

Faith Class Grades 7–8
Understanding Law and Gospel—Our Walk
Through
The Old Testament / New Testament

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As we approach the Holy Scriptures and its reading, we must do so believing these are the very Words of God. It is God's revelation to man; God revealing Himself through His Word. That's powerful. His Word reveals that He created us (Gospel); it describes how we walked or fell away from God (sin). From the beginning it also reveals God's intent to bring us back into relationship with Him once again (Gospel). The Word is very clear that God always takes the initiative or action to be in relationship with us (Gospel).

When we fell away from God, God took the initiative and showed us what we fell away from (His Holiness—perfection) by giving us The Ten Commandments (Law). It is only through the Law that we are able to view our sinfulness—exactly how much we've fallen short of God's perfection. Left in this condition man is destined for hell. So trying to solve the problem of coming back to God ourselves is first of all impossible, and second, only gets us into trouble. When we try to keep the Law based on our decisions and actions, God has no choice but to condemn us. Our only hope of being freed from sin, death, and the power of the devil is to believe that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ as our substitute who kept the Law perfectly for us (Gospel). The Law has been given that we might see our imperfection, our sin. In sorrow, we then recognize our sin or how far we've fallen from God, make confession of it, and repent of it (a willingness to turn a new direction with the help of God). In so doing, God leads us to The Gospel—the saving work of Jesus Christ, which then saves us.

God uses these two actions, Law and Gospel, to bring us back into relationship with Him again. Let's take a look at what the Law and Gospel mean so that we are better able to understand the Scriptures as we read them, and in so doing, be convinced that God's blessing in Christ Jesus, the forgiveness for your sins, and Eternal Life with Him now and forever in Heaven are yours—without question.

The Law—What purposes does it serve?

- The First Use of the Law helps to control violent outbursts of sin and keeps order in the world (a curb). It shows me the boundaries, if crossed, where sin will harm me. God showing man the line that is not to be crossed without consequence.
- The Second Use of the Law accuses us and shows us our sin (a mirror). When I view myself in the mirror, I notice my imperfections. When I look at the Law (The Ten Commandments), I see my sin. I see the line I crossed that God told me not to cross.
- The Third Use of the Law teaches us Christians what we should and should not do to lead a God-pleasing life (a guide). This is my response of love to God. The power to live according to the Law comes from the Gospel (God's power that He gives to us comes through Jesus Christ who kept The Law perfectly for us.).

The Gospel—What purpose does it serve?

- God pronounces and provides forgiveness of sin and eternal life through the Gospel.
- The Gospel is the Good News that we are freed from the guilt, the punishment, and the power of sin, and are saved eternally because Christ Jesus kept the Law and His suffering and death for us.

What is the difference between the Law and the Gospel?

- The Law teaches what we are to do and not to do; the Gospel teaches what God has done, and still does, for our salvation. In other words, God's response to us.
- The Law shows us our sin and the wrath of God; the Gospel shows us our Savior and the grace of God.
- The Law must be proclaimed to all people, but especially to impenitent (not sorry) sinners; the Gospel must be proclaimed to sinners who are troubled in their minds because of their sins.

Recognizing Law and Gospel in the Bible Text

a. The Law

1. Right and wrong written on every person's heart.
2. God's judgment due to man's disobedience.
3. Man's response or obedience of faith in love for God.

b. The Gospel

1. When God responds with grace, forgiveness, love, and blessing for man.

**Parents along with their children are encouraged to always call
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text, or email (bcloeter@hbc.com)
Mr. Bob Cloeter with questions they may have.**

