

The Perfect Law That Gives Freedom

James 1:21-25

21. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

22. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

23. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror

24. and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

25. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.

Rom. 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pictures: 10 Commandments

Utopia = A society, place, state, etc, considered to be perfect or ideal. Imagine a place where the 10 commandments are perfectly practiced and that would be a "Utopia".

Mt. 6:9-10

9. "This, then, is how you should pray: " Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

10. your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Ps. 1:1-6

1. Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

2. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

3. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

4. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

5. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Ps. 119:165 - Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

Like Ray - "The atheist can't find God for the same reason the thief can't find a police officer!

Ps. 19:7-14

7. The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

8. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

9. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

10. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

11. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

12. Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

13. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

14. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Romans 7:1-25

1. Do you not know, brothers--for I am speaking to men who know the law--that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives?

2. For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage.

3. So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

4. So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.

5. For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.

6. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

7. What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

8. But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.

9. Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.

10. I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.

11. For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.

12. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

13. Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

14. We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

15. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

16. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

17. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

18. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

19. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.

20. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

21. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

22. For in my inner being I delight in God's law;

23. but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

24. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

25. Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Romans 8:1-15

1. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
2. because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.
3. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,
4. in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.
5. Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.
6. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;
7. the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
8. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.
9. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.
10. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.
11. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.
12. Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.
13. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,
14. because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
15. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Rom. 3:10-31

10. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;
11. there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.
12. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

13. "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips."
14. "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."
15. "Their feet are swift to shed blood;
16. ruin and misery mark their ways,
17. and the way of peace they do not know."
18. "There is no fear of God before their eyes."
19. Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.
20. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.
21. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.
22. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,
23. for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
24. and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
25. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--
26. he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.
27. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.
28. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.
29. Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too,
30. since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.
31. Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.