"WHAT THE LAW COULD NOT DO"

Romans 8:3

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Romans 8:3:
   (1) Paul had just said, "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the Law of sin and death" -- Rom. 8:2
   (2) Then in verse 3 he teaches the Law of Moses could not do this.
   (3) The reason is: one of weakness -- a weakness identified with the flesh.
   (4) The Law partook of this weakness because it had not the capability of freeing them from the sins that through weakness were committed.
   (5) The Law wasn’t competent to recover those who violated its requirements -- Heb. 8:7

2. Many seem to think there is no difference between the Old and New Testaments -- II Cor. 3:6

3. Some think either, or both, will save -- Gal. 3:21

4. Let us study what the Law could not do.

I. THE LAW COULD NOT LAST FOREVER

1. The Law was WEAK -- Rom. 8:3
2. The Law was to be FULFILLED -- Matt. 5:17
3. The Law was TEMPORARY -- Gal. 3: 19, 16
4. The Law COULD NOT PROVIDE COMPLETE FORGIVENESS -- Gal. 2:16; Rom. 3:20; Heb. 10:1 - 4
5. The Law was IMPERFECT -- Heb. 8:7
6. God said He would make a NEW covenant -- Jer. 31:31
7. The Law was NAILED TO THE CROSS -- Col. 2:14; Eph. 2:18

II. THE LAW COULD NOT OVERLAP THE NEW COVENANT

1. The Law was a SCHOOLMASTER to bring us unto Christ -- Gal. 3: 24 - 25
2. The Law had to be TAKEN AWAY before the New Covenant could be established -- Heb. 10:9; 8:13; Eph. 2:15

III. THE LAW COULD NOT BRING TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. If the Law could not make man righteous, Christ would not have had to die -- Gal. 2:21; 3:21
2. Paul said, "For Christ is the END of the LAW for righteousness to every one that believeth" -- Rom. 10: 4

IV. THE LAW OF MOSES COULD NOT JUSTIFY

1. Paul said in Acts 13:39 --"Ye could not be justified by the law of Moses".
2. JUSTIFY means: to declare, pronounce one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be.
3. Paul said in Gal. 2:16: "For by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified".
4. Gal. 3: 10 - 11; Rom. 10:5

V. THE LAW OF MOSES COULD NOT GIVE ONE A GOOD CONSCIENCE FROM SIN
1. Under the Law there was a REMEMBERANCE again made of sins every year -- Heb. 10:1 - 4
2. Heb. 9:9; 9: 13 -14
3. Now, under the Law of Christ, we can have a good conscience -- I Pet. 3:21

VI. THE LAW OF MOSES COULD NOT GIVE ETERNAL REWARD
1. Heb. 9: 6 - 8; 9:15
2. Under the New Testament we can receive eternal reward -- Heb. 10:19

VII. THE CONSEQUENCES OF MIXING THE LAW OF MOSES AND THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST
1. Christ will profit you nothing -- Gal. 5:2
2. You are a debtor to do the whole law -- Gal. 5:3; Rom. 10:5
3. You are fallen from Grace -- Gal. 5:4
4. It is sinful -- Acts 15: 23 - 29; 15:24

CONCLUSION
1. We are now under the law of Christ -- John 1:17; Gal. 6:2
2. Christ has done for us under His law what Moses’ Law could not do -- Rom 10:4

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