

The Necessities of Life

Generation and regeneration

Knowledge and instruction

Repentance and Faith

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

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Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,
loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to
him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell
in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham,
to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Repent! Turn to Him!

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that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.

Therefore **choose life**, that you and your offspring may live,
loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to
him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell
in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham,
to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Believe! Entrust yourself to Him!

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Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,

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in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham,
to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Jesus' Teaching

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying,
“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the gospel.”

Was this a new teaching?

Paul's Teaching

Acts 20:20-21

I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of **repentance** toward God **and faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The life we have in Christ cannot be separated from repentance toward God and faith in God's Son.

Life, Law, and the Church

Life

Law



Understanding the Law

Its revelations

What does the Law reveal?

The nature and character of God

Note the connections between love,
faith, and obedience.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

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Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,

loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice

and **holding fast to him**, for he is your life and length of days,
that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers,
to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Their faith in and love for God that
leads to obedience would flow from
His revelation of Himself to them,
just as it will for us.

What does the Law reveal?

The nature and character of God

The duties of man

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

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that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.

Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,

loving the LORD your God, **obeying** his voice and **holding fast**
to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may
dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers,
to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

What does the Law reveal?

The nature and character of God

The duties of man

The way of righteousness

Deuteronomy 4:8

What great nation is there that has statutes
and judgments as righteous as this whole law
which I am setting before you today?

Proverbs 12:28

In the way of righteousness is life,
And in its pathway there is no death.

Understanding the Law

Its revelations

Its categories

What are the categories of the Law?

Moral

Examples

Do not use the LORD's name in vain.

Honor your father and mother.

Do not murder.

Do not covet.

What are the categories of the Law?

Moral

Civil

Examples

Tribal divisions

Judicial arrangements

Sanctuary cities

What are the categories of the Law?

Moral

Civil

Ceremonial

Examples

The sacrificial system

Priestly garments

The festivals

Understanding the Law

Its revelations

Its categories

Its purposes

What are the purposes of the Law?

To reveal God to us.

What are the purposes of the Law?

To reveal God to us.

To reveal our sin to us.

What are the purposes of the Law?

To reveal God to us.

To reveal our sin to us.

To reveal the Christ to us.

Luke 24:27

Then **beginning with Moses** and with all the prophets,
He explained to them the **things concerning Himself**
in all the Scriptures.

What are the purposes of the Law?

To reveal God to us.

To reveal sin to us.

To reveal the Christ to us.

To reveal righteousness to us.

Psalm 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalm 119:172

“For all Your commandments are righteousness.”



Life, Law, and the Church

Life

Law

The Church

What is the relationship between the Law and the Church?

The Law and her justification

What is the role of the Law in our justification?

Romans 3:20

...by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight;
for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

What is the role of the Law in our justification?

Romans 3:20

...by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight;

for **through the Law comes the
knowledge of sin.**

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

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Knowing that **a man is** not **justified** by the works

of the Law but **through faith in Christ Jesus,**

even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be

justified by faith in Christ and **not by the works of the Law;**

since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

You cannot be justified before God
by your keeping of His Law!

But does this mean that the Law
no longer applies to us?

What is the relationship between the Law and the Church?

The Law and her justification

The Law and her sanctification

Jesus' Teaching

Matthew 5:17-19

Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Paul's Application

Romans 13:8-10

“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another;
for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

For this, “*You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder,
you shall not steal, you shall not covet,*” and if there is any
other commandment, it is summed up in this saying,
“*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”

Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Love does not supplant the Law;
the Law explains and illustrates love.

What is the relationship between the Law and the Church?

The Law and her justification

The Law and her sanctification

The Law and her standard

What was Israel's standard?

Deuteronomy 13:4

You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him;
and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice,
serve Him, and cling to Him.

What is our standard?

Luke 9:35

Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying,
“This is My Son, My Chosen One; **listen to Him!**”

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to **observe all that I commanded you.**”

Jesus' Commandment

Matthew 5:19

Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Who was the giver of this Law anyway?

What is our standard?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
so that the man of God may be adequate,
equipped for every good work.

Conclusions:

You are not under the Law for justification;
you can only be saved by faith in Christ.

Our sanctification is conformity to the holy
character of our God and Father.

All Scripture reveals God to us; therefore,
all Scripture has application for us.