

The Law and the Gospel

John Colquhoun (1815)

Chapter 10b (Lesson 14)

The Believer's Privilege of Being Dead to the Law as a Covenant of Works, with a Highly Important Consequence of it

"Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ...But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive..."-Romans 7:4, 6

-Section 2-What the Believer's Being Dead to the Law as a Covenant Includes

Being dead to the law as a covenant includes:

1. **Being dead to the _____ of salvation by the works of the law**-Those who are dead to the law as a covenant no longer rest their hope of attaining salvation by their obedience to this law.

"They who are alive to the law as a covenant have hope from the law and from their own works of obedience to the law. They presume to hope that God will justify and save them because they intend well and do well, because they are just in their dealings and diligent in their duties, or because they wrong no man and endeavor to perform as many good works as, consistently with human infirmity, they can do."

"On the contrary, they who are justified by the faith of Christ and are dead to the law have no expectation from the law, no hope of justification or title to life by the works of the law. They see plainly that no righteousness can secure them from eternal death and entitle them to eternal life but one that is in all respects perfect."

2. **Having the entire _____ between the person and the law (in this form) broken and dissolved**-Their relation to the law as a covenant is completely done away with.

"They are, indeed, obliged still to obey the holy law of God, but not to obey it as a covenant of works, not to obey it in order to procure a title to justification and eternal life."

"They are dead to the law in that form and the law is dead to them, so that their relation to it as a covenant is entirely dissolved. The redeemed of the Lord, therefore, should no more expect eternal life for their own works than a widow would hope for favors and comforts from a dead husband. They are not more exposed to the curses of the broken law than a widow is to the threats of a husband who is lying in the grave."

3. **Being dead to the _____ of trying to attain justification by your own works**-the fear of "Have I done enough?" is dispelled as a person learns to rest in the righteousness of Christ.

"A dead body in the grave is nowise careful to do any of the works in which it was employed when alive. So they who are dead to the law as a covenant of works, though they are careful to maintain good works, yet have no care about the works of the law in the affair of justification. They work, but they do not, as formerly, work for life. While they were alive to the law, all their concern was 'to establish their own righteousness' and to rely on it for justification of life (Romans 10:3); but now that they are dead to the law, they no longer have any allowed solicitude of that kind."

4. Believers entering into _____ -There is rest in Christ. All fears of failure are abolished. In Christ, through faith, a perfect righteousness has already been secured.

“When a man dies, he rests from his labors. There is no labor, no wearisome toil, in the grave...They who are alive to the law are wearied in the greatness of their way. The law, as a covenant, appoints them a wearisome task... The consequence is that going about to establish their own righteousness, they are weary and heavy laden.”

“But when a sinner, in compliance with the call of the gospel, comes wearied and heavy laden as he is to the Lord Jesus, He gives him rest (Matt. 11:28). Having thus ‘become dead to the law by the body of Christ’, the weary is at rest. He attains rest to his conscience in the righteousness of Christ, for He ‘is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth’ (Rom. 10:4).”

Not only does the gospel provide rest from trying to establish a righteousness of our own but it also brings rest from the carnal _____ of God simply as Judge.

“In proportion as his legal spirit is mortified, he rests from his legal and slavish fear of that wrath which is threatened in the law.”

The unbeliever takes a certain delight in their own works...it makes them feel good. However, when a person is born again by the Spirit what they _____ in changes.

“Now that he has become dead to the law, he ceases from these desires and delights. He no more delights in himself nor in his legal performances, for he now sees that all such ‘righteousness are as filthy rags’ (Is. 64:6).”

“On the contrary, beholding the incomparable excellence of the way of justification and salvation in the covenant of grace, he desires above all things to be found in Christ Jesus, nor having his own righteousness that is of the law, but ‘that which is through the faith in Christ.’”