

**8 But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;**

Paul is telling Timothy, and us, the law is good if used rightly, but not as those who misuse the law; demanding rituals of religion for salvation to be accomplished. Notice: there must be a lawful use of the law commandments. What does this mean, you ask? It means what we are taught in: **Ga 3:24** *"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."* The law commandments teach the born-again sinners that they are sinners. Without the law, there is no disobedience of the law, and therefore, there is no sin. Paul shall demonstrate this beautifully in the following discourse.

**9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; 11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.**

Now, do we see and understand, God gave the law commandments to be a law of morality to all people? We see this is scripture in: **Ro 3:19 ¶ "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."**

However, the law is for a particular purpose to the born-again sinner. **Ro 6:14 "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."** This purpose is to bring sinners to repentance through salvation by grace, and thereby, remove from them the penalty of death for sins. Do you understand? If there is no law, then there is no sin. If there is no sin, there is no need for repentance. We know that repentance is necessary, for not only did John the Baptist come preaching repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, but Jesus himself preached and taught the same thing.

A secondary reason that this is great revelation to us is: we realize that Jesus came to save sinners, and sinners are all that are existent upon the earth. As we look at the lineage that leads to the birth of Jesus; we see that there were many different types of sinners used by God to bring to fruition his promise of the Messiah to come to earth. There are many different types of sins committed by people that God chose to save, and use, to fulfill his purpose of salvation by grace.

Therefore, we can take great hope in the fact; God saved and used murderers, blasphemers, liars, adulterers, harlots, and many other types of sinners. Therein is our hope; we rejoice to believe that God can also save us, no matter what great sins we have committed. Just remember, all sin is sin, whether we count it to be a small sin or a great sin, it is still sin.

**12 ¶ And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.**

As a minister of the Gospel of Christ, I can freely own with Paul that God, in his infinite wisdom, has forgiven my sins, and called me to preach and teach his word of truth.

I can also freely confess, to my own shame, that I have not lost that sin nature which I inherited by birth from Adam. I am still a sinner, and still in need of a Saviour. I do commit sins in ignorance. Sometimes, as we look back, we realize that we did what we did without realizing what we were doing was sinful. I praise God that through the work of Jesus Christ, he has indwelt me with his Holy Spirit, and thereby, he gives me strength, to resist the temptations of sin, which strength I have not of myself.

**14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. 17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

Paul is here rejoicing in the fact; his salvation and calling that Jesus Christ has placed upon his life, were bestowed upon him by the grace of God; whereby, he was given an abundance of faith and love. Paul acknowledges; before his new birth on the Damascus road, he was fighting against Jesus by trying to extinguish Christianity. However, through the revelation of Jesus at his new birth experience; after spending three years in the dessert being taught by Jesus; and after being given wisdom through the Holy Spirit power, he was taught to make the right use of the law.

Paul says, I am the chief of sinners, because of my work of trying to destroy the church before my calling to this new life. Likewise, I can witness that I did nothing to forward the work of Christ until I was born again, and even then, have continued only as a very weak and unprofitable servant. Long has been my journey as a Christian, and though God has blest me to grow in much knowledge and understanding, I still see myself as very small and unlearned, because the more the Holy Spirit reveals from the scripture, the more I understand how little the knowledge revealed to me is, in comparison to the fulness of the glory of God.

Doesn't it encourage your own faith, and hope, in Christ to know; such a mighty servant of God as Paul was made to be, started out just like us? He started out with learned moral living, and learning, and sought to make himself perfect in that work. After seeing Jesus, the revealing of the truth of scripture testimony of Christ; and being empowered by the Holy Spirit; Paul was made to be an able minister, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, who produced much fruit.

We know we are sinners just like Paul was. We know that we have been saved from sin to a work of promoting Jesus as the Christ, and as Saviour of sinners. We understand that this is not a work that we can do by our own works and morality. We understand that it is by the power of the Holy Ghost in us that we can do anything good.

Are you glad that we can freely own with Paul in confessing of feeling to be chief of sinners? Are you glad that we can confess with Paul, though I feel to be the chief of sinners, yet, I have obtained faith through the grace of God, which has brought me to this new life in Christ?

It does not matter; that you are not called to be a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who is called upon to speak publicly. Every born-again sinner is called by Jesus, to the work of promoting the name of Christ. You do this by the very life you live, which demonstrates to the world around you; what you believe about Jesus, which should validate the revealed truth of the scriptures.

Praise the Lord! that he does use sinners, who have been saved by the grace of God, to reach sinners, who have not yet been born-again. Praise the Lord! for the examples given in the scriptures, which encourage us in our walk of faith, here in time. Are you glad; that God uses sinners to forward the work of his eternal plan? Are you glad; that there are the testimonies of men, like Paul, in the scripture, to reveal that God does do what he will, with whom he wills to do it? Praise the Lord! for the truth and grace in Christ. Hallelujah!