

Life Line

Workbook 1

2 Life Line

Workbook 1

The Workbook is designed to help you come to a solid understanding of the exciting and essential subject of God's Covenants of love. To successfully complete this workbook you will need to:

1. Complete all the questions in a Section.
2. Score all questions before taking the related Review. Underline the answers in the text for any questions you got wrong.
3. Take the Review.
4. Score the Review. Underline the answers in the text for any questions you got wrong.
5. Go on to the next section and repeat.
6. Memorize selected Scriptures.
7. Before taking the Pre-Test make sure all questions in the Sections and Reviews are correctly answered.
8. Take the Pre-Test.
9. Score the Pre-Test. Underline the answers in the text for any questions you got wrong.
10. Take the Final Test.

Note 1: All Final Tests except the first one will include some random questions from previous workbooks to test how well the student is remembering the material.

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3 THE LIFE LINE SERIES

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LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION

This world is a swirling torrent of troubled waters. Even the formerly Christian Western nations are fast being swept over the edge into the raging waters below. Disaster stalks us, threatening to overtake us at every turn because we have forsaken the God of our Salvation.

We have demanded to have things our own way, and - God help us - God has allowed us to have it. Even as we are pulled toward a dark destiny of our own choosing, God has not left us without hope. He has thrown out the Life Line. If we will but grab it, He will pull us to safety and again put our feet on solid ground. Our civilization can once again shine as a warm, encouraging lighthouse until the brightness of day overtakes it.

What is this Life Line, and how can it rescue a world wrapped in the icy waters of despair? And why is it that so many modern Christians thrash about hopelessly in the swift current rather than grab God's Life Line?

God's Life Line is not a popular subject. What Jesus taught during His earthly time was not popular then, and it is no more popular today. Even among many Christians, God's Life Line is a much neglected, abused, - and yes - even hated subject.

The Life Line God has thrown out for us to grasp is Biblical Law. The mere mention of God's Law sends shudders down the spines of many Christians. It is important at this point we recognize that when I say God's Law is our Life Line I do NOT mean it is our salvation [this is explained in much more detail in later lessons]. Salvation from sin and right standing before God is in Christ alone. Nevertheless, God's Law does have a VITAL part to play in the Christian's life and in rescuing the world from disaster.

1. We have _____ to have things our own way, and God has allowed us to have it.
2. What Jesus taught during His _____ time was not

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popular then, and it is no more popular today.

3. The Life Line God has thrown out for us to grasp is _____
Law.
4. Salvation from sin and right standing before God is in _____
alone.

In this Life Line course we are going to examine what Biblical Law is, what it isn't, if it is still valid, what Jesus and the apostles taught about it, how it works with love and grace, and how it works in society. This is not going to be a detailed study of any particular law, but we will lay the foundation for a good basic understanding of the Law.

Why is the Law God's Life Line? Isn't it hopeless out-dated? Didn't Jesus and Paul condemn the Law? How could it work today anyhow?

We are going to answer these and many other legitimate questions as we work our way through this course. Never be afraid to ask honest questions. We will search the Scriptures for the answers. For any answer to be believed and accepted, it must be supported by the Word of God in context.

As we begin this exploration of reality, let's remind ourselves that EVERY Word of God is important, otherwise He would not have recorded it in His Holy Word.

"The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. You shall keep them, O Lord, you shall preserve them from this generation forever" Psalm 12:6-7, NKJV.

We know in the New Testament when they wrote about the Scriptures they were referring to the Old Testament because they were living the New Testament. How often do we recognize that in the Old Testament when they spoke of the Word of God [or used similar terms] they were speaking of the books of Moses [otherwise known as the Law], because they were living the Old Testament?

So "the words of the Lord" referred to in Psalm 12, while certainly true of the entire Scripture, specifically meant the books of Moses. Notice, David prophesied these words would last forever. The Law is with us today, whether we like it or not. As we go through this course, keep an

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open mind to the Word of God, and then you can judge for yourself whether this Life Line is from God or not.

What I want most, and I know you do too, is to know the Truth. It is the Truth which sets us free. We need to be willing to have our fantasy bubbles burst and learn to live in God's world of reality. Remember in John 6:67-68 where Jesus had just finished teaching so very difficult truths? Many of His followers turned away and said, "This is too much for us!" In fact so many deserted Him, Jesus turned to the 12 disciples and said, "Do you also want to go away? Then Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'"

I love Peter for that answer. He saw right to the heart of the issue. Only Jesus has the words of eternal life. Leave Jesus and we've left everything. We have forgone reality for a fantasy world of our own making. It is better to have the Truth, even if we don't always understand it or even like it, than to live a lie.

