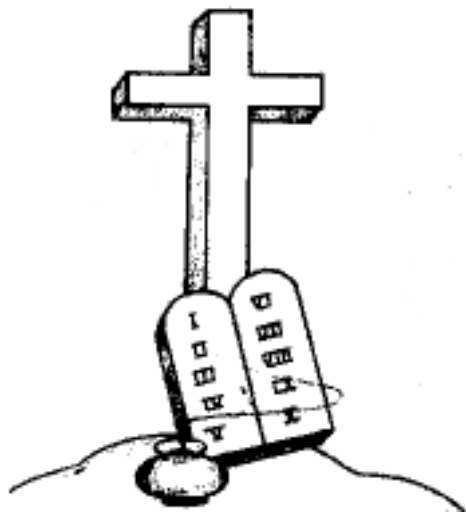


The

Mosaic Law

In the Light of the

Gospel



By Emerson Wilson

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Chapter I | |
| False Refuges | 1 |
| Chapter II | |
| The Law of God and the Law of Moses | 8 |
| Chapter III | |
| The Sabbath | 12 |
| Chapter IV | |
| Christ Fulfilled the Law | 17 |

Chapter 1

FALSE REFUGES

If the saints of today are going to accomplish what God wants us to, we are going to have to start where the church started, with what she had. That which sent her on her way rejoicing and made her more than a conqueror was the baptism of God's Holy Spirit in the hearts and lives of the people.

The children of God who are scattered here and there do not represent a working force because they are cut off from the members.

We read in Revelation 8:7, "The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up." When the trumpeters began to sound, we were taken back to the morning time, the first hundred years of the history of the church. The Word tells us that there was hail and fire mingled with blood.

Isaiah says that hail swept away the false refuges where souls were hiding. A false refuge is a hiding place where souls seek to hide and feel they are safe with such Gospel as is preached and are ready for Heaven and have real salvation; but the truth of the matter is, they are being deceived. If there has been no experience of the new birth, they are as lost as if they were out in the world and made no profession.

Isaiah 28:15-17 reads: "Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the

hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place."

The prophet is saying that when the stone was laid in Zion—when Christ died on Calvary's cross and rose from the dead the foundation for true Christianity would be laid. The hail which he said will sweep away the refuge of lies is solid and positively clear truth of God's Word. The truth of God's Word was going to be turned loose. That truth will overflow the hiding places and sweep away the false doctrines taught by men.

People do not want to believe that the religious world is full of lies. During the dark days of Roman Catholicism and the cloudy days of Protestantism, false teachers of religion set forth lies of every kind, and many people are building their organizations on the teachings of these same religious leaders. So it is that multitudes are being deceived by the teaching and are not spiritually ready for Heaven.

For this reason, in all mercy to souls and in view of the eminent return of our Lord, the Church must be awakened! God is calling on born-again Christians who are the true saints of God, the Church, the bride of Christ to arise and declare the truth in this closing day of time.

The Roman Catholicism Refuge

In 1 Timothy 4:1-2 Paul wrote to Timothy, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy. . . ." In this particular Scripture, Paul was speaking of the false system of religion in the second stage of the apostate church, the Roman Catholic teaching full of untrue doctrine.

Reader, please do not be offended if you are a Roman Catholic. There are some good people in Catholicism, but they are deceived. The system and teaching is false and is of Satan. False things are taught the people, and if these teachings are compared to Scripture,

it is easy to understand that they are not according to God's Word and will never take you to Heaven.

These teachings are many, but we will mention only two. One is "forbidding to marry." God never told anybody that ministers may not marry. Another one is the teaching to "abstain from meats." Nowhere in God's eternal Word can you find one Scripture that would point to the idea that you could eat fish on Friday, but not steak; yet, it is taught for doctrine.

There are plenty of people in that organization who, because these and many other false teachings are old and of long-standing, believe and cling to them. Also, because of the multitudes that believe in them, they fail to question if they are according to God's Word.

