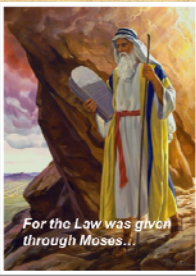



**Law vs. Grace: An Overview**  
Jim McGowan, Th.D.  
Sugar Land Bible Church  
05-15-2016.



For the Law was given through Moses...



...but grace & truth were realized through Jesus Christ - John 1:17

Special thanks to Dr. Steve Peterson for access to his insights and resources.

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**Outline**

- I. Our Purpose, Aim, and Objective
- II. Points of Contrast and Comparison
- III. Critical Insights into Christ's 1st Coming
- IV. Misunderstanding The Law & Christ's Earthly Ministry
- V. A Proper Response to the Grace Gift
- VI. Conclusion

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**I. OUR PURPOSE, AIM, AND OBJECTIVE**



...is to Compare and Contrast **Law** and **Grace** so as to properly understand these two important themes and *how they are related to the life of the New Testament Believer.*

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**2 Corinthians 3:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> [God] also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the **letter kills**, but the **Spirit gives life**. <sup>7</sup> But if the **ministry of death**, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading *as* it was, <sup>8</sup> how will the **ministry of the Spirit** fail to be even more with glory? <sup>9</sup> For if the **ministry of condemnation** has **glory**, much more does the **ministry of righteousness abound in glory**. <sup>10</sup> For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses *it*. <sup>11</sup> For if that which fades away *was* with glory, much more that which remains *is* in glory. (NASB95)



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**Disclaimer: NOT an Extreme Teaching!**



Looking at things in opposite ways

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview



**Biblical!**

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**A. Why Compare and Contrast?**

Israel under the Law



**GRACE** The Church under Grace

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

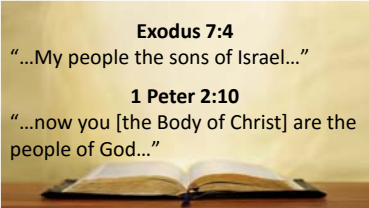
**A. Why Compare and Contrast?**

As we compare and contrast, we'll discover that there are indeed:

- similarities between Israel & the Church...

**Exodus 7:4**  
"...My people the sons of Israel..."

**1 Peter 2:10**  
"...now you [the Body of Christ] are the people of God..."



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**A. Why Compare and Contrast?**



- but there are also important differences between Israel under the Law and the Church under Grace.

Where are you blessed?



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

### A. Why Compare and Contrast?



The Same or Similar?

What is Different?

As we compare and contrast, we will avoid *extremes* simply by observing:

- what is the same or similar between Israel and the Church?
- what is different between them.

Fortunately, God's Holy Word clearly spells out these things.

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

### B. Does This Really Matter?

Why would we consider it so **important** to compare and contrast Law and Grace – Israel and the Church?

Isn't this all just much to do about nothing?



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

### B. Does This Really Matter?

"There is a tendency, however, for dispensationalists to get **carried away** with compartmentalizing truth to the point that they make **unbiblical differentiations**. An almost **obsessive desire** to categorize and contrast related truths has carried various dispensationalist interpreters (*Chafer, Ryrie, Hodges, etc.*) far beyond the legitimate distinctions between Israel and the Church. Many would also draw **hard lines** between salvation and discipleship (*justification and sanctification*), the church and the kingdom, Christ's preaching and the apostolic message, faith and repentance, and **the age of law and the age of grace.**" (bold & emphasis mine) John MacArthur Jr., *The Gospel According to Jesus*, page 31

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview


**B. Does This Really Matter?**



- For one thing, it is a matter of what the Bible actually says!

**1 Corinthians 10:11**

<sup>11</sup> Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction...



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**B. Does This Really Matter?**



- Secondly, properly understanding these distinction **impacts relationships and identities.**



God designed this life and eternity so as to require clarity of identities and relationships.

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview



**B. Does This Really Matter?**

*Clarity of Identities and Relationships*

**My Wife**



**My Daughters.**



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**B. Does This Really Matter?**

**YES! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH!**



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**Numbers 15:32–36** <sup>32</sup>

Now while the sons of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering wood on the sabbath day. <sup>33</sup> Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation; <sup>34</sup> and they put him in custody because it had not been declared what should be done to him. <sup>35</sup> **Then the LORD said to Moses, “The man shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.”** <sup>36</sup> So all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him to death with stones, just as the LORD had commanded Moses. (NASB95)



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**B. Does This Really Matter?**

**YES! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH!**



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**2 Corinthians 3:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> But if the **ministry of death**, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading *as it was*, <sup>8</sup> how will the **ministry of the Spirit** fail to be even more with glory? <sup>9</sup> For if the **ministry of condemnation** has glory, much more does the **ministry of righteousness** abound in glory. (NASB95)



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**B. Does This Really Matter?**

**YES! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH!**



God never intended that we in the Church live that way!