5. For any answer to be believed and accepted, it must be supported by the Word of God in _____.
6. _____ Word of God is important.
7. in the Old Testament when they spoke of the Word of God [or used similar terms] they were speaking of the books of _____.
8. The _____ is with us today, whether we like it or not.
9. Only Jesus has the words of _____ life.
10. It is better to have the _____, even if we don't always understand it or even like it, than to live a lie.

So as we look into the Law of God in this course, we are searching for the Truth. We don't have to like it, but we do have to believe and act upon it. Living in our own fantasy world may seem a lot more pleasant but it is still living a lie. We are not going to avoid any of the tough issues or scriptures involved with the Law. We are going to tackle them head-on and see what the Scripture has to say. Only as Christians are willing to grasp this Life Line and use it is there any hope for the rest of the world to see its value and be pulled from the swirling waters.

WHY DO WE NEED THE LAW?

As Christians we are still living in this physical world. Seems like a rather obvious statement, doesn't it?

Write out and memorize John 17:15-16 _____

We are in the world, but we are not of the world. In other words, while we live in and interact with this world, our Source is not from this world system. We are first of all citizens of the Kingdom of God, and secondly, we are citizens of a nation. Why did Jesus leave us in the world? Because He has a mission for us. We have job to perform. What is that job? I'm glad you asked.

"Then Jesus came a spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and in earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age.'" Matt. 28:18-20, NKJV

What is our job? What are our marching orders from the Commander-In-Chief? "Make disciples of all nations." This has been misinterpreted many times as making disciples of all kinds of people or of all types of nationalities. That is not what Jesus said. He said, "Make disciples of all nations".

Now we know nations are made up of people. Therefore, people must come to Christ as Lord and Saviour before nations do, but if we stop with mere conversions we are only playing a numbers game [how many go saved this week?] and have fallen short of fulfilling our orders.

Our orders are to disciple nations: to bring entire nations into line

with the Word of God. This does not mean that everyone in the nation is going to be a Christian [nor does it mean that a politically minority of Christians force their will on everyone else], but that the nation as a whole follows Christ.

11. While we live in and interact with this world, our _____ is not from this world system.

12. We are first of all citizens of the _____, and secondly, we are citizens of a nation.

13. What are our marching orders from the Commander-In-Chief?

" _____ "

14. Our orders are to _____ nations.

"The expectation of the Commission's influence is that the gospel of Jesus Christ will gradually and increasingly triumph throughout the world until the large majority of men, with their cultures and nations, are held in its gracious and holy sway." Kenneth Gentry

Isn't this what the Lord's Prayer asks for: ..."Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."? Matt. 6:10, NKJV

How is this basic mission going to be accomplished? It begins as people experience the grace of God through salvation by Jesus Christ alone. That is not where it stops, however. Jesus must also be Lord. The next logical question is: Since Jesus is Lord, how are we supposed to live? If we are expected to answer that question and disciple nations in the ways of God, we are going to have to develop a Christian social theory. In other words, we have to be able to live and teach how God expects our lives and this world to be governed. We have to be able to answer tough questions like the following:

How high [or low] should taxes be?

Is gun control right?

What legal standing [if any] do common-law marriages have?

Are property taxes legitimate?

Should we be involved in overseas wars?

Is genetic research and planning proper?

Must Christian demonstrations always be non-violent?

Is capital punishment right or wrong? If right, for what offenses?

Should Medi-Care be privatized?

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What is the role of civil government?
Should the Free Market be encouraged or not?
Should criminals under age 18 receive lighter sentences?
Is the prison system right?

The list could go on almost forever and cover every area of life. If we are going to teach the nations how to act pleasing to God and obey Him we have to have the answers for many difficult questions. Unfortunately, for the most part, Christians have either ignored the questions or else given humanistic answers clothed in thin veil of false Christianity.

Why is this? Because a good percentage of modern Christians have rejected Biblical Law. If we are going to come up with God's unique [and very practical] answers we have to go to God's Law. That is why the Law is so important. It gives us those answers! It teaches us how to govern ourselves, our families, our churches, and our nations in a way that is pleasing to God.

Without the law we can run and hide or we can parrot humanism's disastrous answers but we cannot give God's answers. For God's answers we must go to the Law. Biblical Law applies Christianity to the everyday problems and questions of life.

15. Jesus must also be _____.
16. If we are expected to disciple nations in the ways of God, we are going to have to develop a Christian _____.
17. If we are going to come up with God's unique _____ we have to go to God's Law.
18. Biblical Law _____ Christianity to the everyday problems and questions of life.

