

The Christian and the Law of Moses

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Since the beginning of the church, there have been those who suggest Christians ought to keep parts of the old testament law. Even outside of the “7th Day Adventist” group today, there are many religious groups who teach that Christians are required to keep the Sabbath, or some of the feast days. Many seek their authority for instrumental music or other religious practices from the Old Testament. On the other end of the spectrum, we have those who suggest that since the Old Testament has been done away with, we shouldn’t spend our time reading and studying it. So what does God’s word tell us should be the relationship between the Christian and the Law of Moses?

I. The Old Law Was Completed and Taken Away

A. Galatians 3:15-25

1. Was the seed promise a part of the law?
2. Why was the law given?
3. Did the Law change the promises made?
4. What purpose did the law serve? Has that been accomplished yet?
5. What does Jesus confirm He was doing in relation to the law (**Mt. 5:17-18**)?

B. Col. 2:11-17

1. What did Christ wipe out?
2. What did Christ nail to the cross?
3. What law had to do with food and drink, festivals, new moons, Sabbaths which were a shadow of things to come?
4. How does Paul describe this in **Ephesians 2:14-18**?

C. 2 Cor. 3:6-18

1. Note the distinctions made between the Old and the New Covenant.

<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>

D. Jeremiah 31:31-34; Heb. 8:1-13; 10:1-18

1. Take note of the contrasts in these verses which make it clear there are two distinct covenants, one of which is binding on Christians today.

II. The Law of Moses & Law of God Is One and the Same Law That Has Been Done Away

- A. The argument made by some who seek to keep part of the Old Covenant
 1. The “ceremonial law” or the “Law of Moses” was done away with (including the sacrifices, feasts, temple worship, circumcision, dietary restrictions, etc.).
 2. However, the “moral law” or “Law of God” remains and is still binding (i.e. the 10 Commandments are binding on Christians).
- B. No such distinction is made in Scriptures
- C. Law of God and Law of Moses are used interchangeably throughout the scripture (**2 Chron. 31:3; 2 Chron. 34:14-15; Ezra 7:6, 10, 12; Neh. 8:1-2, 8, 14, 18; Neh. 10:29; Mark 7:10; Luke 2:22-24, 39**)
- D. One Law is mentioned repeatedly in reference to the Old Testament

In a future study, Lord willing, we will consider two more points relating to our relationship with the law. 1) What are the consequences if we seek to go back and keep part of the Old Law? 2) What then should we do with the Old Law, what is the benefit of spending time studying it today?