



Session 8: The Dispensation of Law

A Quick Review

- > A dispensation begins when a fundamentally new revelation is given by God which changes mankind's responsibility to God and man.
- > Neither a richer understanding nor a fulfillment of prophecy constitutes the beginning of a dispensation.
- > A failure to recognize the fundamental change is the most common error in Biblical interpretation, leading to painful and drastic consequences of Christian thought and practice.

The Dispensation of Law

- > Why is it called the dispensation of Law?
 - > Because its major characteristic is the Mosaic Law
- > Where do we find this dispensation in the Bible?
 - > It begins in Exodus 20
 - > Its conclusion is a matter of debate, and this debate is one of the most fundamental debates in all of Christian theology. What you do here determines whether you live in victory or bondage.
 - > When does the Age of the Law end?
 - > At the birth of Jesus: This creates "Lordship Salvation"
 - > At the resurrection of Jesus or Pentecost: This creates chaos when determining how to apply New Testament passages, and the chaos is only remedied by spiritualization of texts.
 - > At the "casting aside" of Israel and the sending forth of Paul: This creates a very grace-oriented Christian life.
 - > After the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD: This creates confusion for application of texts from 33 AD to 70 AD.
- > What is the fundamentally new revelation?
 - > Almost every aspect of spiritual life (how to be in a right-relationship with God).
 - > The Law provided 613 commandments for right-relationship with God. 248 positive, 365 negative
 - > In modern Jewish life, some of the commandments are only able to be fulfilled when in Israel and with a Temple, there are 369 that are

applicable for all Jews. Of these 369, there are only 270 that are non-circumstantial, thus require by every Jew.

- > What is fundamentally or by revelation true for all time? (What carries over?)
 - > Some examples of spiritual commands that were fundamentally new:
 - > Sabbath keeping and its regulations against creating.
 - > 39 modern rabbinic regulations in four groups:
 - > Making bread
 - > sewing garments
 - > writing books
 - > building.
 - > Sabbath and Jubilee years
 - > Sacrificial Laws
 - > Tithing of produce of the land
 - > While the Law had record of morality, very little new morality was expressed in the Law.
 - > Morality is often expressed in the Law but never based on the Law, therefore, morality will exist as long as its basis exists.
 - > There is truth contained in the Law that is fundamental for all time, but there is no command that originated in the Law that is fundamental for all time.
- > What has changed since this dispensation? (What doesn't carry over?)
 - > Nothing of the Law carries over! Romans 7:4, 6
 - > Why do Calvinists insist that because we were dead in our sins we could not respond to the Gospel (Eph 2:1) but now that we are dead to the Law (Rom 7:4) the same Calvinists insist we must obey it?
- > Conflicts, revealed in this dispensation, with today's society
 - > One of the most fundamental issues in today's church is this questions: What is the purpose of the Law?
 - > It is almost always answered incorrectly with, "the Law leads us to salvation," based on an incorrect understanding of Galatians 3:24.
 - > As long as the church believes that the Law leads people to Christ, the church will promote certain degrees of legalism (for the saved and the unsaved).
 - > Both Scripture AND logic / experience make it clear that the Law does not lead to Christ nor does it lead to sanctification.
- > Conflicts if you remove this dispensation
 - > The nation of Israel would have become indistinguishable from all other nations.
- > How was man saved in the dispensation of innocence?
 - > Salvation as we know it in the age of Grace was not known in the age of the Law.
 - > In order to be rightly related to God in the age of the Law, a person had to do two things:
 - > Become a Jew using the regulations of the Law (Eph 2:11-12)
 - > Fulfill the Law's demands