

# Nailed to the Cross

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My title today is:

## Nailed to the Cross

I recently heard someone arguing about that—arguing that God’s laws had been nailed to the cross, or done away with by Jesus Christ by the New Covenant. It brought to mind a very strong thought because back in my college days I was like many young people, trying to figure out some things in life. I ended up meeting with another individual—someone from a different church—on Sunday morning and having a Bible study and very strongly kept coming across this same term that God’s laws were nailed to the cross. I had a problem with that which he didn’t appreciate. That really struck my mind when I heard someone else preaching this recently.

At the time, I started also reading some material from the Worldwide Church and that really solidified in my mind that this was false teaching—on this fellow’s part. The scripture is in Colossians 2:14:

**Colossians 2:14** ... *having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.* (NKJV)

First of all, we need to be cautious whenever we hear something like this, which doesn’t really seem to jive with other things that Christ taught. Peter wrote about this in 2 Peter 3—I’d like to turn to that.

**2 Peter 3:15** *and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you*  
*16) as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.* (NKJV)

We’ve been warned about that. So, when something doesn’t sound right, we need to delve deeper and find what is the true meaning and understanding. We human beings tend to rebel at laws and anything that tends to hold us back. That really has a part in our trying to find a way around God’s laws.

We need to ask questions about laws, we need get a foundation, we need to ask questions like what? When? and why? I have 5 points I would like you to consider.

## 1. The history of God’s law.

I would like to start in 2 Peter 2:4.

**2 Peter 2:4** *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5) and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6) and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7) and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked ... (NKJV)*

So, there are wicked people, there are wicked angels from the very beginning. The angels sinned before man. Man sinned from the very beginning. They sinned in Noah's time to the extent that God had to wipe out the whole world except for Noah and his family. Sodom and Gomorrah is an example of a very sinful area where God destroyed the cities. We are very familiar with 1 John 3:4 that says,

*Sin is the transgression of the law.*

So, if there was sin, there had to be laws. The laws are a part of God's very creation. There are instructions on how we are to live, how to live a proper life. I would like to turn to Deuteronomy 5:29.

**Deuteronomy 5:29** *Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever! (NKJV)*

God gives us His laws *that it might be well* with us. Following His instructions should bring us peace, happiness, and the good things in life. Not keeping God's laws leads to many things. Adultery, which results in family breakdown. Murder, stealing, lying—which leads to the breakdown of society. On the other hand, worshiping God brings us peace of mind and brings us understanding of our place in creation.

## **2. Some laws are eternal.**

The first two points that I gave really pointed to the eternal law that has transcended time. There is a ceremonial law that was added for a specific purpose. So, there is a moral law and there is a ceremonial law. The moral law represents the very nature of God the Father and really is as ageless as He is. The ceremonial law was a type of Christ's sacrifice, ultimately fulfilled in Christ's sacrifice. The Ten Commandments are not a type of ceremonial law.

**Jeremiah 7:22** *For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices.*

23) *But this is what I commanded them, saying, Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.* (NKJV)

So, God did give commandments before He even spoke about the ceremonial laws. There are three scriptures along that line I would like to cover. The first is Galatians 3:16.

**Galatians 3:16** *Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.*

17) *And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.*

18) *For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.*

19) *What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.* (NKJV)

In Hebrews 7:11.

**Hebrews 7:11** *Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?*

12) *For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.*

13) *For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.*

14) *For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.*

15) *And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest*

16) *who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.* (NKJV)

One more along that line is Hebrews 10:1.

**Hebrews 10:1** *For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.*

2) *For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.*

3) *But in those sacrifices, there is a reminder of sins every year.*

4) *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*

- 5) *Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.*
- 6) *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin. You had no pleasure.*
- 7) *Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God. "'*
- 8) *Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law),*
- 9) *then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.*
- 10) *By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*
- 11) *And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.*
- 12) *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,*
- 13) *from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.*
- 14) *For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*  
(NKJV)

#### 4. What did Christ do?

Christ taught the Ten Commandments. Let's look at Matthew 19:16.

**Matthew 19:16** *Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"*

17) *So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."*

18) *He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder, ' You shall not commit adultery, ' You shall not steal, ' You shall not bear false witness,'*

19) *Honor your father and your mother, 'and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. "' (NKJV)*

Here Christ was reiterating some of the Ten Commandments; actually, teaching the Ten Commandments. Christ came to fulfill and what does that mean? Isaiah and other prophets prophesied about Christ and His coming. Look at Isaiah 9:6-7.

**Isaiah 9:6** *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

7) *Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (NKJV)*

Christ was to come and give us justice and judgment, which really applies to laws in Isaiah 42:21.