In the Dark Ages, when Roman Catholicism rose up, the people had departed from the true faith by giving heed to seducing spirits, as was prophesied.

Those same seducing spirits are working today. Any spirit that will turn you away from obeying God's eternal truth when He brings it to you is a seducing spirit, and it has only one thing in mind: to turn you away from the faith.

In 2 Thessalonians, Chapter 2, Paul speaks of sin that raised up the pope of Rome. Paul used symbols, because if he had named the thing out, his head would have been cut off earlier than it was. He could call it the man of sin and call the working of it the mystery of iniquity and the saints knew what he was talking about, but Rome did not. Second Thessalonians 2:9-11 reads: "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."

A ministry fell away from the faith, and seducing spirits got hold of them. They went out speaking, preaching, and teaching, but they were preaching lies in hypocrisy. What kind of people did they get hold of? People that did not love the truth when they heard it. God

saw that they did not love it, so He sent a strong delusion on them and let them believe the lies the false teachers were bringing.

Jesus said, ". . . because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12). When your love waxes cold, the seducing spirits will influence you and you begin to believe a lie and maybe go on and be damned by it. It is needful for us to keep spiritual and keep our experience up to par—keep our love for truth and for God firm.

Paul, in the fourth chapter of Ephesians, admonished the people of God: "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the faith in the bond of peace" (verse 3). "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (verses 11-14).

That same spirit which was working back then is working today, only in a more seductive and deceptive manner. The cunning craftiness of men is on every side, waiting to deceive any who will be led off. That is why many of God's children are out in Babylon when they belong in Zion. A false ministry, by cunning craftiness, weans people away from the true message by killing its effect and leads them away from the truth. There are also hypocrites who will even lie about the saints, and unless you stay up to par and keep close to God, you will believe the lie and lose confidence in them. God has no hypocrites, but at times there are some among the congregations, and if your love gets a little cold toward the message and the messenger, you are in a shape to be deceived and misled.

It is necessary to speak plainly in telling of the work of Satan so that people may be able to see him working. "Speaking lies in hypocrisy" is saying things in such a way that they are not made

clear. These lies are such that they can be taken two ways, and shaded enough that they are taken the wrong way.

In the beginning, it was men who knew the truth and were more able to minister than most today who became deceived and seduced in the apostasy. The dragon deceived and won over a third part of the stars (ministers). Why? They failed to line up with God's Word and to be as ministers what God's Word said to be.

Accepting part of God's Word and refusing other parts will damn your soul in hell. The enemy will cause you to feel that some parts are not important or necessary.

Also, to those who would listen to truth, the enemy puts a fear that it will hurt your faith to listen to strong, plain truth. It will not hurt you; it will help you. If you are not guilty, it will build you up. If you are guilty, it will scorch you; and you need to be scorched if you are guilty.

The Unknown Tongues Refuge

Another false refuge is the teaching of tongues. It, too, is the work of Satan. The "unknown" tongue is not a witness of the Spirit! A God-given Bible language is one of the gifts of the Spirit. (Read 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12.)

The Millennium Refuge

When Christ took David's throne and became King over the Kingdom of God, He became head over the church at the same time. The church is built, and God is calling His people out of Babylon and back to Zion to take a stand for the truth. There is no future hope for Israel or any other people; just the present hope of the Gospel. Romans 1:16 reads, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

The Mosaic Law Refuge

The wrong teaching of the Mosaic Law is another false refuge. When the early church sounded the trumpet, hail, fire, and blood followed and began to sweep away the false refuge of unbelief and self-righteousness, and this upset the Law. Why? The Jews were taking a refuge in that Law. They thought that by the deeds of the Law they were sure of Heaven. Then the early morning ministry came preaching and upset the whole thing and definitely proved that by the deeds of the Law there could be no justification of sin.