We're *already blessed*, so why would we strive and work under a **ministry of death and condemnation** in order to be blessed?

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**B. Does This Really Matter?**

**YES! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH!**



Because of our "identification in Christ," we died to the Law.

*Christ is now our life and our righteousness* so we don't have to try to FIND life or try to STAY ALIVE.

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**B. Does This Really Matter?**

**YES! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH!**

**Galatians 2:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> "For through the Law **I died to the Law**, so that **I might live to God**. <sup>20</sup> "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. (NASB95)



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview


**B. Does This Really Matter?**

**YES! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH!**



**Romans 7:4**

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ**, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. (NASB95)



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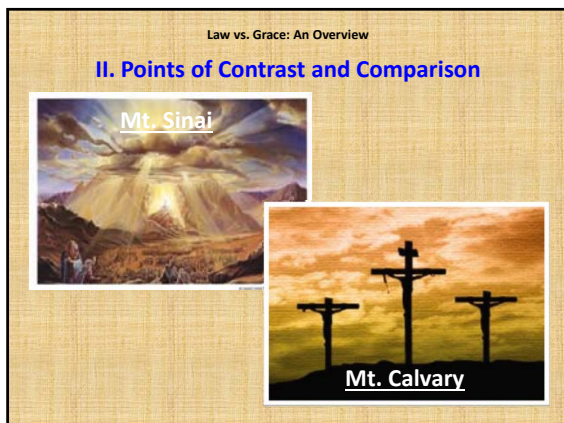
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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

## II. Points of Contrast and Comparison

Steward	MOSES	CHRIST
Governing Principle	Law	Grace
Who's Works are you depending on?	Self	Christ
People Group	ISRAEL	CHURCH
Baptism	Into Moses	Into Christ
Ministry Characteristic	Death / Condemnation	Spirit / Righteousness
Nature of Blessings	Conditional (If) / Earthly	Unconditional / Heavenly
Earthly Difficulties	Curses for disobedience	Growth or discipline

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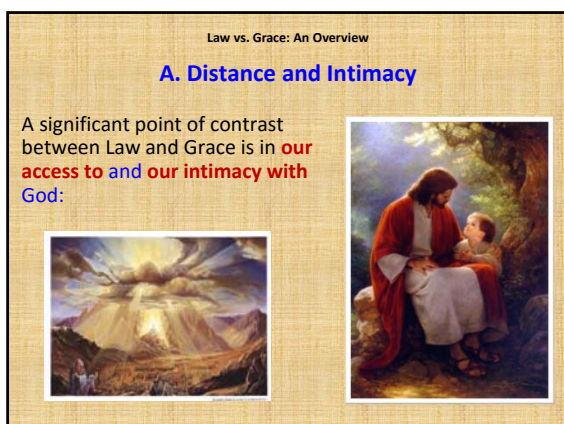
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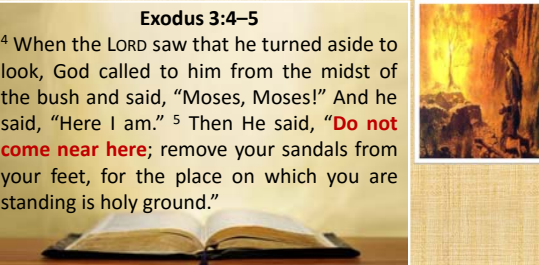
Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**A. Distance and Intimacy**

- Under the Law of Moses, distance from God was a **LEGAL REQUIREMENT**.

**Exodus 3:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then He said, "**Do not come near here**; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."



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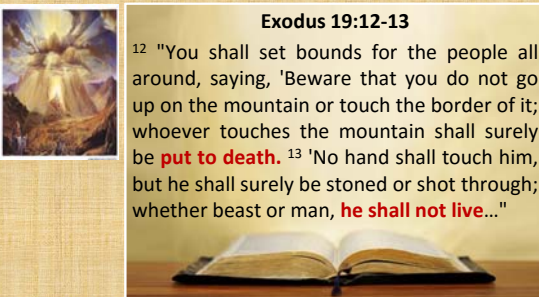
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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**A. Distance and Intimacy**

**Exodus 19:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> "You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Beware that you do not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it; whoever touches the mountain shall surely be **put to death**.' <sup>13</sup> 'No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; whether beast or man, **he shall not live**...' "



