

**I. Are we part of the crowd or are we disciples of Christ?**

John 6:60-67

1. Those in the crowd listened to the Word of God but went back to do their own thing!
2. Disciples sit at the feet of the Lord ready to do His Word-Command.

Matthew 7:24-25

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

**II. The Gospel of Salvation and the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.**

1. John the Baptist preached the Kingdom of God (Matthew 4:17).
2. The Lord Jesus came to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom (Matthew 4:23).
3. The Church in recent history has emphasized the Gospel of Salvation to the almost exclusion of the Kingdom of God (John 3:16; 1:12; 5:24 & Rom 10:9-10).
4. Being born again is the beginning of our journey into the Kingdom of God (John 3:3&5).
5. Discipleship is about the Lordship of Christ over every area of our lives (Isa 6:5).
6. As we journey with the King of the Kingdom, we will experience (Rom 14:17):
  - A. Righteousness
  - B. Peace
  - C. Joy in the Holy Spirit

**III. Law and Grace.**

The Bottom Line

- 1A. Legalism is when we are ruled by rules.
  - 1B. Lawlessness is when we are ruled by “whatever” seems right in our own eyes without regard to the Laws of God (Judges 21:25).
  - 1C. Lawfulness is when we are ruled by God [to fulfil the spirit of the law] in our relationship with Him (Matt 6:33).
2. God gave us the laws through Moses (John 1:17a):
    - Statutes
    - Laws
    - Commandments
    - Instructions
    - Principles
    - Teachings
    - Ordinances
    - Judgments
    - Testimonies
  3. The laws of God comprise 3 broad categories:
    - A. Laws of Righteousness
    - B. Moral Laws
    - C. Laws and Principles of Life

Laws and Principles of Life comprise everything God gave to men to first live in alignment so that He can release the authority, power, freedom and enjoyment as we do so (Gen 8:22 & Gal 6:7):

- Marriage
  - Gravity
  - Tools
  - Machines
  - Music
  - Financial Laws
  - Vehicles
  - Knives
  - Health Laws
4. The Lord Jesus came not to abolish the law of God but to fulfil it (Matt 5:17 & Rom 10:4).
  5. Grace does not displace the law of God. This means that we too, are subjected to all the Moral laws and commandments of God (Matt 5:19).
  - 6A. The law is good.
  - 6B. The law is given to tutor us as to what is right and wrong.
  - 6C. But the law is powerless to help us to obey it. The law cannot impart righteousness or life (Rom 3:20; Gal 3:19 & 3:230).
  7. On our own, we will never be able to fulfil the laws and commandments of God.
    - A. 2 Broad outcomes:
      - i. Legalism – people became legalistic
      - ii. Lawlessness
    - B. We need the Grace of God to know and obey the truth accordingly (John 1:17b & Eph 2:8-9).
    - C. The better new covenant is based on better promises cut by the Blood of the perfect High Priest in our Lord Jesus (Heb 7:22 & 24; 8:6-13).
    - D. In the new covenant, God gave us the Holy Spirit to instruct us as to right and wrong, ie. He writes and put his laws in our hearts and minds and empower us to obey.
    - E. When we obey the Holy Spirit, we automatically obey the laws of God,
      - eg. 1 – When we deal with anger and bitterness in our hearts, we will not physically murder.
      - eg. 2 – When we deal with lust in our hearts, we will not commit adultery.
      - eg. 3 – When we deal with covetousness in our hearts, we will not steal.
    - F. For us, NT believers, we move from
      - i. Being tutored or ruled by the law to
      - ii. Being tutored/ruled/led by and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Gal5:16-25 & Rom 6:14; 8:1 & 4).

## CONCLUSION

The Lord is looking for Disciples (relationship and walk by the Spirit).

Isaiah 50:4

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens *me* morning by morning, He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple.<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear; and I was not disobedient nor did I turn back.

The Lord is also looking for Disciple-Makers (Matt 28:18-20).

End

## Questions for Discussion

1. What are the differences between the Gospel of Salvation and the Gospel of the Kingdom of God?

2. What did Christ do with regards to “law and grace”. How does this apply to you?

3. Share your understanding of a Disciple and Disciple-maker of Christ.

4. What are the obstacles or hindrances to you becoming a Disciple and Disciple-maker of Christ?

5. What are other lessons you have gathered from the sermon and what are some of the applications you can draw from it?