Many people are confused and deceived when it comes to rightly dividing the Word of Truth. They say that the Law of Moses was perpetual and was to last forever and that we are still under the Ten Commandments.

Let us look at the Mosaic Law in Acts 13:34-39. (The truth taught by those who believe will convince honest hearts.) We read: "And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption. Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

The message was spoken to people who were holding on to the Law. They were all leaning too much on David, but the author of these words explained that David went to the grave and saw corruption, but when Christ went to the grave, He saw no corruption, and through THIS MAN is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins. And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

We read in Romans 3:19-25: ". . . what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth might be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God."

Through Christ, we can be justified from things that we could not be justified from under the Law. The third chapter of Romans tells us we are justified from ALL sin. The old Law dealt only with the sins that God named.

Colossians 2:13-17 reads: "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days. Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."

Chapter II

THE LAW OF GOD AND THE LAW OF MOSES

Colossians 2:14 states that the handwriting of ordinances which were against us was nailed to the cross. There was only one Law, and it was nailed to the cross. The Seventh Day Adventist will admit the sacrifice of animals and the burning of incense was nailed to the cross, but they say the sabbath was not. However, how could part of the Law be nailed to the cross when Paul said that Christ nailed it to the cross? Their "answer" is that the Law of Moses was nailed to the cross, but that the Law of God existed before that, and it was the Law of God that set up the sabbath. Paul said to let no man judge you in respect of a holy day or of sabbath days. The sabbath day was nailed to the cross. There is no difference between the Law of God and the Law of Moses.

Ezra 7:6: "This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the LAW OF MOSES, which the Lord God of Israel had given. . . ."

Ezra 7:12: "Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the LAW OF the GOD of heaven. . . ."

Ezra was a scribe of the *Law of Moses* and a scribe of the Law of God.

Nehemiah 8:1: "And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the LAW OF MOSES, which the Lord had commanded to Israel."

Nehemiah 8:8: "So they read in the book in the LAW OF GOD distinctly. . . ."

The Law was given for the children of Israel to live by, and it was given by God through Moses. John 1:17 reads, "For the law was given by Moses. . . ."

Ezra 7:6 teaches that God gave the Law of Moses. Second Chronicles 34:14 says the Law of the Lord was given by Moses. So the Law of Moses was given by the Lord and the law of the Lord was given by Moses. Therefore, there is only one Law.

Nehemiah 9:13-14: "Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest to them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and thy holy Sabbath and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant." God made known His holy sabbath unto Israel on Mount Sinai when He gave the Law. That is where man first heard about the sabbath by the hand of Moses.

There is a teaching that only animal sacrifices, incense, lighted candles, and so forth, were abolished when Christ was crucified, and that they were abolished because they were part of the Law of Moses, that the real Law, which was written on stone, did not contain animal sacrifices; therefore, it is perpetual and goes on forever. Nevertheless, the Law of God did pertain to animal sacrifices. "He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, to wit, for the morning and evening offerings, and BURNT OFFERINGS FOR THE SABBATHS, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in the law of the Lord" (2 Chronicles 31:3).

Jesus was brought to the temple, as we read in Luke 2:23-24: "(As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the LAW OF THE LORD, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Mary and Joseph brought a pair of turtledoves when they came to offer Jesus. That was in the Law of God.

The Law Was Changed

Since the Bible plainly states that these are in the Law of God, the big question is: Can the Law be changed or done away with? If the Law has not been done away with, then we must still kill

some animals and shed blood around the altars. If the Law of God cannot be changed, then we have no Gospel.

The Law not only can be changed, but it was changed. God abolished the sabbath with the same authority that He did the animal sacrifices. I shall read to you where the Bible says that the Law of God had to be changed.

God, in the book of Acts, Chapter 13, has promised the sure mercies of David. There is no way in the world of showing the sure mercies of David unless the Law was moved out of the way, because the Law said: "Stone him," "Kill him," and the like.