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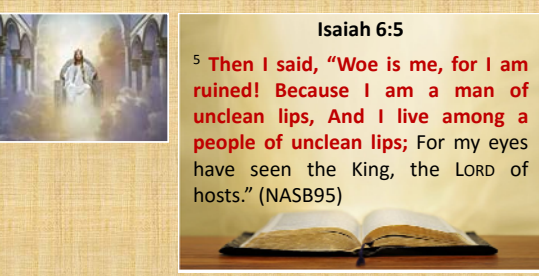
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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**A. Distance and Intimacy**

**Isaiah 6:5**

<sup>5</sup> **Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."** (NASB95)



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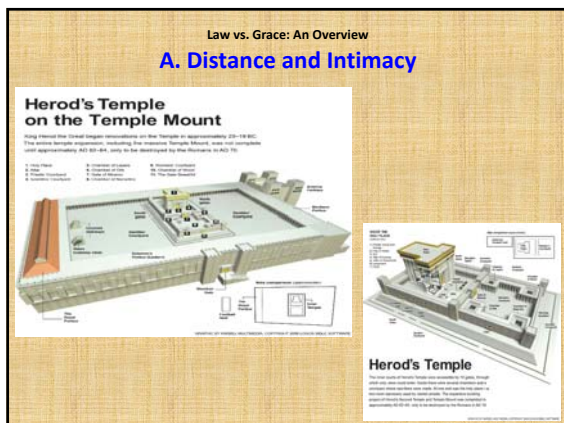
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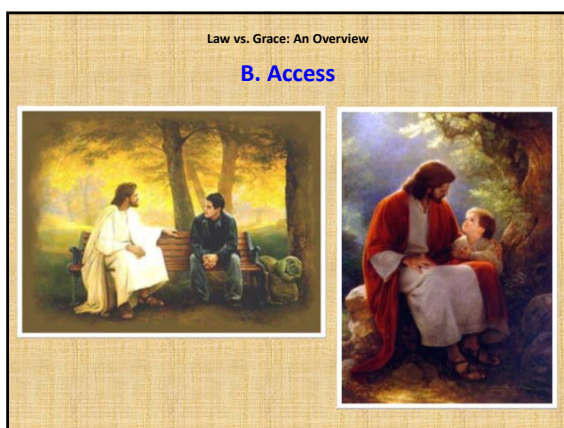
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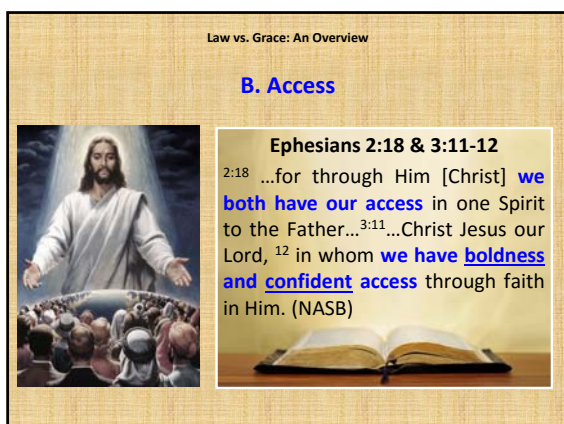
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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**B. Access**

**Hebrews 4:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.<sup>16</sup> **Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace**, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. (NASB)



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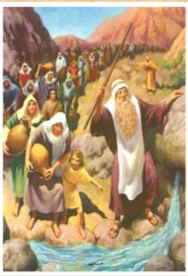

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**C. The Law Looks Ahead to Grace**

Moses recorded the things that happened to the Israelites **for our benefit and for our instruction**.



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview


**C. The Law Looks Ahead to Grace**

**Romans 15:4**

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in earlier times was written for **our instruction**, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

**1 Corinthians 10:11**

<sup>11</sup> Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for **our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**C. The Law Looks Ahead to Grace**

And among those benefits and things written for our instruction is that **THE LAW POINTS TO WHO CHRIST IS AND WHAT HE DID FOR US.**



Grace also looks back on the Law.

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**III. Critical Insights into Christ's 1st Coming**

While Christ was the steward who initiated the Church through the apostles in His first coming, His 3 years of ministry are often misunderstood by Christians.



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

### III. Critical Insights into Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> Coming



Christ was first sent to earth to be born a Jew, in the land of Israel, **TO APPEAL ONLY TO THE JEWS** to receive Him as their King and Messiah – *by preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.*

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

### III. Critical Insights into Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> Coming

**Matthew 10:5–6**  
 "...Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; <sup>6</sup> but rather **go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**" (NASB95)

**Matthew 15:24**  
 "...I was sent only to **the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**" (NASB95)




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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

### III. Critical Insights into Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> Coming

All but the very last part of the earthly ministry of Christ was **TO JEWS IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL**, as an appeal **TO LIVE UNDER THE LAW** and to accept Him as their King.




