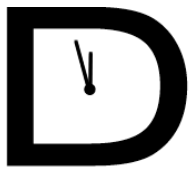


DECISION

Law Abiding Citizens

*Allowing the Law
to Enhance your Faith...*

April 6th, 2010



DECISION

Law Abiding Citizens

Allowing the Law to Enhance Your Faith.

Romans 3:20b-22a – “for through the **Law** comes the knowledge of sin. But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested being *witnessed by the Law* and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe...”
(the Law is referred to 6 times in 5 verses, see below)

Where did “The Law” Come From?

God had instructed Abraham and his descendants over the years, but had not given them an official system of moral, social, or civic law. Once the Descendants of Abraham grew into a nation-sized group, he decided to give them the homeland he had promised Abraham, and as a part of this, he gave them the laws that they would need to live by to remain righteous and faithful to God.

Read: **Exodus 19:1-8**

Exodus 20: (The Ten Commandments) v. 3, 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Exodus 20:18-22a – the people refuse to come close to hear God, so God uses Moses as a mediator instead of talking directly with the people. God would rather speak to us directly, but sometimes if we are resistant to his voice, he chooses to speak to us through another means (friends, family, circumstances, etc.).

Exodus 21:1

Answer Me This:

1. Reconcile Exodus 20:20:
“Do not be afraid... God has come... in order that the fear of Him may remain with you so that you may not sin.”
 - In what ways is a healthy “fear of God” beneficial to our walk with God? How does it help us avoid sin?
2. Are you receptive or resistant to God’s voice?

In Jesus’ day, the people of Israel had the most understanding of the Law than at any point in their history.

- The Pharisees and Sadducees were effective teachers of the law. Even trades people were learned in the law and the prophets. Peter (a fisherman by trade) stood up on the day of Pentecost and preached about the prophecies that were suddenly being fulfilled in the moment in which he stood. The law and prophets were taught on a weekly basis in the Temple and in local synagogues.

The people of Israel knew the Law... Yet they failed to recognize the Messiah the Law was meant to point us to, (AKA Jesus!).

Romans 3:19-24 – “Now we know that whatever the **LAW** says, it speaks to those who are under the **LAW**, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the **LAW** no flesh will be justified in His sight; **for through the LAW comes the knowledge of sin.** But now **apart from the LAW the righteousness of God has been manifested**, being witnessed by the **LAW** and the Prophets, even the **righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ** for all those who believe for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.”

The Law is meant to reveal our need. Not just a general, non-specific need, but a **specific need for Christ Jesus’ redemption.**

Breakaway Discussion

Consider how God’s law is impacting your life?

1. Why is it better to have more knowledge of your sin as opposed to less?
2. How is it that we acquire more knowledge of our sin? (at least three ways)
3. How can God’s Law/Word (the Bible) improve your knowledge of your sin?
4. How can the redemption extended by Jesus help you overcome the sin that the Word/Law has revealed in your life?
5. How can “the Law” serve to enhance our faith and walk with Jesus?