

# Bible Studies

## A Page from Deuteronomy

Most Christians get very confused when they read the Law (the first five books of the OT). They are part of the Scripture, we feel we should obey them but there are large parts of them that we have no intention of keeping. Some of them the NT endorses, others it abrogates.

Mark 7v19	<b>What part of the law did Jesus free us from?</b>
Matthew 5v17-19	<b>Did Jesus say we are free to ignore the law?</b>
Matthew 5v38-39	<b>How did Jesus interpret the law?</b>
Acts 15v10-11	<b>Are gentiles required to keep the law?</b>
Romans 3v21	<b>Are we made righteous by keeping the law?</b>
Romans 3v31	<b>Do we nullify the law?</b>
Romans 6v14	<b>Are we under (required to keep) the law?</b>
Romans 7v6	<b>Are we bound by the law?</b>
Romans 10v4	<b>What does it mean that Christ was the end of the law?</b>
1 Corinthians 9v8-10	<b>How did Paul use the law?</b>
1 Timothy 1v7-8	<b>What does <i>use it properly</i> imply we can do?</b>
James 2v10	<b>What happens if you do not keep the whole law?</b>
Romans 13v9-10	<b>How do you keep the law? Matthew 22v37-40</b>

This is a really big subject on which we can only touch. The law was central to the covenant God made with Israel at Sinai. We are under a different covenant, a New Covenant. The law is not our covenant. We cannot be saved or made righteous by keeping it. In fact one of the reasons God gave the law, was to highlight our inability to be righteous. It was intended to force us to throw ourselves on God's mercy. This does not mean it has no relevance for us.

We are not obligated to keep the law for our salvation, but there are parts of the law that we need to obey, the New Testament tells us this and it is clearly God's will.

**What is the difference between keeping the law and obeying the law?** Rom 2v14-15

The question remains, how are we to treat the law?

**Do we reject it all?**

**What parts do we keep, what do we reject?**

The danger is it becomes subjective. We go on our gut feelings, we accept the bits we like and reject the bits we don't. In doing so, we know we are being inconsistent, so we file it in the *to difficult* folder, and argue about whether verses like Leviticus 19v28 ban tattoos. There has to be a better way. **What parts of the law don't we keep today?**

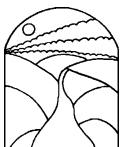
**Some considerations for application**

- ?** Does the New Testament endorse it, comment on it or abrogate it.
- ?** Does it have a cultural application. Cooking a goat in its mother milk was thought to bring good luck, (sympathetic magic) it was part of pagan occult practice. It was also a rotten thing to do!
- ?** Does it have reasoning behind it that no longer applies (banning pork & shell fish in a hot climate is a very good idea.) Like many laws they were intended for Israel's good and safety.
- ?** Some parts of the Law were civil law which is no longer part of our system. (eg cities of refuge.) They may still have implications for us.
- ?** Some part we cannot keep and have been superseded (eg. animal sacrifice and ritual purity.) Again they have principles that are still important.
- ?** Is there a spiritual reason behind it? (eg the law of the kinsman redeemer teaches us who Jesus acted in redeeming us)
- ?** What does this law tell us about God and His will. Many of these laws express God's love, care and wisdom even when we are not obligated to keep them we can still learn from them. (eg not harvesting the edge of our field to provide for the poor)

The OT laws are given as examples to be applied, not as an exhaustive description of everything you should and shouldn't do. Eg Lev 19v14, says we are not to mistreat the blind or the deaf, but it says nothing of the dumb or crippled are we therefore allowed to mistreat them? No the law is an illustration not a description. It's paradigmatic.

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Waiuku AG  
Ray Moxham  
www.wag.org.nz  
WaiukuAG  
@wag.org.nz

1

**Deuteronomy 21v22-23**

Joshua 8v29 & 10v26-27

**Why do you think this law might have been given?**

**How does the New Testament use this law?** Galatians 3v13

**Why did hanging on a tree equate to God's cures?**

**Why did the body have to be buried the same day?**

To be hung on a tree was the ultimate humiliation.

2

**Deuteronomy 22v1-3**

Exodus 23v4-5

**What is this law telling us to do?**

**Was this command for the sake of the animal or it's owner?**

**How does it apply to us today?**

**What does this command teach us about social responsibility?**

3

**Deuteronomy 22v3-4**

**What is this law commanding us to do?**

**Can you think of a modern equivalent?**

**What does it tell us about the way we need to treat each other?**

**Does the New Testament touch on this subject?**

4

**Deuteronomy 22v5**

**Why did God give this command?**

**What did men and women wear in biblical times?**

**Does this commandment mean that women should not wear trousers?**

**Do you think this command is exclusively about clothes?**

**Could this be linked to the prohibition of homosexual acts?** Lev 18v22, 20v13

It could well be that this command is intend to maintain distinction between the sexes.

**Is this distinction still important?**

5

**Deuteronomy 22v6-7**

**What does this prohibit you from doing?**

**Why?**

**What does this say about our responsibility to the world around us?**

6

**Deuteronomy 22v8**

**Why did you have to build a parapet around your roof?**

Middle Eastern houses had flat roofs, where people meet & talked. Josh 2v6, 2Sam 11v2

**If someone fell from your roof, who's fault would it be?**

**What application does this have for us today?**

**Is this law found in our legal systems today?**

7

**Deuteronomy 22v9**

**What is wrong with sowing two kinds of seed?**

**How would this apply to genetic engineering or hybrid crops?**

The most likely explanation is that this is another command against a practice that was associated pagan ritual and intended to bring luck. It could also be about keeping species separate and protecting biological diversity.

8

**Deuteronomy 22v10**

**What will happen if you plough with an ox and a donkey?**

**What effect will it have on the weaker animal?**

**Why was the command given?**

**How did Paul apply this verse?** 2 Cor 6v14

It is possible that all these 'keep separate' commands, were intended to remind the Israelites that they had to remain distinct from the surrounding nations?

**What things do we need to be careful to keep separate?**

9

**Deuteronomy 22v11** Leviticus 19v19

**How many of us are breaking this command right now?**

**Does God give pointless commands?**

This is probably another sympathetic magic command. Others have seen in this an illusion to the historical enmity between those who raise crops and those who herd animals.

10

**Deuteronomy 22v12**

Jews today still have four tassels on their prayer robes. In Jesus day all outer garments had these tassels. It was the tassel on Jesus robe that the women with the issue of blood reached out and touched. Matthew 9v20

**What were these tassels for?** Numbers 15v37-41

**What would be a good equivalent for us?**