

## The Motives of Law and Grace

by Pastor Ricky Kurth

***"Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm" (I Timothy 1:7).***

Since "we are not under law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:15), what possible motive could someone have to teach the law? Well, in Paul's day, the men most likely to desire to cling to the law were Jews (Acts 15:1). Speaking of them, Paul told Titus:

***"...there are many unruly and vain talkers...of the circumcision...who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake" (Titus 1:10,11).***

The thing that these circumcision Jews "ought not" to have been teaching was the law, which they taught for the same reason men teach the law today--*because there is money in it*. Satan always makes sure that undispensational truth is *popular*, and teaching what is popular is always a lucrative endeavor!

For instance, in time past, God's message to Israel was that He was going to use Nebuchadnezzar to conquer the nation to chasten her for her iniquities (Jer. 25:9). But false prophets in Israel were assuring God's people it would never happen, that they would continue to enjoy peace (Jer. 23:17). Which of those two messages do you think was more popular, and thus more lucrative?

Of course, when Israel was obedient to God's law, His message to them *was* a message of peace, but when they rebelled against His law, that message became *one dispensation too late*. Well, today *the law* is one dispensation too late, but it is as popular and as profitable as undispensational teaching has always been. People are religious by nature, and the law appeals to their religious "flesh" (Gal. 3:3). And that which appeals to a man's *religious* flesh is always going to be as popular and as lucrative a business as that which appeals to his *carnal* flesh (II Cor. 11:20).

When Paul added that those teachers of the law understood "neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm," that was a polite way of saying they didn't know what they were talking about! All because they were one dispensation too late in their teaching. What's that say about all those "desiring to be teachers of the law" in our own day?

Maybe you are thinking, "If the goal of the law is to get us to love God and our neighbor (I Tim. 1:5), and we're not under the law, does that mean God doesn't want us to love God and our neighbor?" Of course He does! But now such loving charity is the goal of a *new* commandment. You see, when Paul said that "the end of the commandment is charity" (I Tim. 1:5), he wasn't *just* referring to the goal of the *ten* commandments.

Remember, Paul opened this epistle by insisting that he was an apostle "by the *commandment* of God" (I Tim. 1:1), and in the dispensation of grace, the goal of *that* commandment is charity out of a pure heart. The goal of Paul's God-ordained apostleship is to get people saved and loving God and their neighbor, just as it was under the law. The difference is, in this dispensation, "the love of Christ constraineth us" to serve Him (II Cor. 5:14), not the fear of what will happen to us if we disobey Him, as was the case under the law. That's the motivation of love, not law! That's the motivation of grace.