

The Gospel – A Rare Guest in the

A real point of difference between the Law and the Gospel is that the two doctrines differ in how they are revealed to humankind.

Man was created with the Law written in his heart. True, one result of the Fall is that the Law has become quite dulled in the conscience, but it has not been completely erased. The Law can be preached to the most ungodly person, and his conscience may tell him, this is true! In addition to sin, society has almost wiped out the conscience by deliberately teaching that sin is not sin. Please read Romans 2:14, 15; Romans 16:25,26.

For this reason strangely enough people respond more positively to Law preaching because the Law makes sense to a person



Why Grace?

Since the knowledge of the Law is somewhat understood by natural man without the Spirit of God, realize then that all manmade religions contain key elements of the Law. The law oriented person then advances in his or her religion by some act (s) of moral progress or improvement. In these religions man finds the answers within himself.

The Gospel is a teaching from God that is not native to our way of thinking. Only Christianity reveals how God sent Christ to do for us those things which we were unable to do for ourselves, and then to offer them freely to us as a gift of His grace. The Gospel is a special revelation



Tag Teaming

Had the Law not been written in humanity's heart, everybody would say, the Law is too cruel, nobody can keep the commandments in the perfect way that God demands.

When the Law is preached, men will become angry with God, but with no God standing there, they will lash out at the messenger. And yet when the Law results in a flare up of anger among your listeners, it is most likely because the Law is doing its job - to reveal sin in that person's life.

No person can be converted to believe the Gospel unless he or she has heard the message of the Law first. And the Law would be without any spiritual result if the



From Our Filthy Rags to Being Robed in His

The Law and the Gospel are also different in their contents. The Law tells us what we are to do, while the Gospel announces what Christ has already done for us. The Law makes moral demands of perfection from us, while the Gospel finds comfort in the perfect life that Jesus Christ lived for us. Please read James 2:10; Galatians 3:10-13

The Law speaks to us about the works we should be doing. Beyond this the Law offers no help to us in trying to achieve these things. And the Law offers no hope to us once we have sinned and fallen short of the Law's divine requirements of us. In the Law, God makes nothing except demands of us with no excuses. While the Gospel makes no demands of us whatsoever.



Gospel Invitation

“Yes, but doesn’t the Gospel demand faith of us?” Our Law-oriented ears often hear the Gospel as if it were Law because this is what sinners are expecting to hear from God. We hear a demand of Law when the Bible says, “Believe in Jesus and you will be saved.” However, it is not a strict demand, but really a kind invitation when God invites us to believe in Jesus. If you said to a starving person, “Come over hear to the table, sit down, and eat” he or she would not reply, “I will not take orders from you.” Instead he would understand your



Surprised by His

In John 1:17 we read, “For the Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. What a monumental statement this is, that the Gospel contains nothing but grace (God’s underserved love) and truth!

When reading the Law, and measuring ourselves up against its directives, we are terrified by the multitude of demands made upon us. If God told us nothing more than this [the Law] we would be overwhelmed with despair and would be lost forever.

God be praised that there is another doctrine, even though it is unknown or rejected by most of humanity. For what we could not do under the Law, Christ did for



Our Certainty, God's Promise

The Law and the Gospel also differ on this important point, by the kind of promises each makes. For while both promise everlasting life and salvation, the type of promise that each offers is very different.

For all of the Law's promises are made with the understanding that certain conditions must first be fully met and completely satisfied - including this one - that we must keep the Law perfectly without even one slip up if the Law is to vindicate our lives and save us. And so the promises of the Law are actually very deflating and disheartening, since they will always remain out of our reach as sinners. The Law offers us food but



It's not that we loved God...

Over and against this, is the comforting and unconditional language of the promises of the Gospel. It promises us salvation completely by God's grace without demanding anything of us. The Gospel asks nothing of us. It only speaks to us this way, saying, "Simply take what I have accomplished as your own and you have it."

Please read Romans 3:22-24;
Ephesians 2: 8, 9

