

LIVING IN THE WORD

WITH DR. GARY YATES

PART 9 | THE MOSAIC COVENANT II

To fully appreciate the value of the Mosaic Law for us today, we need to correct some popular misconceptions about the Law and how it functioned within the covenant relationship between the Lord and Israel. The Law was a central part of the loving, gracious relationship between God and Israel that existed within the Mosaic Covenant. The Law did more than point out human sinfulness and show Israel their need for a Savior. The Lord was not setting Israel up for failure by giving commands that he knew the people could never keep. Within the Mosaic Covenant, the Lord provided a clear expression of his will for the people in the Law and enablement for those who truly knew him to live by his commands. The Lord demanded faithful obedience from his people but knew that they would never be able to give perfect obedience. The sacrifices within the Law itself provided a means of grace, atonement, and forgiveness when Israel failed to keep the covenant commands. The Mosaic Covenant was not a legalistic system of rule keeping but instead involved a relationship of love and grace where Israel showed their gratitude for God's salvation and blessing by keeping his commandments. Seeing the grace and love of God that Israel enjoyed under the Mosaic covenant reminds us of the even greater demonstration of God's love and grace we have received and experienced in Jesus.

Read the following passages:

Exodus 34:1-7

Deuteronomy 6:1-7

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Deuteronomy 8-9

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

Psalm 1

Psalm 19

Psalm 119:97-112

James 2:14-26

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are some of the negative misconceptions we might have about the Mosaic Law? How has this study helped to correct some of those misconceptions and give us a more balanced understanding of how the Law functioned in a positive way as part of the Lord's covenant relationship with Israel?
2. How do we see the love and grace of God in his dealings with Israel within the Mosaic Covenant? What do we learn about how God relates to his people in the immediate aftermath of their failure in worshipping the golden calf in Exodus 32-34?
3. What's the relationship between faith and works in the Mosaic Covenant? Was Israel saved by their works in keeping the Law under the Mosaic Covenant? What was the specific purpose of their good works and obedience to God's commands within the Mosaic Covenant? In light of James 2, do faith and works relate to each other in the same way in the new covenant as in the old? Were good works more essential or required in the old covenant than in the new? Why or why not?

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4. How do we see God's grace and love as a motivating factor for Israel's obedience to God's commands in the book of Deuteronomy? What do we learn about our relationship about God as we see this theme at work in Deuteronomy?
5. Was Israel truly able to keep God's commandments in the Mosaic Law or was the Law merely to show them that they could not live by God's laws and needed a Savior?
6. How has this study led to a greater appreciation of God's grace that was at work in the old covenant and how we experience his grace today?
7. What is something that you have learned about God in this study that you can share with someone else to be an encouragement to them or to initiate a Gospel conversation with someone who does not know Christ?