

# THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

Luke 16:14-18

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The Law exposes **false** righteousness. (vv. 14-15)

- *The Law **reveals** our hearts; the Gospel **renews** our hearts.*

The Gospel announces God's **true** righteousness. (v. 16)

- *The Law **prepares** the way; the Gospel **opens** the door.*

The Law remains God's **holy** standard. (v. 17)

- *The Gospel doesn't **invalidate** the Law, it **fulfills** it.*

The Gospel results in **genuine** obedience. (v. 18)

- *The Law **exposes** the sin we want to justify; the Gospel compels us to **freely** obey.*

# FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. **The Law exposes what the heart loves. (v. 14)** When Jesus confronts the Pharisees' love of money, He is revealing their deeper heart-problem. Where do you notice the Law exposing your own misplaced loves? How does Hebrews 4:12 help you understand what God is doing when you feel "cut" by Scripture? Matt. 23:25-28, Heb. 4:12-13, 1. Sam. 16:7, Rom. 7:7-12

2. **The Self-Justifying Heart. (v.15)** The Law condemns every attempt at self-justification. Jesus tells the Pharisees, "You justify yourselves before men." Why is self-justification so spiritually deadly? Looking at Romans 3:19-20 and Luke 18:9-14, how do we see this same temptation today—in Christian culture, workplaces, families, or ministry? Phil. 3:4-9, Is. 64:6

3. **The Good News of the Kingdom (v.16)** The Gospel announces the arrival of God's saving reign that the Law pointed toward. Jesus says that since John, "the good news of the kingdom of God is preached." How does this verse show the shift from the era of the Law to the era of the Gospel? Using Galatians 3:23-25 and Romans 10:4, discuss how the Law served as a "guardian" leading us to Christ. Mark 1:14-15, Heb. 8:6-13 (quoting Jer. 31)

4. **The Enduring Authority of the Law (v.17)** The Gospel does not erase the Law; it fulfills and upholds it. Jesus insists that not even a "dot" of the Law will pass away. How do we reconcile this with the fact that believers are no longer "under" the Law? Look at Romans 3:31 and Matthew 5:17-18—what does it mean that "we uphold the Law"? Rom. 3:21-26, Ps. 19:7-11

5. **The Law Still Reveals God's Will (v.18)** The Law continues to reveal God's moral will, showing our need for grace. Jesus uses divorce and remarriage as an example to show that God's moral Law still stands. How does this command both reveal God's design and expose our need for grace? Looking at Romans 7:12-14, how can we avoid responding to moral commands with either legalism or lawlessness? What does it mean to be free from sin and slaves to righteousness? Gen. 2:24, Ex. 20:14, Matt. 19:3-9, 1 Cor. 7:10-16, Rom. 6:18, James 1:25



"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now... Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle