

Consequences of Keeping the Law of Moses

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If one keeps the law of Moses today, these are the results:

1) Makes Justification Impossible. Justification is the process by which sinful man is declared or made righteous in the sight of God. This occurs not by the works of the law, but by the faith of Christ (Gal. 2:16). “But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith” (Gal. 3:11). One simply cannot keep the law of Moses today and be justified!

2) Causes Some Things to Be in Vain. The word “vain” suggests useless; having no meaning. Three examples:

Christ died in vain. “... if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain” (Gal. 2:21). There would have been no need for Christ to have died, if one is God-approved by Old Testament law-keeping today.

Brethren suffered in vain. Paul asked the Galatians, who had experienced persecutions because of the gospel, “Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain” (Gal. 3:4). They suffered for no reason, if they were going to keep the law of

Moses.

Paul laboured in vain. Paul said, “Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain” (Gal. 4:11). Paul’s hard work on behalf of the Galatians in bringing them to Christ was to no avail, if they keep the law of Moses.

3) Puts One Under a Curse. “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them” (Gal. 3:10). Why would you want to be under a curse, when “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us... That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ...” (Gal. 3:13-14)?

4) Reduces One to Servant Status. In Galatians 4:1-7, Paul uses the illustration of an heir as a child (under the age of legal responsibility) versus a son (legally considered an adult). The child is an heir with no more legal rights than a servant. The son is an heir with full legal rights. Before Christ, under the law, they were like

servants. After Christ, they are “no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” Why revert to being a child when you are a son and possess the Father’s blessings?

5) Puts One in Bondage. The law of Moses was “a yoke... which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear” (Acts 15:10). Paul appeals to the Galatians, “Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1). Why be in bondage when Christ has made us free?

6) Makes Christ Unprofitable. Paul informed the Galatians, “... that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing” (Gal. 5:2). Christ is of no help or benefit to the individual that is circumcised as a condition for receiving salvation.

7) Obligates One to Do the Whole Law. Again Paul says, “... to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law” (Gal. 5:3). Whatever is true of circumcision is true of every other part of the law of Moses. Some want to keep the sabbath

law, the tithing law, or the music law of the Old Testament. If we keep one command of the law, we are obligated to keep every other command of the law. This would demand that we go to Jerusalem to worship, offer animal sacrifices, keep the dietary regulations, and every other requirement of the law. If not, why not?

8) Makes Christ of None Effect. Paul writes, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law..." (Gal. 5:4). To keep the law is to be estranged from Christ, and to be estranged from Christ is to be cut off from all spiritual blessings! (Eph. 1:3).

9) Causes One to Fall from Grace. Paul continues, "...ye are fallen from grace" (Gal. 5:4). This deals a crushing blow to the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints, "once in grace, always in grace." One who is seeking to be justified by the law of Moses has fallen from grace. You do not want to fall from grace, for "by grace ye are saved" (Eph. 2:5).

10) Makes the Apostles False Teachers. The apostles were guided into all truth (Jn. 16:13). They taught that we are "dead to the law" (Rom. 7:4) and "delivered from the law" (Rom. 7:6). They revealed that the Old Testament was "done away" (2 Cor. 3:7, 11, 14) and "abolished" (2 Cor. 3:13; Eph. 2:15). If the law is still in effect and is to be kept, then the apostles were wrong. If the apostles are right, then those who keep the law and teach men to do so must be wrong. Which is it?

11) Disqualifies Christ from the Priesthood. According to the law, one had to be of the tribe of Levi to be a priest (Num. 3:5-10). "For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood" (Heb. 7:14). Thus, "if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law" (Heb. 8:4). Yet, the Lord is not only a priest, He is "a great high priest" (Heb. 4:14). The Hebrew writer concluded, "For the priesthood being changed, there

is made of necessity a change also of the law" (Heb. 7:12).

12) Shows Disrespect for the Authority of Christ. Christ has "all authority in heaven and in earth" (Mt. 28:18). At the transfiguration scene of Matthew 17, Moses and Elijah appeared with the Lord, Peter, James and John. Peter said, "...let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias." God had other plans. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (vv. 1-5). God has spoken unto us in these last days by His Son (Heb. 1:1-2). Christ is the Prophet raised up like unto Moses, whom we are to hear in all things (Acts 3:22-23). We are to do all in His name or by His authority (Col. 3:17).

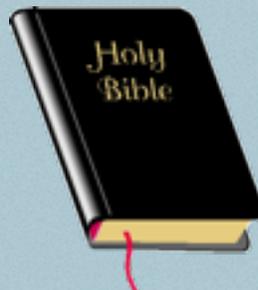
The law of Moses is no longer a standard of judgment (Col. 2:14-17). In the judgment to come, we will be judged by the word of Christ (Jn. 12:48). Being "under the law to Christ" (1 Cor. 9:21), let us "fulfil the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).

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