Hebrews 7:12 reads, "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." In Hebrews 9:11 we read: "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come. . . ." When Christ came as a New Testament high priest, He fulfilled the old Law, and after He fulfilled it, He nailed it to His cross. The Law of God was changed.

The Law of the Spirit, according to the eighth chapter of Romans, is so much stronger than the law of sin and death, that if the law of the Spirit is in me I can live free from the law of sin and death. We cannot live holy by the commandments, but the Law of Christ is so much greater it brings you up to a higher level and puts the Spirit in you and empowers you to make the goal.

The old Law was weak through the flesh. It could not enable you to attain, but when God puts His Spirit in man, he is fitted up above the Law. The old Law said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," but the new one said that you must not even look at a woman to lust after her. The old Law said, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor," but the new Law says that all liars have their part in the lake of fire. We could not live free from sin under the old Law, for it was weak in the flesh.

"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:13-14).

Not only can the Law be changed, it was changed, and it was changed when we got our new High Priest. Hebrews 10:9-10: "Then said I ye, Lo. I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

The Adventist will tell you that Roman Catholicism changed the Law. However, they did not change the Law. Christ changed the Law hundreds of years before the Roman Catholic church was ever heard of. Christ took away the first covenant (in that old covenant and Law was the sabbath) that He might establish the second covenant, the New Testament. The whole Law was terminated and fulfilled in Christ.

God had a law for Adam, Cain, and Abel. He had a law for Noah before Moses was born. It was not the Ten Commandment Law that was given in Exodus, Chapter 20, but it was a Law of God, too. We are talking about the Law of God or the Law of Moses that incorporated within it the old sabbath, and when Jesus died upon the cross, He moved it out of the way that He might establish a completely new law.

Chapter III

THE SABBATH

Some say the keeping of the sabbath is a moral obligation to God. However, only religious duties, ordinances, and commandments are duties to God. Moral obligations are to our fellowman. Moral obligations are within man. You need no law, and you need not be taught it. When God made man, He put intuitions and understanding within him that he knows the moral obligations. The sabbath was no moral obligation. God gave that Law on Mt. Sinai, and Jesus nailed it to the cross.

Mark 2:23-28: "And it came to pass, that he [Jesus] went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn. And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful? And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungered, he, and they that were with him? How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar, the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him? And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath. [The sabbath was made to be a blessing for man, not for man to try to bless]: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath."

Christ could change the sabbath because He was Lord of sabbath.

Men had found fault with Jesus' disciples for eating because they were hungry on the sabbath, and He took them back to a time when David and his men had been fighting. The Law forbade anyone except the priest to eat the shewbread, but David asked for it that day and God approved of it. Christ said that the sabbath was for man and not man for the sabbath, and Christ is the Lord of the sabbath.

Paul said in Ephesians 4:8 that ". . . When he [Christ] ascended up on high, he led captivity captive. . . ." In Ephesians 1:19-21 Paul spoke of the power God wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand far above all principalities and powers and every name that was named.

Romans 4:25 states that Jesus was delivered for our offences and was raised again for our justification. Acts 13:39 reads, "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses."

In Exodus 23:11 we read that the sabbath was given that the Israelites might work for six days and be justified in taking the seventh day for rest from manual labor. In Matthew 11:28, Christ gives us a justified reason to rest from the labor of sin. The old Law gave a justified reason to rest from labor, but it could not give a justified reason to rest from sin. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

What do we mean when we say we are not keeping the sabbath, but it is keeping us? It means we are not keeping Christ, He is keeping us, for He is our Sabbath.

The old sabbath is a type of something. In Colossians, Chapter 2, we are told that the sabbath was a shadow of a reality. Deuteronomy 5:15 states that the Mosaic sabbath was a memorial between the Israelite nation and God.

