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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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I Timothy Book Study (#7)

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GOD'S PURPOSE OF THE LAW AND SALVATION

Our lesson text is one Greek sentence with one complete thought. The thought that is introduced by Paul to Timothy is God's Purpose for Law and Salvation (1 Tim.1:8).

There is a doctrinal conflict in the Church of Ephesus regarding the mechanics of salvation in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The **teachers of the Law** (1 Tim.1:3-7) were teaching believe gospel plus works in order to be saved as in (Acts 15:1) "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, **you cannot be saved.**"

<p>This lesson will study three aspects of God's Purpose of the Mosaic Law and Salvation.</p>
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In this study, we will learn that **God's purpose of the Law was never to save mankind** (at best, [Gal.3:23-25](#)).

1. These teachers of the Law were teaching that Jewish circumcision at 8 days old qualified Jews to be saved by faith through grace.

- However when it came to Gentiles, they believed circumcision was necessary along with believing gospel to be saved (Acts 15:5; Gal.2).
- They were teaching that keeping the Law was the means of gaining the Righteousness of God that resulted in eternal life. This is **not true**, but what they believed it to be true with "confident assertions" (1 Tim.1:7).

In (Luke 18:18-25), Jesus dealt with a Jewish ruler (archon) who thought this very thing. He would have been a ruler of Jewish law like Nicodemus (John 3:1).

- He is referred to as the "Rich Young Ruler." He asked Jesus, "Good teacher, **what shall I do to inherit eternal life?**" (Luke 18:18)
- He wanted confirmation from Jesus that keeping the law was the means of righteousness that resulted in eternal life. But what he got was the message the message of **James 2:10-11 (read).**

Jesus told him, "You know the commandments" (Ten) (EX.20:7-17)

[Two tablets - a God tablet and a man tablet].

- How many commandments from the man tablet did Jesus list?
- Which commandment did He leave out?
- Did the ruler notice which one? Why not?
- What did he take for granted? (Lk.18:21) Was he right?

Notice what Jesus told him in (Luke 18:22): "One thing (commandment) you still lack?"

- Instead of telling him that he missed COVETOUSNESS, Jesus used it in application of the ruler's life (Lk.18:22).
- **Listen to Law:**"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty (judicially) of all." (James 2:10)

This had to be one of those "oops" moments for this young man!

2. It is important to remind you that Paul was an expert in the Mosaic Law (ML)

(Phil.3:3-11). “Circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee.”

Paul had been an inspiring theological student of Gamaliel, a distinguished teacher of the Law (Acts 22:3-5; 5:34-39).

Yet the Mosaic **Law could not save** this expert of it nor can it save anyone else! Whether it was Nicodemus, the Rich Young Ruler, Paul, or YOU! (Acts 9, 22, 26; **26:14-18, 22-24, 28/ read**).

3. When we examine our lesson’s Greek text sentence, the first thing we notice is the reverse order of a 3rd Class Conditional Clause (3cc) (Maybe true or not true) (1 Tim.1:8).

Paul put **the apodosis** (the **then** part) before the **protasis** (the **if** part) to put emphasis on God’s Purpose of the Law and Salvation.

- **The Apodosis:**

- “But (de) [explanatory conjunction. further explaining (1 Tim.1:3-7)] we **know (oida)** (Perf.a.ind.1pl) (horaο) [To know absolutely] that (**hoti**) [Conjunction of objective clause] the Law (ho nomos) is good (kalos) [Intrinsic good because it comes from God – it is a gift, not a result of works or wages],

- **The Protasis:**

- **If** (3cc) one uses (chraο/ p.m.subj 3ps) it lawfully (nomimos/ adverb), (comma)”

The Point: A person will use the Law or not use the Law based on what he believes about God’s Purpose of it.

(1 Tim.1:7) “Wanting to be teachers of the law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they made confident assertions.” (Acts 15:1 for example)

The Apostolic Creed of Acts 15:

(Acts 15:11) “But we believe that we are **saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus**, in the same way as they also are.”

Based upon the Person and Work of Jesus and not by works of the Law:

(1 Cor.15:3-4) “**That Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, and **that He was buried**, and **that He was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures.”

Works salvation by man and is never finished, but works salvation by Jesus Christ was **finished at the Cross!**

(John 19:30) “**It has been finished!**” (tetelestai) (perfect passive indicative 3ps).

In Jesus Christ and not in the Law, your salvation is finished FOREVER (perfect tense) **in time and in eternity** (Heb.7:27; 10:10; 1 Pet.3:18).