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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**III. Critical Insights into Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> Coming**

Only after it was abundantly clear that the Jews had rejected Him as their King, "**UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES**", did Jesus begin to introduce to His disciples the mystery of the Church.



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**III. Critical Insights into Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> Coming**

**Matthew 23:37-39**

<sup>37</sup> "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.<sup>38</sup> "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!" <sup>39</sup> "For I say to you, from now on you shall not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'" (NASB)



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

#### IV. Misunderstanding The Law & Christ's Earthly Ministry



Many believers in the Church now are trying to carry out parts of the Law:

- seeking its **Jewish earthly blessings**
- **forgiving so that they can be forgiven** by God
- **striving to imitate the earthly life** of Christ.

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

#### IV. Misunderstanding The Law & Christ's Earthly Ministry

These theological misunderstandings cause many Christians to misinterpret Grace as well, leading them to think that **they must do or not do things by living "under the Law"** in order to be blessed and have spiritual victory.



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

#### IV. Misunderstanding The Law & Christ's Earthly Ministry



**Romans 3:20**  
"20...**by the works of the Law** no flesh will be justified in His sight..." NASB



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**IV. Misunderstanding The Law & Christ's Earthly Ministry**



**Acts 15:10**

<sup>10</sup> "Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? (NASB95)




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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**IV. Misunderstanding The Law & Christ's Earthly Ministry**



**Galatians 5:1**

<sup>1</sup> It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. (NASB95)




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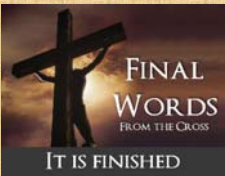
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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**IV. Misunderstanding The Law & Christ's Earthly Ministry**

Living "under Grace" it is not what we do or don't do, rather it is our reliance upon what Christ has already done that determines our blessings and spiritual victory.



We do or don't do things, not in order to be blessed, but **because we already are blessed.**



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**IV. Misunderstanding The Law & Christ's Earthly Ministry**

living under God's grace

**Ephesians 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has blessed us with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly *places* in Christ, (NASB95)



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living under God's grace

Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**IV. Misunderstanding The Law & Christ's Earthly Ministry**

**2 Peter 1:2-4**

<sup>3</sup>seeing that [God's] divine power **has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup> For by these **He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises**, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. (NASB95)



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

### V. A Proper Response to the Grace Gift

The Old Covenant (LAW) was very specific concerning human responsibilities. It was essentially an objective, external standard that God revealed for His people Israel without any special enabling grace. However the New Covenant (GRACE) rests on promises that include the indwelling and empowering presence of God's Holy Spirit who enables the believer to obey (John 14:17; 16:13; Acts 1:4, 8; Rom. 8:4). Emphasis mine.

Constable, T. (2003). Tom Constables Expository Notes on the Bible (2 Co 3:6). Galaxie Software.

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

### V. A Proper Response to the Grace Gift



Grace is a gift in the fullest sense therefore, **there is no paying God back for the gift – it is given freely out of His love.** What God expects is a response of thankfulness.



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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

### V. A Proper Response to the Grace Gift

**Colossians 3:15–17**

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and **be thankful**. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing **with thankfulness in your hearts to God**. <sup>17</sup> Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** through Him to God the Father. (NASB)



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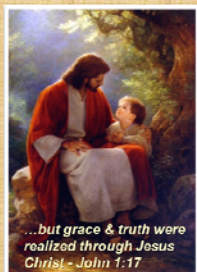
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### VI. Conclusion

### VI. Conclusion



Law vs. Grace: An Overview

### VI. Conclusion



*If we don't understand how overwhelmingly, earth-shakingly, awesome the Law is...*



*...we won't understand how overwhelmingly, heavenly-shaking, Grace is!*





Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**What Should I Take Away From This?**

**For the Believer:**

Misunderstanding the clear distinctions between Law and Grace causes them:

- to *incorrectly seek Israel's earthly blessings* or
- come under bondage - *forgiving in order to be forgiven by God* and,
- To be burdened with *striving to imitate the earthly life of Christ*.

*It was for **freedom** that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and **do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery**. Galatians 5:1 (NASB95)*

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**What Should I Take Away From This?**

**For the Non-Believer:**

- The admonition to those present who are unbelievers is: **Today is the Day of Salvation**.
- You can place your faith in Christ's promises **right now**.

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**  
**BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
**AND YOU WILL BE SAVED**

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Law vs. Grace: An Overview

**VI. Conclusion**

**Numbers 6:24-26**

<sup>24</sup> The Lord **ble**ss** you, and **keep** you;** <sup>25</sup> The Lord **ma**ke** His face shine on you,** And be **gracious to you;** <sup>26</sup> The Lord **li**ft** up His countenance on you, And **give** you peace.'**



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