There is not a Scripture in the Bible that God commands the Gentiles to keep the sabbath. When God gave the sabbath, He bound none but the Israelites and their generations. The Mosaic sabbath was a memorial and a sign. The Israelites were servants in Egypt, and God made a way of deliverance, backed up the Red Sea, and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They had been delivered, and the hand of God had delivered them. ". . . therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day" (Deuteronomy 5:15).

The sabbath day was to be kept in remembrance as a memorial, not just a day of rest from everything else-not just a day in which

no one works, but a day in which they were to take time to remember what a terrible shape they had been in. (If the saints would only take time to think how God has delivered them, they would be more filled with joy, thanksgiving, and praise!)

Exodus 31:16 reads, "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath. . . ." That is the only commandment God ever put in the Word of God for the Israelites only. Why? The Gentiles had never been delivered from Egypt; therefore, they could not keep the sabbath, for they had nothing to remember. The sabbath was given for people who had been in Egypt, and for their generations, because the Egyptian bondage was a type of sin.

Exodus 31:17 says that the sabbath is a sign between God and the children of Israel. Therefore, if the sabbath were being perpetuated today, it would be for no one but God and the Israelites.

The word sabbath is not found in the book of Genesis, because Moses did not write until twenty-five hundred years after the creation, and it was then he wrote "God rested on the seventh day"-looking back twenty-five hundred years. The sabbath did not begin in the garden. It began at Sinai with the Israelites.

No one can find a Scripture where God commanded one of the patriarchs to keep the sabbath; yet they walked with God and pleased God. Enoch pleased God so much that God let him bypass death and took him in on a special. He pleased God, but he did not keep the sabbath because he never even heard of it.

Let us put the Mosaic sabbath in the dispensation where it belongs and leave it there. The patriarchs were not commanded to keep the sabbath. For fifteen hundred years, from Sinai to Calvary, the Israelites were commanded to keep the sabbath and a penalty paid if they failed.

From A.D. 33, when Christ established the New Testament Church, to the last Scripture you find in the book of Revelation, there is not one verse that commands any one to keep the sabbath. That sabbath was a type and shadow of something. It was not the real body. However, we have a High Priest who brought good

things to come, and He brought the substance in, Paul said; and when the substance came in, the old shadow moved away.

Christ Is Our Rest

It was God's will that the Israelites rest on the sabbath day from manual labor and think about their great deliverance.

Genesis 49:10: "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." The word Shiloh is a Hebrew word, which translated into English means "a place of rest." Christ (or Shiloh) is our rest. He is our Sabbath of the Soul. Isaiah 11:10, "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse [Christ was the root of Jesse], which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious." An ensign is the standard, a gathering place for, the people. The army has an ensign when they raise the flag-they assemble to the flag. Isaiah said Christ is going to be an ensign to His people. Romans 11 fulfilled this Scripture. Paul wrote in the Roman letter that this was the fulfillment of Isaiah 11:10. Why are the Gentiles and everybody else coming to Christ? Because "his rest shall be glorious." There was no real rest gained in the Old Testament.

Hebrews 4:1-11 reads: "Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so

long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus [Joshua, according to the center reference. If Joshua could have given them rest, then there would have been no rest remaining for the people of God; but the land of Canaan was not the rest. It was just a shadow, a type, of the real experience of rest we find in salvation.] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

On the seventh day God rested from His works, so we must rest from our works and believe. You cannot get into this rest (salvation) through your own works. You have to give up as far as your own works are concerned. When the seventh day came, God quit His works. Paul said that if you will quit your works and have faith in the mercy of God, you can enter in to Christ's rest.

Chapter IV

CHRIST FULFILLED THE LAW

People will put up arguments against this truth saying that the sabbath was perpetual. However, read Exodus 31:16; 1 Kings 9:3-7; and Exodus 30:8. Every thing that God set up in the Old Testament worship was to be perpetuated as long as that law existed. God told Solomon that the temple would be His dwelling place perpetually; but Solomon's temple is gone! The temple service and the sabbath were to be perpetual as long as literal Israel were God's people.

