

Jesus Christ as a Lawgiver

James 4:12

Introduction:

- A. Some do not apply this text to Jesus – don't believe Jesus gave us law.
 - 1. Make much of “not under law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:14; cf. Not..but John 6:27)
 - 2. Reject any idea “rule-keeping” and “pattern theology”.
 - a. Epistles said to be “love letters” – respond to love not law.
 - b. Hear about “legalists” and “legalism” – “joy in Christ” hindered by it?
 - c. Think freedom in Christ is a free spirit unshackled by laws and regulations.
 - d. Think of instructions as suggestions rather than law – hence optional with no penalty.
- B. Some good reasons for considering Jesus as a giver of LAW and His gospel as LAW.

Discussion:

I. The Messianic Age Was to Be an Age of Law.

- A. New Covenant was to contain laws (Heb. 8:10)
- B. Law to go forth from Zion/Jerusalem (Isa. 2:1-4)
 - 1. Gospel began at Jerusalem and went to whole world. (Acts 1:8).
 - 2. When “mountain of Lord's house” established - law began to go forth. (Book of Acts)

II. New Testament Writers Confirm this to Be an Age of Law.

- A. “Law of Faith” (Rom. 3:27).
- B. “Law of Spirit of life” (Rom. 8:2).
- C. “Law of God” (Rom. 8:7,8).
- D. “Under law to Christ” (1 Cor. 9:21)
- E. “Law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2).
- F. “Law of Liberty” (Jas. 1:25; 2:12).

III. Both Sin And Grace Necessitate Some Kind Of Law.

- A. Without law there can be no sin.
 - 1. Sin is transgression of law. (1 John 3:4).
 - 2. Where no law, no sin. (Rom. 4:15; 5:13).
- B. Without sin there is no need for grace. (cf. Rom. 5:20)
 - 1. Sin necessitates grace.
 - 2. Sin also necessitates law.
 - 3. Canceling law also cancels grace.

IV. Jesus Will Judge Us According To Law. (Jas. 2:12)

- A. Will be judged according to His words (John 12:48); hence, words are law.
- B. Will be judged according to the gospel (Rom. 2:16); hence, gospel is law.
- C. Will be judged according to our deeds under the gospel. (2 Cor. 5:10).
- D. Will be as strictly judged under gospel as under “the law”. (Heb. 2:3; 10:28-30).

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus is our lawgiver and judge.
- B. Jesus gave us the New Testament with laws to obey.
- C. Jesus expects us to obey his laws or face His righteous judgment.