

**RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION  
IN THE CHURCH LIFE**

Message Two

**The Function of the Law as a Child-conductor  
to Lead the Children to Christ**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:10; 3:9; Rom. 5:20, Gal. 3:19; Exo. 20:3-17;  
Rom. 7:7-8; 8:3; 3:19-20; Gal. 3:23-24

**VI. God's intention in His economy is to accomplish a goal, that is, for the Divine Trinity to gain man to be His organism; God's economy is not to work out man's goodness; to work out man's goodness is something of God's enemy—Eph. 1:10; 3:9; Mark 10:17-18:**

- A. Due to man's fall and his not knowing himself, God was forced to insert, to add, the law; to add implies that something was not there originally; it was added later in order to expose man's real condition and true nature and thus show man the true picture of himself—Rom. 5:20; Gal. 3:19.
- B. The law describes to us what kind of God He is, what kind of image He bears, and what kind of attributes He possesses; hence, the law as God's portrait is called "the testimony" of God in the Old Testament—Exo. 32:15; Psa. 78:5.
- C. God considers His law as His requirement upon sinners; the contents of the law mainly are the Ten Commandments:
  - 1. The first three commandments require us to have only God and not have any idols aside from God—Exo. 20:3-7.
  - 2. The fourth commandment requiring man to take only God and all that God has accomplished for man as man's satisfaction and rest—Exo. 20:8-11.
  - 3. The fifth commandment requiring man to honor his parents and trace back to his source, his origin, the God who created man—Exo. 20:12.
  - 4. The sixth through the tenth commandments requiring man to live out the virtues that express God according to God's attributes—Exo. 20:13-17.
- D. The law of God being able only to expose man's sinful nature and wicked deeds—Rom. 3:20b; 5:20a.

**VII. As the testimony of God, the law is a portrait or photograph of God, thus, the first function of the law is to reveal God; in decreeing the law, God's intention was to reveal to His chosen and redeemed people what kind of God He is—Exo. 19:3-6:**

- A. He is a jealous God—Exo. 20:5; 34:14; Deut. 4:24; Rom. 9:13; 2 Cor. 11:2.
- B. He is a holy God—Lev. 19:2; Matt. 5:48.
- C. He is a loving God—Exo. 20:12-14; Matt. 22:37-40; Gal. 5:14.
- D. He is a righteous God—Exo. 20:5-6.
- E. He is a truthful God—Exo. 20:16; 1 John 1:5; John 8:44.
- F. He is a pure God—Exo. 20:17; Col. 3:5; Rom. 7:7-8.

**VIII. The second function of God's law is to cause His people to realize that they are fallen and far away from God; as a sinful and corrupt people, it is not possible for them to please God—Rom. 7:7-8, 11; Gal. 3:19:**

- A. The Children of Israel presumed that they could do whatever God required; they did not know that they were unable to fulfill His commandments and that they stood in need of His mercy—cf. Exo. 19:7-8.
- B. The function of the law on the negative side is to expose our sinfulness; apart from the law, we cannot know sin; but when the law comes, sin is exposed—

Rom. 5:13, 20; 4:15; 7:7-8, 11, 13; Gal. 3:19.

- C. The law, therefore, exposes our condition, showing us that it is impossible for sinners to fulfill the requirements of God's law—Rom. 8:3:
  - 1. The law of God not being able to give life—Gal. 3:21.
  - 2. There being something that the law of God could not do in that it was weak through the flesh of sinners—Rom. 8:3a.

**IX. A third function of the law is the function of subduing us; when we are exposed and subdued, we shall become humble before God; if we did not have the law, we would never realize how sinful we are, and we would never be subdued—Rom. 3:19; cf. Matt. 19:16-26.**

**X. The law of God has a positive function in God's hand; the law has become the custodian and child-conductor of God's chosen people to bring them to Christ—grace—Gal. 3:23-24:**

- A. In caring for their children, Christian parents need to preach the law to them; we should not first preach grace to the children—Duet. 6:7, 20-21; 2 Tim. 3:15.
- B. If we give them regulations according to the law, the law will keep them in custody for Christ; thus, we should first give them the law in a strong way.
- C. The law will expose them, guard them, and keep them, serving as a custodian to keep them for Christ.
- D. The law was used by God as a custodian, a guardian, a child-conductor, to watch over His chosen people before Christ came, and to escort and conduct them to Christ at the proper time—v. 24.