Of this temple, in the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew, Jesus said that there would not be one stone left on another. He was not only Lord of the sabbath and changed it, but He was greater than the temple. He said on one occasion, "A greater than the temple is here." Jesus brought forth a New Testament dispensation with a new temple, a new type of worship, a new kind of rest. We moved from the shadow into the substance.

Others will tell you Jesus kept the sabbath, and He is our example in all things. He not only kept the sabbath, but He kept the Passover, and He kept the rest of the Law. Why did He keep it? Galatians 4:4 tells us he was born under the Law; therefore, He went along with the Law until He fulfilled it. Since He was born under the Law, He lived under the Law; but when He died, He nailed the Law to the cross and brought in a new Law.

Paul preached on the sabbath day because the Jews were still keeping the sabbath, and he took advantage of the fact that they gathered together, and while they were there, he preached to them, but he was not a sabbath keeper. If he had been a sabbath keeper, they would not have stoned him and thrown him out. They threw him out because he preached something in contrast to the Mosaic Law. ". . . This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law" (Acts 18:13).

Paul was born under the law, just as Jesus was, but when Paul

was converted, a change took place in his soul and he was a new creature. Old things passed away and he preached for the very thing he had been fighting against. (When he kept the Law, he persecuted The Church of God.)

"If the commandments are abolished, then people can steal, lie, and commit adultery and never be punished," people say. But they have no understanding of the Scripture. In the Old Testament, just some certain sins were dealt with, but in the New Testament ALL sins are condemned. Also, the Gospel gives one the power to live a changed life.

Jesus came to fulfill the Law. He said in Matthew 5:17-18: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." The Mosaic Law was supposed to last till all be fulfilled.

It was fulfilled on the cross. John 19:30: ". . . he [Christ] said, It is finished. . . ." In John 17:4, when Christ prayed the high priestly prayer, He said, ". . . I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

Luke 24:44-47: "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me [Israel's whole doctrine was the Law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms.] . . . And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Hebrews 1:1-2 reads: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son. . . ."

God divided time into dispensations. We had the dispensation of the patriarchs. God told Adam to do certain things. He told Noah in his day to build an ark for the saving of his house. God spoke

through the prophets to Israel and Israel had to do what God told the prophets to tell them to do. Now, in these last days we are in the dispensation of the Holy Ghost.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus was transfigured before Peter and John. Peter, as usual, spoke out, saying, "Let us make three tabernacles, one for Moses, one for Elijah, and one for Christ." But a cloud came down and God spake out of Heaven, "This is my beloved Son, hear HIM." God is speaking through Christ now.

Christ taught a new covenant. After Jesus rose from the dead, He said that all power was given unto Him in Heaven and Earth. He gives the terms of pardon for all mankind. Mark 16:15-16: ". . . God . . . and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

In so many words, Christ said to His disciples. "You saw me hang on the cross and die, and you saw Joseph carry me to the tomb. I had to do this that the words of the Law and the prophets and the Psalms might be fulfilled, but that is not the only reason. I have opened up a new Gospel so that repentance can be preached in all the world."

Therefore, when Christ died and rose again, He sealed, He fulfilled, He finished the Law and opened up the Gospel message. The Mosaic Law has no power now over man.

Romans, Chapter 7, teaches that Christ died to free us from the Law so that we could get married to another, even Christ. The Mosaic Law has no power over us anymore.

Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Keeping the Law will not do you an ounce of good. That which will send you to Heaven or hell is your attitude toward the Gospel.

If you will repent, God will remit your sins. He will remove

them as far as the East is from the West. In Romans, Chapter 8, we read how God will put a new law within you, a law of the spirit of life: The law of the spirit of life is stronger than the law of sin and death, and when the old law of sin and death comes round and you are tempted, there will be a law in you stronger than the law of sin and death and you can say no and live right for God.