

**“The Giving of the Law”**  
**Bible Stories Sermon Series, Pt. 16– Exodus 20:1-18**  
**December 2, 2018**

**I. The Purpose of the Ten Commandments and the Rest of the Mosaic Law**

- A. On a surface level: To show Israel the conditions for keeping God’s blessing and presence. (Lev. 26, etc.)
- B. On a deeper level: To increase Israel’s sin problem through sin’s use of the Law.

*Romans 5:20a - The Law came in so that the transgression would increase...*

*Romans 7:7–8 - <sup>7</sup> What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.” <sup>8</sup> But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.*

*Romans 7:13 - Did that which is good [the Law], then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.*

- 1. The ultimate purpose was not, of course, more sin.
- 2. The ultimate purpose of the Law was to highlight mankind’s inability and to set the perfect stage for God’s grace in Christ.

*Romans 5:20–21 - <sup>20</sup> The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup> so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Galatians 3:23–24 - <sup>23</sup> But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.*

**II. The Role of the Law in the Christian Life Today**

- A. The Law reveals Christ’s marvelous perfections to us.

*Romans 10:4 - Christ is the culmination [or goal] of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.*

- 1. Showing us His righteousness.

2. Comforting us in the knowledge that His perfection has been substituted for our imperfections.
3. Leading us to praise and thankfulness.

B. The Law helps us to see what real love looks like.

*Romans 13:8–10* - <sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

C. Yet we must place our hope for change *not* in the Law or our efforts, but in the Holy Spirit Christ has given to us.

*Galatians 5:16* - But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.