

Episode #337 – We Establish the Law 13: The Second Giving of the Law

I. I Timothy 1:7 speaks of those who desire to be teachers of the law. This is commendable. Many try to get people to memorize the Ten Commandments, or to keep certain parts of the law. Yet these remain in ignorance of all the Bible says about it. A true teacher sets forth accurately and fully all that the Bible says about it.

- A. John 14:15. Some refer this to the Ten Commandments, since Jesus Christ is the Jehovah Who gave them. They would claim we have no love for Christ if we do not keep the 4th commandment by observing Saturday as the Sabbath!
 - 1. Luke 3:11. A command through John from God. Do they keep it?
 - 2. Matthew 5:42. Christ commanded this. Why not keep it?
 - 3. Luke 12:32-33. Isn't this Christ's commandment?
 - 4. They ignore the specific commands of Christ, refer His words back to the Ten Commandments, and then claim they love Him because they go to church on Saturday! They repeat like a parrot what they have been taught, but do not know what they are saying or what the law is. They are among those I Timothy 1:7 speaks of.
- B. I Timothy 1:8-10. The law was given for lawbreakers like this who need it. By grace we are not like this, so the law is not part of our relationship with Christ.

II. Romans 3:31. Establishing the law.

- A. Faith here is not saving faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Faith only means that when it is clear in the context. Faith is taking God at His word and acting, thinking, and speaking according to it. Any word from God can result in faith, not just faith in the salvation-bringing message.
- B. We establish the law when we go to the Bible, discover what It says about the law, and then act, think, and speak according to it.
- C. Many seem willing to believe anything about the law except what God revealed. God's revelation clashes with the teachings of their denominations!

III. The Ten Commandments were the ten terms of a covenant (agreement) God made with the people of Israel. As such, they were not law until after they were broken!

- A. A law must be a rule or mode of conduct, demanding or prohibiting, made obligatory by some sanction imposed and enforced upon violation.
- B. When someone offers you a reward for doing things, that is not law.
- C. Exodus 19:3-6. A covenant is proposed with rewards for keeping it but no penalty for breaking it. Therefore, the Ten Commandments as they were originally given were not law at all!
- D. Exodus 24:12. This is the first time God speaks of law. The tables of stone contained the Ten Commandments. The law was that which we now have mostly set down in Leviticus, along with the commandments in Numbers.
 - 1. Before Moses could return with these things, the people sinned and broke the covenant contained in the Ten Commandments.
 - 2. Daniel 9:24. "The transgression" was something they could never be rid of apart from Christ. They will be rid of it in the kingdom of God.

IV. The Second Tables.

- A. Exodus 34:1. The first stone tables were the terms of an agreement. These second were law.

- B. The book of Deuteronomy was not a second giving of the law, but the revelation of the new relationship Israel bore to the law after breaking the covenant.
 - C. Deuteronomy 28 sets forth their new relationship with the law. Verses 1-14 set forth the blessings if they keep it, and verses 15-68 the curses if they break it. They would now be blessed or cursed based on their attitude towards the law. Under these conditions they entered the Promised Land.
 - D. After their transgression, Exodus 19:5-6 was no longer possible. Now, Deuteronomy 28:1 was the highest they could ever hope to achieve.
 - E. Deuteronomy 30:11-16. Moses' final words in this connection. Compare Romans 10:5-9, wherein these same words are applied to the gospel. It was just as possible for Israel to keep the law as it is for us to keep the gospel!
- V. Conclusion: It was impossible for Israel to enter into the blessings of the covenant until they were redeemed from the curse of their great transgression. They continued under the law with blessing or cursing following keeping or breaking it.