**Isaiah 42:21** *The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness 'sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable. (NKJV)*

Christ would come and exalt or magnify the law, which He did. In Matthew 5 and 6, in these two chapters we can see what Christ did as far as magnifying God's law when He came to preach on this earth. Let's look at Matthew 5, there's some examples there.

**Matthew 5:17** *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.*

*18) For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

*19) Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)*

*Continuing in verse 27) ...*

*27) You have heard that it was said to those of old, you shall not commit adultery.'*

*28) But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (NKJV)*

He is really also magnifying one of the 10 Commandments over in verse 33.

*33) Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'*

*34) But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35) nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.*

*36) Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.*

*37) But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. (NKJV)*

If you read through Matthew 5 and 6 He is really magnifying the Ten Commandments. So, what else does Christ do? Most of all He came as a sacrifice to cover our sins. I want to cover just a few scriptures there.

**John 1:29** *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (NKJV)*

So this was a purpose for which Jesus Christ came to this earth. Isaiah 53 talks about Jesus Christ's coming and His purpose.

**Isaiah 53:1** *Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

2) *For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.*

3) *He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

4) *Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.*

5) *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*

6) *All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

7) *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.*

8) *He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.*

9) *And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.*

10) *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.*

11) *He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.*

12) *Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors. (NKJV)*

Finally in 1 Peter 2:24.

**1 Peter 2:24** *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

25) *For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (NKJV)*

My last point is:

## 5. Characteristics of the law.

The law really defines how things work—the right and wrong way to do things, physically and spiritually. There are all kinds of law. In construction there are equations for sizing structures to make construction sturdy and reliable. Traffic signals are necessary; without traffic laws we couldn't have any of society traveling safely. Society wouldn't function without laws. Laws are instructions that go along with a product and God has given us laws to go along with us. Laws generally bring happiness, goodness, safety from evil. Law has two parts; they have statutes and enforcement. We have penalties for breaking laws. When you break a law, you are under the penalty of that law, unless that penalty is paid. If you break a traffic law, you are given a ticket and you're under the penalty of that ticket until you pay that fine and the penalty is removed.

When we break a law of God, Romans 6:3 says the wages of sin is death. Therefore, for breaking one of God's commandments, the penalty is death and that has to be paid and paid by a death. It was ultimately paid by the death of Jesus Christ. I'll just give you a couple of references—I won't read them. 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Hebrews 9:26-28. How could Christ actually pay that penalty? He could pay that penalty because His life was worth more than all of our human lives combined. He took part in the Creation and was God's very Son. His single life in helping to create all of mankind was worth more than the sum total of all of mankind. Let's look at John 1:1.

**John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (NKJV)*

It should be translated, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with *the* God and the Word was God".

- 2) *He was in the beginning with God.*
- 3) *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*
- 4) *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*
- 5) *And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*
- 6) *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*
- 7) *This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.*
- 8) *He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*
- 9) *That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.*
- 10) *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. (NKJV)*

Jesus Christ paid the penalty for all of mankind. What did Christ put away? He put away sin, He didn't put away law. He magnified the law; He sacrifice Himself to pay the penalty for our breaking of God's commands. Not just dying but dying as a criminal on the cross.

To recap, law has always existed. Law defines how things are designed to operate. There is a moral law which is eternal and there is a ceremonial law which pointed to Christ. The Ten Commandments are a foundation of God's moral law. Repeated for emphasis in Exodus and Deuteronomy. There were two sets of stone tablets, part of the Old and New Testament. Christ was prophesied to magnify the law. He fulfilled that. He said that no one should teach against the law and specifically taught keeping of the Ten Commandments. The law has two parts, ordinances and enforcements. Christ paid the penalty for breaking of God's moral law. I mentioned the Ten Commandments were engraved in stone which I think has significance. How many tablets were there? There were four, the first two were broken. The Israelites broke the first set of commandments and then the second set was put inside the Ark for safe keeping.

Back to my title, Nailed to the Cross, what did Christ nail to the cross? It was the penalty and not the law. Let's look again at Colossians 2:13.

**Colossians 2:13** *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses ... (NKJV)*

He forgave the trespasses, not the law.

*14) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (NKJV)*

I had to copy down verse 14 from two different translations. The New Living Translation says:

*14) He cancelled the record of charges against us and took it away, nailing it to the cross. (NLT)*

He cancelled the record of charges. The Amplified Version says:

*14) having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of legal demands [which were in force] against us and which were hostile to us. And this certificate He has set aside and completely removed by nailing it to the cross. (AMP)*

With the understanding that Christ paid the price—really paid the penalty—and did not do away with the law, I think makes perfect sense when you look at this scripture. So never did Christ speak about doing away with the law. God's laws are eternal. He only magnified them; He taught the necessity of keeping them. Keep this in mind whenever you are told that God's laws have been done away.