

DEAD TO THE LAW

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In Romans 7:4 and Galatians 2:19 the apostle Paul has written that we are dead to the law but in each verse it is for a different reason.

Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Galatians 2:9 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

What is the difference between being dead to the through the body of Christ and dead to the law through the law? I think the answer to each statement will lead us to rethink our salvation and discover what it means to come out of great tribulation.

By the Body of Christ

I want to show you a parable Christ used to describe God's forgiveness.

Matthew 18:

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But inasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshiped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

29 And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I

forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

I would like to ask you two questions concerning what you have just read. Why did the king forgive his servant? The answer is found in verse 32, "because you desired me". Where does Christ even imply that someone else would come along and pay this man's debt? He doesn't! To believe God needs to have a human sacrifice before He can forgive is paganism. God forgives us because we desire Him to. The same principle is stated in the following:

Luke 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Understand this truth concerning Babylon.

Revelation 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Babylon is a symbol of all religious confusion. The three parts of this mindset (city) are Paganism, Catholicism, and apostate Protestantism. All three types of religion are based on the angry god concept: God is upset and needs to be appeased because I am a dirty, rotten sinner unworthy of His very gaze upon my soul. Paganism has been offering human sacrifices forever and the Catholic church began to offer Christ. The Protestants followed and today we are in such a terrible falling away it would take a miracle to turn it all around. This is why I keep reminding myself that denominations don't change, individuals do.

Christ's death was no surprise to God. He knows the end from the beginning and planned on using this event to manifest love. By looking closely at the cross we will see that God loved and forgave the very people who not only crucified His only begotten Son but tortured Him as well. God so loved the world...let that sink in! There hasn't been a time in your life that God didn't love you, even before your conversion. When you were lying, cheating, stealing, committing fornication and adultery, God loved you as much as He loves Jesus. By coming to the cross and recognizing His love even for Christ's killers I can believe God forgives me as well!

Now, how does this make me dead to the law by Christ's body? If God loves me just the way I am why would He expect me to keep these laws in order for His love to continue?

He already loves me so much He was willing to give up all of heaven in His only begotten Son. When John 3:16 becomes an experience and just a verse you will be loosed from all guilt and shame, and be able to apply this concept to the rest of the world letting go of all the blemishes you have carried from the wrongs done to you by others. You will be able to fulfill the very purpose of the law by loving God and your neighbor. Isn't this what Christ stated in Luke 10:25-28?

In Romans 7:1-3 Paul explains that a woman is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives and if she marries another before his death she will be called an adulteress. The woman spoken of here is the church. The woman is the submitter in a marriage and the church of Christ is to submit to her husband, Christ. If you are submitting to Christ and also begin submitting to the law you commit spiritual adultery.

Romans 7:3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.
4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

The one we submit to is the risen Savior.
Through the Law
Through the law I can become dead to the law too.

Hebrews 7:11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?
12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.
13 For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.
14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.
15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,
16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.
17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.
18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.
19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Let me sum up what is stated above. If you keep the law you don't have a high priest because Christ was not a Levite. Verse 12 is especially interesting because there is made of necessity a change of the law. Remember what Christ stated in Matthew 5?

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Now compare this with what Paul wrote.

Romans 7:

14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

The law is spiritual. It always has been. The change of the law happens in our hearts as we begin to see the spiritual meanings of the law and forsake the literal keeping of it. We make the transition from the old covenant to the new allowing Christ to give us the understanding His law of love.

2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

When we submit to Christ through the conscience He leads us to understand the love of God by means of the cross. Love is a more excellent way. We will love because we understand they know not what they do. We will know we are totally accepted by God and His perfect love will cast out all fear. We will become the church made whole... the 144,000.

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