

Sermon note by: Pastor kham, Secretary, CLCM

Greetings to you all in the precious blood [and] wonderful name of our Lord Christ Jesus. I am pastor Kham the secretary of Myanmar CLC serving our Lord with you for the same testimony of Jesus Christ. I would like to convey that our CLCM congregation from Myanmar is also sending their warmest greetings to you through me.

First of all I would like to praise God and to say thank you very much to Pastor Mark Gullerud, Board of Mission Secretary for extending to me an invitation to participate at this event as the representative of Myanmar CLC. Besides I wish to express my sincere thanks to missionary Pastor David Koenig also because it is through him that a wonderful fellowship like this between us in the Lord is possible.

The world we are living [in] is changing very fast. But we are not afraid to face it because our God is behind all of these things to make them to accomplish His eternal purpose. The Bible tells us that God's ultimate purpose is to bring together both in heaven and on earth one in Christ, and he is going to accomplish it through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. So the message I [have choose[n] too is the gospel so that we may encourage each one another in the great power of it.

In order that we can see it [more clearly] I have made my topic" **The Law and the Gospel**".

First of all I would like to look at the law. In the churches we understand that the term "**Law**" means the Mosaic Law written in the Bible generally the first five books of the Bible.

The Biblical law consist three kinds such as the moral law, the social law and the religious law or law concerning worship. The moral **law** has two parts as man's duty toward God (**Ex.20: 3-11**) and toward his fellow men (**Ex .20: 12-17**). The Bible clearly shows the function of the moral law as the expression of the character and will of God. It is the only standard of righteousness acceptable to Him. Thus the law has made man aware of his sinfulness (**Rom7:7, 13**), condemned him as a sinner (**Rom 7:9-11; Gal 3:13; James 2:9**), and thus removed any hope to be saved by his own righteousness.

The social law is to keep order in the families, in social communities and it is also rules to the functions of the state. In it there are many rules regarding marriage life (**Ex 21; 22; 34**). Children were to honor and obey their parents (**Ex 20:12**) There were rules for servants, for slaves and for strangers (**Ex 12; 21; 22**).

Crimes against society such as sexual violations, crimes against individuals were to be punished according to the **law** in the standard of God's holiness (**Ex 20-22; 23**). There were special orders regarding to the army (**Num 1; 2; 10; 26; 31**). There were laws of kindness even to animals (**Ex 23; 34**). The commandment of love whether for friends or strangers also was including.

(Ex 23). The defenseless ones such as fatherless and widows are to give support (**Deut 14-16**).

Basic principles for worship were outlined in the first part of the ten-commandment (**Ex 20:3-11**). The detail[ed] requirements of worship were given regarding the building of the tabernacle. Even though all these laws were given in the standard of God's holiness and righteousness man has no[t] any strength in him since he has a sinful nature.

Therefore, Paul said in **Rom 3:19** *that the law stops every mouth and all the whole world became guilty before God*. What the law brings to man is only curse (**Gal 3:10**). Paul gave himself as the example to show man's hopeless condition in order to attain the favor of God by his own effort said in **Rom 7:18, 23**. *"I know that in me nothing good dwells. For to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. I see another law in my members, warring against, the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin what is in my members"*.

Therefore, this fact gives us a question? If so why the law was given? What was the purpose of giving the law? Of course God has good reasons in giving the law.

First of all the Bible says, *" Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ that we might be justified by faith (Gal 3:24)*. In Bible times like a child was kept by a guardian till he is grown up the law was keeping God's earthly people Israel till Christ come.

Secondly the law was given to show man's terrible sin. The Bible says *" Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom3:20)*. From this verse we can see that what the law does is exactly like what the ultrasound scan does. Actually it can show the disease in our body such as of the liver, of the kidneys etc. But the ultrasound scan can give no necessary treatment. In this way the function of the law or the purpose of giving the law is to enlarge sins of men so that we can admit our hopeless sinfulness and come to God surrendering our life to God for His mercy so that we can be saved from the penalty of sin.

Thirdly the divine purpose of the law is to serve as the shadow of Jesus Christ, the Perfect atonement for sin. The Bible says *"... which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ" (Col 2:17; Heb 10:1)*.

All the animal sacrifices offered for sin in the whole Old Testament time and things in the tabernacle or the temple gave the shadow of Christ and the gospel of Him. For example the brazen altar is the picture or the shadow of the cross and the Passover Lamb is [the picture] of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the High Priest of the Old Testament according to the law Christ made reconciliation between the Holy God and the sinful man; He is alive to make intercession for His own (**Heb2:17; 7:25**).

Now I would like to go to the second part of my topic "**the Gospel**". The simple term "*gospel*" means "*good news*". In the Old Testament time when God told His people Israel that He was going to release them from their captivity and bring them back to their home land that was also "*good news*". In the same way when Jesus came to save the people from bondage to Satan and give them new life that also was "*good news*" (**Luke 4:16-19**). The gospel of Jesus Christ was promised by God in the Old Testament thus: "*The Spirit of the LORD God upon me. Because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the broken heart, to proclaim liberty to the captives, the opening of the prison to those who are bound...*" (**Isaiah 61:1**).

Now it is the gospel which says "*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those who were under the law that we might receive the adoption as sons*" (**Gal 4:4-5**).

The gospel is that "*...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and He was buried, and rose again the third day according to the Scripture*" (**I Corinth 15:3, 4**).

The Bible says thus what the gospel did to the law "*by His death on the cross Christ has wipe out the hand writings of requirements that was against, which was contrast to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross*" (**Col 2:14**).

Once again the gospels tell us what the blood of Christ accomplished. "*Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all having obtain eternal redemption*" (**Heb 9:12**).

Therefore the gospel tells to us "*... by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not yourselves. It is the gift of God*" (**Eph 2:8**).

Now I would like to sum the whole thing as follows:-

- (1) The law was given to show the helplessness of man to escape from God's righteous judgment.
- (2) The gospel is the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, the burial and the resurrection of Him.
- (3) The blood of Jesus gave the full payment to redeem mankind from the eternal punishment in the lake of fire.
- (4) By His death Jesus Christ has taken the Holy requirements of the law and has nailed them to His cross
- (5) The gospel says that we are saved by the grace of God and become heir of God's eternal Kingdom.
- (6) Therefore we are also saved from the bondage of fear to die. (**Heb 2:15**)
- (7) At the same time the gospel has made us witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Now I would like to make my conclusion:-

Now our country Myanmar has been changing in every way, and we hope the door to do the gospel ministry also will be wider opening in the future. Please pray for us that we could do more in the future. Even though we are living in the very difficult part of the globe it is very encouraging to us that you are here in the good part of it. Our churches will be waiting to hear good news from you. We will be praying so that God will bless each one of you so that He will enable you to help our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world for the sake of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the living good God of the Lord bless you all abundantly, to see the fruits of your works and to be glory to God for his extension God's Kingdom now and forevermore. Amen.