

# San Juan Church of Christ

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## What does God's Word Say About...

### Going Back to the Imperfect Law

The apostle Paul, when he received a revelation from Jesus (Gal. 1:12), wrote that if we wanted to go back to the Old Testament Law we would be "severed from Christ." Those "who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace...For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love," (Gal. 5:4-6). Many will ask how can a perfect God have given man an imperfect law? The writer of Hebrews said, "there is a setting aside of the former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness for the Law made nothing perfect, and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope through which we draw near to God. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second" (Heb. 7:18-19, 8:7). Notice that the old law was weak and unprofitable and could not make people perfect. But the New Covenant (which is a "better hope") can make perfect those who come to God through Christ.

Notice some faults of the Old Testament Law. It was for one nation [Israel] (Deut. 5:2-15), the New Testament is for all nations (Matt. 28:19). The Old offered animal sacrifices, which could not take away sins (Heb. 9:22, 10:1-4); the New offers the cleansing blood of Jesus once for all (Heb. 9:12-14, 10:14-19). The Old offered limited blessings, the New offers "all spiritual blessings in Christ," (Eph. 1:3). The Old Testament was designed to last "till the seed shall come" and "the seed is Christ," (Gal. 3:16, 19). The law was a "schoolmaster (tutor) to bring us to Christ," (Gal. 3:24). The Old Law did not grant forgiveness of sin, because it was not designed for that. It simply pointed to Christ who would take away sins. The Old Law was imperfect but it fulfilled perfectly the purpose which God had for it.

There are false teachers who claim that Jesus will one day set up a "physical" kingdom in Jerusalem, the temple will be rebuilt, and that Christ will rule on earth in this kingdom. These false teachers claim that during this millennial reign of Christ all Jews will be saved. Friends, according to scripture why would we want to go back to what Paul called "a yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1)? In the New Testament, all those who are "baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus," (Gal. 3:27-28). Paul wrote that when Jesus returns, He will "deal out retribution to those (everyone) who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus", (2 Thess. 1:8).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:  
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