DEFINITION OF THE LAW

How are we going to define God's Law? The 10 Commandments are the heart of the Law. They are the summary of the Law - the Law in short form if you like. All the laws given will relate to at least one of the 10 Commandments.

Now its time for an illustration. In the space below draw a large
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triangle. On top of the triangle place a circle. Now divide the triangle into 6 layers. Label the layers 1-6 starting at the bottom. In the circle place the number 7. Got it? Perfect. You are now my official illustrator.

The key for the illustration is: 1 = New Testament, 2 = Old Testament, 3 = Genesis/Exodus/Leviticus/ Numbers, 4 = Deuteronomy, 5 = 10 Commandments, 6 = Love God & Others, and 7 = Christ.

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As you look at the illustration with its key, you will notice the 10 Commandments are near the top. Right under them is the Book of Deuteronomy sometimes known as The Book of the Law. Then we have the other 4 books of Moses followed by the rest of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The 10 Commandments summarized the Law. The Book of Deuteronomy is a more detailed summary of the Law and it explains the meaning of the 10 Commandments. As we progress down the pyramid each layer expands and explains what has gone before. They give us examples of the what 10 Commandments mean and how they apply to everyday life.

If we travel up from the 10 Commandments we find Love God & Others at the top.

"And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?' So he answered and said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind and, your neighbour as yourself.' And He said to him, 'You have answered rightly, do this and you shall live.'" [Luke 10:25-28, NKJV]

The lawyer wanted to test Jesus so he asked Him about eternal life. Jesus turned him to the Law. What did the Law have to say on the subject? The lawyer responded with Deuteronomy 6:5 [love God] and Leviticus 19:18 [love your neighbour]. Notice very carefully what Jesus said: "You have answered rightly, do this and you shall live." Loving God and loving our neighbours is the briefest summary of the Law. Or, to put it the other way around, all of the Law is an explanation of how God expects us to love Him and to love others. We will come back to this in more detail in a later lesson.

Love is a vital part of New Testament living. Without it, we are nothing. Here Jesus linked love inseparably with the Law. In fact, as we have seen, the command to love was not 'new' in the New Testament but it was a core command of the Law. [If we do away with the Law, then we have done away with Christian love as defined by God.]

As the pyramid you drew shows, all the rest of the laws through the

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Old and New Testaments are explanations and examples of how the 10 Commandments work in practical living. So then, as we said before, every law can be grouped under at least one of the 10 Commandments.

One more important point, from your illustration, you can see that Christ is the object of the Law. We need to understand this right from the beginning. If Christ is not the object of the Law, then we are misusing the Law. Christ is the focal point and object of all God's dealings. If we forget that then we have wandered from Christianity and are living in a fantasy world of our own making. The Law must honour and reveal Christ.

19. The 10 Commandments are the _____ of the Law.
20. All the _____ given will relate to at least one of the 10 Commandments.
21. The Book of Deuteronomy is known as _____.
22. The 10 Commandments summarized the _____.
23. Loving God and loving our neighbours is the briefest _____ of the Law.
24. All of the Law is an _____ of how God expects us to love Him and to love others.
25. Jesus linked _____ inseparably with the Law.
26. Christ is the _____ of the Law.
27. Christ is the _____ point and object of all God's dealings.
28. The Law must honour and reveal _____.

How do these summary laws work? Look at levels below for an example. You will see that each level explains the layer above it in more detail.

Level 1
Love Your Neighbour

Level 2
Thou Shalt Not Murder

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Level 3

Hatred, Military Laws, Manslaughter Laws, Quarantine Laws, Any Law Dealing With The Killing Or Protecting Of Life

Love your neighbour is a brief summary of all the laws below it. Thou shalt not murder explains in a little more detail one way of loving our neighbour. Finally, specific laws explain in detail how we avoid murdering our neighbours. As you can see, this commandment covers more than just physical death. Some of the laws which would come under this general heading are:

1. Hated ["Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer" 1 John 3:15, NKJV]
2. Military Laws
3. Manslaughter and Self Defense Laws
4. Quarantine Laws [protect life from dangerous diseases]
5. Some Environmental Laws [killing the environment]
6. Any law dealing with the protecting or taking of life.

All Laws are summarized in the 10 Commandments which themselves are further summarized in Love God and Love your neighbour.

For those of you whose knees knock at the idea of Old Testament Laws today, I should point out that the New Testament is sometimes stricter than the Old Testament. Consider: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." [Matt. 5:27-28] That's New Testament not Old Testament. The furthest the Old Testament went was to command not to do the act, Jesus commanded [yes, commanded] not to even entertain the thought. Also I'm sure you noticed in the above illustration that the New Testament groups hatred with murder. Suddenly the Old Testament doesn't seem so harsh!

