

Eleutheros Newsletter

July 2016

Updates from Eleutheros Books

God willing, 300 copies of [The Ramifications of Our Salvation](#) will soon be printed and made available to Bible College students, pastors, and Christian leaders in Kenya and Uganda!

To learn more, check out www.eleutherosbooks.com
Then click on "[African Book Project.](#)"

Recently my dear friend Robert Miller was taken to the Intensive Care Unit at Cleveland Clinic. He is receiving excellent care there but is still in serious condition; so please pray for this very kind and sincere believer in Jesus Christ who has a great heart for souls!

The Role of the Law (part 2)

But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith ([Galatians 3:23-24](#)).

The Old Testament Law, of course, was originally given by God to Israel through Moses. During its time in Egypt (over 400 years) Israel had been transformed from a family (73 souls) to a nation (most scholars agree that there were at least 2,000,000 Jews alive when they vacated Egypt in the mid 15th century B.C.).

Last month we noted that the Law was threefold in nature: ceremonial, civil, and moral.

We also saw that it was quite cumbersome. Believers in Old Testament times had to approach a priest who would then offer an animal as a sacrifice. There was also the disadvantage of having to wait or look forward to the deliverance that would come.

Questions should be asked and answered. What is the role of the Law today?

- 1. It was never intended to save.** *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 ([Galatians 2:16](#)).*
- 2. It shows man that he cannot live up to God's standards.** *Now we know what things soever the Law saith, it saith to them who are under the Law; that every mouth be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God ([Romans 3:19](#)).*
- 3. It is God's tool to bring people to Christ.** *But before faith came, we were kept under the Law, shut up unto the faith which should afterward be revealed. Wherefore the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith came, we are no longer under a schoolmaster ([Galatians 3:23-25](#)).*

The Greek noun translated "schoolmaster" is *paidagogos*. This particular word is quite interesting.

In the Greek papyri and other ancient literature it has been discovered that in many cases a *paidagogos* was a highly educated slave. When the owner of the estate wanted to send his son to a good school (often quite a distance from the home), he would entrust the care of his son to that educated, trustworthy slave.

Instructors would give their lessons, but the *paidagogos* would make sure that discipline would be administered when it was needed. For all intents and purposes this slave was the one who was to make sure the boy did what he was supposed to do.

This is exactly the role of the Law. It shows us that we are sinful. It points us toward the grace of God when we realize we cannot save ourselves. This is what is meant by the phrase "our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ." Just as the slave made sure that the boy did what he was supposed to do, the Law, properly

understood and applied, brings us to our Savior!

4. **It is good if it is used as God intended.** *But we know that the Law is good, if a man use it lawfully. Knowing this, that the Law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for unholy and profane, for ungodly and profane, for murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine: According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust ([I Timothy 1:8-10](#)).*

As long as it is made clear that the Law never did and never can save; that it is an important part of morality for us today; and that it can and should bring us to the place of repentance, then these are good uses of the Law.

Despite the clear Biblical teachings to the contrary and the exhortations of many that we cannot save ourselves, there are still quite a number of people who are convinced that they can be saved by keeping the Law or living their version of a moral life.

This was a problem in Paul's day. There were false teachers who had perverted the Gospel message, suggesting that salvation was accomplished by circumcision and strict observance of the Law or a number of additional "man made" regulations. The Apostle wasted very few words in dealing with this crucial issue:

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another Gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other Gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed ([Galatians 1:6-9](#)).

Other verses make the point clear:

For what the Law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending

His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh
[\(Romans 8:3\)](#).

For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to every one that believeth
[\(Romans 10:4\)](#).

Once for All

Philip. P Bliss

*Free from the Law,
O happy condition,
Jesus has bled,
And there is remission;
Cursed by the Law
And bruised by the fall.
Grace has redeemed us
Once for all!*

*Once for all,
O sinner, receive it!
Once for all,
O brother believe it;
Cling to the cross,
The burden will fall!
Christ has redeemed us
Once for all!*