

The School of Biblical Law

Introduction to Law and Grace

Lesson One: “God’s Initial Revelation of Man”

The God of Scripture, as sovereign and absolute Lord, changes not. Therefore, His grace and Law, which remain the same in every age, continually testify to God’s immutable character and to the course of man’s activity. The strength of man is in the absoluteness of his God.

The first several chapters in the book of Genesis give us an initial revelation of man, Law, and God.

1. A revelation of mankind’s purpose can be learned from his creation.

God created man in His image (*selem*) – resemblance, figure, literally –to carve

God created man in His likeness (*demut*) – to be like, similitude, in like manner

2. God gave man his purpose in the dominion mandate of Gen. 1:26-28

Man would exercise dominion in a position of delegated authority.

Man would be fruitful and multiply both through procreation and recreation.

3. If sin had not entered, the activity of man would have been in harmony with the will of God

Man’s thoughts and knowledge would have come from those of the Father.

God would have judged the works of man as good.

4. Sin entered when Adam listened to another god, another word, another source of knowledge.

Adam’s image changed.

Adam’s likeness changed.

God judged Adam’s works as not good

The success or failure of Adam and Eve hinged upon obedience to God’s decree. From that first encounter, throughout the pages of scripture, and into the activities of mankind in this present day, mankind must decide whose word will be obeyed. There are only three choices. One is the word of the Deceiver. The second source is man, whose knowledge is gained through trial and error and is subject to man’s depraved nature. The third source is the Word of God that flows from the infallible and eternal Creator.