Why is there a difference? Why didn't the Old Testament go all the way, or why doesn't the New Testament hold back? The answer is found in the purpose of the Law. With most of the laws God is delegating some of His authority to mankind to judge and act in certain situations. If a person commits adultery, for example, God makes it plain that a criminal offense has been committed. He then lays down His requirements in such a case.

However, God does not delegate all of His authority to men. For our own protection, He has placed limits. One of those limits is that we

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can only judge the act but cannot pretend to know the thoughts of a person's heart. Both Old and New Testaments make very clear that God does not place any such limits on Himself. He can and He will judge the thoughts as well as the acts and He will do it perfectly.

"You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off." [Ps. 139:2, NKJV]

"But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, 'Why do you think evil in your hearts?'" [Matt. 9:4, NKJV]

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edge sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." [Heb. 4:12, NKJV]

So the difference is in who is doing the judging. Is it man, with God's delegated authority, or is it God Himself? The former has God-ordained limits, the latter has no limits.

29. All Laws are summarized in the _____ which themselves are further summarized in Love God and Love your neighbour.
30. The New Testament is sometimes _____ than the Old Testament.
31. With most of the laws God is _____ some of His authority to mankind to judge and act in certain situations.
32. God does not delegate all of His _____ to men.
33. We can only judge the _____ but cannot pretend to know the thoughts of a person's heart.
34. God can and will judge the _____ as well as the acts and He will do it perfectly.

Review 1

1. Write out from memory John 17:15-16 _____

2. The Life Line God has thrown out for us to grasp is _____.

3. _____ from sin and right standing before God is in Christ alone.

4. For any answer to be _____ and accepted, it must be supported by the Word of God in context.

5. Every Word of God is _____.

6. In the Old Testament when they spoke of the _____ they were speaking of the books of Moses.

7. While we live in and interact with this world, our Source is not from this _____.

8. We are first of all _____ of the Kingdom of God, and secondly, we are citizens of a nation.

9. What are our marching orders from the Commander-In-Chief?

" _____ "

10. _____ must also be Lord.

11. If we are expected to _____ nations in the ways of God, we are going to have to develop a Christian social theory.

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12. If we are going to come up with God's unique answers we have to go to _____.
13. _____ applies Christianity to the everyday problems and questions of life.
14. The _____ are the heart of the Law.
15. The Book of _____ is known as The Book of the Law.
16. The 10 Commandments summarized the _____.
17. _____ God and loving our neighbours is the briefest summary of the Law.
18. All of the _____ is an explanation of how God expects us to love Him and to love others.
19. _____ is the object of the Law.
20. The Law must honour and reveal Christ.
21. The New Testament is sometimes stricter than the Old Testament.
22. With most of the laws God is delegating some of His authority to mankind to judge and act in certain situations.
23. God does not delegate all of His authority to men.
24. We can only judge the act but cannot pretend to know the thoughts of a person's heart.
25. God can and will judge the thoughts as well as the acts and He will do it perfectly.

Score: _____

Law Is The Foundation Of Society

Whether we like it or not, every society is built on the foundation of religion. It may be Christianity, humanism, Islam, or whatever, but it will be there. Every society is at its core religious in that it has certain views about

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God and His world and it acts in accordance with those views. There is no getting around it.

Law is where religion gets practical. Because of the moral or immoral views of a society, laws will have to be made to protect and enforce those views. Society will expect people, families, churches, and governments within the society to abide by its laws. Those who fail to do so will be punished. Religion and its practical enforcement [Law] are in every society.

Anytime we want to find out who the ultimate god of a society is we only have to ask one question: Who makes their laws? In other words: Who is the final court of appeal? Once we have that answer, we know their religion and their god, for all law is the practical application of religion. We may like to think that in Canada, the US, and other Western countries, we have neutral laws. That is a fantasy. No such thing exists. Each law is an expression of the religion of the one who made it. When we have committed socialists making our laws the religion of the country will shift to the Socialist branch of humanism.

1. Every _____ is built on the foundation of religion.
2. Law is where religion gets _____.
3. _____ and its practical enforcement [Law] are in every society.
4. Anytime we want to find out who the ultimate god of a society is we only have to ask one question: _____?
5. Are there neutral laws? _____
6. Each _____ is an expression of the religion of the one who made it.

Whose Law does God want the societies of the world to be built on? Whose Law must we use to disciple [train] the nations [Matt. 28:19]? God's Law, as found in the Bible, or man's law?

"A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He

has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law."
 [Is. 43:3-4, NKJV].

Isaiah was prophesying of Jesus. We are familiar with the first part of this quote [we like that part!], but what did Isaiah see as the mission of the Messiah? He saw it as bringing world-wide justice in accordance with the Law of God. The coastlands symbolically refer to even the furthest parts of the earth. All is to be brought under His Law and then justice will reign in the earth.

This means there is no neutral zone. Everything is to be brought under God or God is not God. If there is any area of life that God does not have the right to rule then He is not the Almighty God the Scriptures declare Him to be. We must have all of God - or none of Him. We cannot just pick and choose what we like. Either we live in a world of reality or a world of fantasy.

All of society [every society] is to be under God and that includes being in submission to His Law. Why is that? Because God owns all men. We tend to think of Christians belonging to God and non-Christians belonging to Satan or the world. Nothing could be further from the truth. Yes, genuine Christians belong to God in a unique redemptive way, and therefore have a unique relationship as adopted sons and daughters of God, but all men belong to God. God is the Creator and has right of ownership over everything. As a result everything and everybody is to be under His Law. There are to be no exceptions. If we are in rebellion to the King of Kings, we will face His judgment.

Also, the Law of God is the only way we have to oppose evil in society. Without the Law all we can say is: "I don't think it's right" to which the simple response is: "I don't care what you think. Who are you to govern me?". With the Law we say with authority; "It's wrong because God says it's wrong."

Christians who refuse to believe in the Law have destroyed their only weapon for judging good and evil. Consider this situation: Christian X is asked if he believes the Law of God is for us today. "No!" is his emphatic reply. Good Christian X is then asked if he believes abortion is wrong. "Of course!" is his response. How do you, good Christian X, know it is wrong? "God says so!" [He likes talking with exclamation marks.] Where does God say it is wrong? If he is honest he has to reply: "In the Law." The trap springs shut - you said the Law didn't apply today.

Christian X has a close brother [in the Lord, of course] whose name is Christian Y. Christian Y is quick to say that only the Law that is restated in the New Testament applies today. Unfortunately, he too is headed for problems. Take this Law for example:

"If a man mates with a beast, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the beast. If a woman approaches any beast and mates with it, you shall surely kill the woman and the beast. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood will be upon them." [Lev. 20:15-16]

The New Testament never mentions this subject. Does that mean God has changed His mind on the issue? Is it now all right to have sex with animals? I doubt Christian Y would say so; however, he could not prove it without going to a Law that is not repeated in the New Testament. The Scriptures cannot be chopped up to fit our personal fancies. We must take it as it stands and we must take it all. [We will explain how this works in a later lesson.]

Where does Canada as a society stand in all this? How do we judge? Find out who makes the laws and you will find the god of that society.

Constitution Act 1982: "Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law..." I like that. It sounds good. Maybe Canada really is a Christian nation. Unfortunately point 52 takes it all away. "The Constitution of Canada is the supreme law of Canada and any law that is inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution is, to the extent of the inconsistency, of no force or effect."

In plain language: if the Law of God contradicts the constitution throw out the Law of God. If there is any Law above God's Law, then there is a god above God. When God's Law becomes the supreme Law of Canada [or any nation] then, and only then, will we have the potential of a Christian country.

As a side point, with the disrespect of God's Law comes a disrespect of all law. We see this in Canada in the Federal Government's insistence on the GST which is an unconstitutional tax and Revenue Canada's ability to seize private property without a trial in violation of the Bill of Rights. In the United States many of the Drug laws [and new anti-

terrorism laws] make a mockery of their Constitution. When we reject God's Law the authority of any law begins to crumble.

7. The mission of the _____ was bringing world-wide justice in accordance with the Law of God.
8. There is no _____ zone.
9. If there is any area of _____ that God does not have the right to rule then He is not the Almighty God the Scriptures declare Him to be.
10. All of society [every society] is to be under _____ and that includes being in submission to His Law.
11. If we are in _____ to the King of Kings, we will face His judgment.
12. The Law of God is the only way we have to oppose _____ in society.
13. If there is any _____ above God's Law, then there is a god above God.
14. When we _____ God's Law the authority of any law begins to crumble.

POSITIVE LAW VS. NEGATIVE LAW

Biblical Law is applied Christianity and that is where the main focus of the Life Line series is going to be. But for the moment, we are going to take a break and compare God's Law with man's law to discover why one works and the other doesn't.

Look at the following points:

Negative Law

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any carved image.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honour your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.

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8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet.

Positive Law

1. Everyone has the freedom of conscience and religion.
2. Everyone has the freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression.
3. Everyone has the freedom of peaceful assembly.
4. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.
5. Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure.
6. Everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned.
7. Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote.
8. Every citizen of Canada has the right to enter, remain in, and leave Canada.
9. Plus many other provisions and rights.

Which set of laws do you prefer? Personally, I like positive law. It makes me feel good to know what my rights are as compared to being told what I can't do. Most of us are human enough to like that idea. Then why did God chose negative law? Isn't that a major criticism of Christianity - "You're always telling me what I can't do?"

The simple answer is [and we'll look at the reason in a moment] that negative law works and positive law doesn't. Think about it. If positive law is so great then why does it protect and promote high taxes, abortion, murderers, homosexuality, rapists, etc.? Why does it give use ineffective crime punishment? Why is the economy always up and down? Why do the poor become poorer and the rich richer under positive law? Keep on asking questions like these until you realize: It doesn't work!

Looking at the above list, we see God's law is almost all negative. Even the two positive commands have implied negatives. Remember the Sabbath is followed by you shall do no work on the Sabbath. Honour your father and mother is supported by laws telling us what not to do.

It's almost like algebra where a negative times a positive equals a positive. God's negative law has positive results which lead to true freedom. Man's positive law has negative results which lead to tyranny and bondage.

Once again you are my illustrator. In the space below draw a circle.

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Inside the circle write the word "Rights". On the outside of circle write the words "Forbidden Zone". Now draw large cracks and holes in the circle.

Positive law draws a circle just as you have done. It says, "You have the right to freedom of speech. You have the right to...etc." All our rights are protected [supposedly] inside the circle. The basic implication of all positive law is: Whatever is not permitted is forbidden. In other words, if we haven't been given the right to it, then we can't have it - and there is a whole lot of space outside the circle!

That would be bad enough but positive law can never stop there. As you drew, there are large cracks in the circle. Because positive law is concerned with our "rights", it must have laws to defend them and make sure we get them. In short, under positive law, the law comes to control every aspect of life. Isn't that what we see happening in Canada, the US, and other nations today? It is the ultimate humanistic/socialistic dream of salvation by law in direct conflict with the Christian doctrine of salvation by Christ alone.

The health of the people is the highest law in a positive law system. While that sounds great, it must [because of the very nature of the beast] lead to tyranny. In seeking the supposed highest good - as determined by government bureaucrats - the law must attempt to control all people and all their activities.

"Because the law is unlimited, the state is unlimited. It becomes the business of the state, not to control evil, but to control all men. Basic to every totalitarian regime is a positive concept of law." R.J. Rushdoony

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And so in a positive law system laws multiply like rabbits in order to try and control every aspect of life [sound familiar?]. The result is that nobody can keep them all. And only specialized [and expensive] lawyers have any hope of making sense out of them. The end product is an enslaved people forced to dance to the whims of the lawmakers or face their wrath. What a price to pay for rejecting God's law system!

15. Biblical Law is _____ Christianity.
16. God's law is almost all _____.
17. God's negative law has _____ results which lead to true freedom.
18. Man's positive law has negative results which lead to _____ and bondage.
19. The basic implication of all positive law is: Whatever is not permitted is _____.
20. Under positive law, the law comes to _____ every aspect of life.
21. The ultimate humanistic/socialistic dream is salvation by _____ in direct conflict with the Christian doctrine of salvation by Christ alone.
22. The health of the people is the _____ law in a positive law system.
23. In seeking the supposed highest _____ the law must attempt to control all people and all their activities.
24. The end product is an _____ people forced to dance to the whims of the lawmakers or face their wrath.

Now take up your illustrator's pen once again. In the space below, draw another circle. Inside the circle put the words "Forbidden Zone". On the outside of the circle put the word "Permitted".

This is God's negative law system. It says, "Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not...etc." In God's system everything inside the circle is forbidden and the boundaries are clear. The basic implication is: Whatever is not forbidden is permitted. [That is why we have to be very careful with our 'thou shalt not's', because if God hasn't forbidden it - in word or principle - then it is allowed.]

Negative law forces the law to deal with specific evil acts. This means that, except for the forbidden zone, man's life is beyond the law. As long as we are not acting in the relatively small forbidden zone or headed for it, the law is uninterested in what we are doing. If we go to the forbidden zone, the law will jump up and yell, "Thou shalt not." In any other case, negative law doesn't care what we do.

Do you see why negative law brings freedom and positive law brings tyranny?

Positive law is unlimited law, negative law is limited to controlling evil. Positive law assumes people are childish so the state must "father" them. It must provide for them and make sure everything in their lives is taken care of. It is total interference! Eventually, it makes people totally dependent on the state, unable to make decisions for themselves. It destroys human beings and tramples liberty and individual thought.

"A medical colleague returning from Finland in the 1980s told me how Russian men would marry Finnish women so they could emigrate to Finland. Once there, however, the array of decisions that the average citizen makes concerning housing, shopping, etc., was just too much for many of them to bear. Overwhelmed by the task of taking responsibility for their life, the men went back to Russia where scarcity and aggression make choice a rarity. This destruction of the questing human spirit, of the confidence in one's ability to cope with the world, is the most devastating effect of the extreme aggression of communism." Dr. Mary Ruwart

While this is seen most in extreme communism, it is the end result of all positive law - including the varieties of socialism practiced in Canada and the United States.

"Socialism of any type leads to a total destruction of the human spirit..." Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Negative law deals with things realistically. It knows people are not childish but irresponsible. They are in deliberate rebellion to God - a rebellion that only comes to an end with the salvation found in Jesus Christ. So negative law doesn't try to save people [that is legalism] or "father" them. It concentrates on prohibiting and punishing public acts of evil.

"When the law loses its negativity, when the law assumes a positive function, it protects the criminals and the fools, and it penalizes responsible men." R.J. Rushdoony

Isn't that what is happening today? It is almost safer to be a criminal than an upright citizen! Regardless of its intent, positive law will always end up supporting evil and evil men at the expense of the innocent and the law abiding.

25. In God's system the basic implication is: Whatever is not forbidden is _____.
26. Negative law forces the law to deal with specific _____ acts.
27. Negative law brings _____ and positive law brings tyranny.
28. Positive law is _____ law, negative law is limited to controlling evil.

29. Negative law knows people are not childish but _____.
30. _____ law will always end up supporting evil and evil men at the expense of the innocent and the law abiding.

After having said all that, I need to make one more thing clear. Although the foundation of God's law is negative that does not mean there are no positive commands.

The basic structure of negative law does have some positive commands, just as the basic structure of positive law has negative commands. The positive commands, within the negative frame, show we are responsible to take action to protect and to help other people. We cannot retreat within ourselves and say, "I haven't broken any laws so everything is OK." God has given us responsibilities we must fulfill. Let's take a look at a couple of examples.

"If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him. If you meet the donkey of one who hates you laying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it." [Ex. 23:4-5, NKJV]

Here we have a positive command. If someone [even an enemy] has lost something and we find it, we are responsible to return it. We cannot look the other way when someone needs help - it doesn't matter who that someone is - we are required to give the help needed.

"And if a man opens a pit, or if a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, the owner of the pit shall give money to their owner, but the dead beast shall be his." [Ex. 21:33-34, NKJV]

Again, we have a positive command. This time we learn we are responsible to take reasonable safety precautions or we will bear the consequences.

This also clearly illustrates the difference between negative law and positive law. Negative law simply states that if you dig a pit you had better cover it or you will be responsible for any resulting damage [no

government inspectors needed!]. Positive law would tell us where we could dig the pit, how deep and wide it could be, what kind of cover to put on it, and probably make us buy [extort] a digging permit before we could dig it. And people want to live under positive law!?!]

Since negative law has some positive commands and positive law has some negative commands, how can we tell if the law is part of the negative or positive law system? To figure that out we must look at the basic law structure in which a specific law is found. If the foundation of the law is built on the premise of controlling and punishing evil then we have negative law. If the premise is one of controlling people [who have committed no moral crime] to ensure everyone gets their "rights", then we are dealing with positive law.

31. The basic structure of _____ law does have some positive commands
32. God has given us responsibilities we must _____.
33. If the _____ of the law is built on the premise of controlling and punishing evil then we have negative law.
34. If the premise is one of controlling people [who have committed no moral crime] to ensure everyone gets their "rights", then we are dealing with _____ law.

Old Testament Israel was supposed to be an example of the positive effects of negative law. Unfortunately, they insisted on living in the forbidden zone and/or allowing it to degenerate into the positive law of people control. For this reason, except perhaps under Joshua, they did not live up to the ideal of a negative law society.

There was a time when most European nations acknowledged that Negative Biblical law was the way nations were supposed to be governed. To the degree they followed Biblical law, they prospered. To the degree they lived in the forbidden zone or followed positive law, they suffered. For example, the New Haven Colony in America recorded the following in their community laws [updated to modern English]:

March 2, 1641/2: And according to the fundamental agreement, made and published by full and general consent, when the plantation began and government was settled, that the judicial law of God given by Moses and expounded in other parts of scripture, as far as it is a hedge

and a fence to the moral law, and neither ceremonial or typical nor had any reference to Canaan, has an everlasting equity in it, and should be the rule of their proceedings.

April 3, 1644: It was ordered that the judicial laws of God, as they were delivered by Moses...be a rule to all the courts in their jurisdiction in their proceedings against offenders.

When a negative law society exists it becomes a great temptation for the leaders to corrupt it into a positive law system [for the good of the people, of course], and so gain power and control over people that they were not intended to have. The leaders must be people of integrity, committed to the negative Biblical Law system. And the people must be continually on guard against any law, however small, that violates Biblical Law for no system is corrupted by giant leaps but by small seemingly insignificant steps.

"The American people will never knowingly adopt Socialism, but under the name of Liberalism, they will adopt every fragment of the Socialist program unto one day America will be a Socialist nation without knowing how it happened." Norman Thomas

"It is a known fact that the policies of the government today, whether Republican or Democrat are closer to the 1932 platform of the Communist Party than they are to either of their own party platforms in that critical year." Walter Trohan

...and Canada is even further down the road to socialism.

35. There was a time when most European _____
acknowledged that Negative Biblical law was the way nations
were supposed to be governed.
36. The leaders must be people of _____, committed to
the negative Biblical Law system.

Review 2

1. Every society is built on the foundation of _____.
2. _____ is where religion gets practical.
3. Religion and its practical enforcement [Law] are in every _____.

4. Anytime we want to find out who the ultimate god of a society is we only have to ask one question: _____?
5. Are there neutral laws? _____
6. Each _____ is an expression of the religion of the one who made it.
7. The mission of the Messiah was bringing world-wide _____ in accordance with the Law of God.
8. If there is any area of life that God does not have the right to _____ then He is not the Almighty God the Scriptures declare Him to be.
9. All of society [every society] is to be under God and that includes being in _____ to His Law.
10. If we are in rebellion to the King of Kings, we will face His _____.
11. The Law of God is the only way we have to _____ evil in society.
12. If there is any Law above God's Law, then there is a _____ above God.
13. When we reject God's Law the _____ of any law begins to crumble.
14. Biblical Law is applied _____.
15. _____ law is almost all negative.
16. God's _____ law has positive results which lead to true freedom.
17. _____ positive law has negative results which lead to tyranny and bondage.
18. The basic implication of all positive law is: _____

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19. Under positive law, the law comes to control every aspect of _____.
 20. The ultimate humanistic/socialistic dream is _____ by law in direct conflict with the Christian doctrine of salvation by Christ alone.
 21. The _____ of the people is the highest law in a positive law system.
 22. In God's system the basic implication is: _____
 23. _____ law forces the law to deal with specific evil acts.
 24. Negative law brings freedom and _____ law brings tyranny.
 25. Positive law is unlimited law, negative law is _____ to controlling evil.
 26. Negative law knows people are not _____ but irresponsible.
 27. Positive law will always end up _____ evil and evil men at the expense of the innocent and the law abiding.
 28. The _____ structure of negative law does have some positive commands
 29. God has given us _____ we must fulfill.
 30. If the foundation of the law is built on the premise of _____ and punishing evil then we have negative law.
 31. If the premise is one of controlling people [who have committed no moral crime] to ensure _____ gets their "rights", then we are dealing with positive law.

- 32. There was a time when most European nations acknowledged that Negative Biblical law was the way nations were supposed to be _____.
- 33. The _____ must be people of integrity, committed to the negative Biblical Law system.

Score: _____

PRE-TEST

- 1. Write out from memory John 17:15-16 _____

- 2. The _____ God has thrown out for us to grasp is Biblical Law.
- 3. Salvation from sin and _____ standing before God is in Christ alone.
- 4. While we live in and interact with this world, our Source is not from this _____.
- 5. What are our marching orders from the Commander-In-Chief?
" _____ "
- 6. If we are expected to disciple _____ in the ways of God, we are going to have to develop a Christian social theory.
- 7. If we are going to come up with God's unique [and very practical] answers we have to go to _____.
- 8. Biblical Law applies _____ to the everyday

problems and questions of life.

9. The 10 Commandments _____ the Law.
10. Loving God and loving our neighbours is the briefest _____ of the Law.
11. All of the _____ is an explanation of how God expects us to love Him and to love others.
12. The Law must honour and _____ Christ.
13. We can only judge the act but cannot _____ to know the thoughts of a person's heart.
14. Every society is built on the foundation of _____.
15. Law is where religion gets _____.
16. Anytime we want to find out who the ultimate god of a society is we only have to ask one question: _____
17. Are there neutral laws? _____
18. If there is any area of _____ that God does not have the right to rule then He is not the Almighty God the Scriptures declare Him to be.
19. The Law of God is the only way we have to oppose evil in _____.
20. When we _____ God's Law the authority of any law begins to crumble.
21. _____ is applied Christianity.
22. _____ law is almost all negative.
23. Man's _____ law has negative results which lead to tyranny and bondage.
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25. The health of the people is the highest law in a _____ law system.
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