

Dear Friend,

In last month's letter we learned that God took away the first covenant (the law of Moses) in order to establish the second covenant:

Heb 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

In this new covenant God did not give us His commandments written on tablets of stone, but through the new birth He actually wrote His commandments upon our hearts and minds:

Heb 8:10 For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

This is referred to by the apostle Paul as our "new nature." It is the very nature of Christ written in our hearts and minds when we are born again. Every person who is born of Christ receives precisely the same new nature. God's law is in that very nature. We are to listen for the guidance that comes by that new nature and walk in obedience to it. The Jews wondered how born-again gentiles, who had never been taught the law of Moses, could walk according to the principles of it. Paul explained they were doing it "by nature," having received the very nature of Christ when they were born again:

Rom 2:14-15 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: (15) Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.

The apostle James refers to this new covenant as "the law of liberty." It not only set man free from the bondage of the burdens of the Mosaic law, it also set man free from sin itself. The old law of Moses had no power to do that. But the "law of liberty" does have the power by changing the nature of man at his core. Paul was very bold to declare every Christian is set free from sin when he wrote:

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Christians will not be judged according to the law of Moses. That law has been "taken away" and replaced with the "law of liberty" that is written in the heart and mind of every born again believer. The apostle James makes this very clear:

Jas 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

How will we be judged? By the law of Moses? No. We will be judged by the law of liberty. What does that mean? The Christian will not be able to stand before God with the excuse

of, *"I was not able to stop sinning."* God will say back to us, *"Yes you could have stopped. That's why I gave you the nature of Christ and wrote my laws in your heart and mind. I gave you a pure conscience as the guide so you could walk free from sin. Every time you sinned, you had to violate the voice of your conscience."*

Many will say ... *"That's more strict than the law of Moses."* No, that is more powerful than the law of Moses! The law of Moses gave commandment to sinners by nature, but it gave them no power to keep it. The law of liberty gives commandment and empowers us to keep it by changing our very nature from that of a sinner to that of a righteous child of God made in the image of Christ Jesus our Lord. Many will say ... *"But I have sinned many times since I was born again. Will I be judged for each of those sins?"* Thank God the apostle John gives the answer clearly:

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Walk close with Jesus by constantly obeying the voice of your conscience. When you miss it, don't run from the Lord, run to Him, confess your sins, and He is faithful to forgive us and to cleanse you ... every single time.

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY