

## **The School of Biblical Law**

### Introduction to Law and Grace

#### Lesson Seventeen: "God's Punishment upon the Law-Breaker"

Although all mankind inherited a fallen nature in Adam, the scriptures verify that God was willing to cut a covenant with those whom He called; thus man could reconnect with God in both relationship and the yoke of labor. As seen in the five-point covenantal structure, all covenants contain ethics and sanctions. Obedience yields blessings and disobedience releases curses.

1. The destiny of covenant breakers was described as death, banning, or anathema.

Deuteronomy 29:18-24 warns that anyone who turned from the covenant would be cursed with all the curses of the covenant.

Is. 28:14-18 tells the fate of those who say they have a covenant with death.

The deceit was based upon the lie that covenant law and sanctions were inoperative.

2. God's law provides a mirror of God's righteousness and a standard of holiness.

God's holiness is the model of human conduct. Lev. 19:2, "You shall be holy for I the Lord your God am holy." (Lev. 11:44-45; 20:7; I Pet. 1:15-16)

The biblical meaning of holiness is to be set apart; God is set apart by his perfection.

God provides a standard or yardstick by which holiness can be measured in man through His law. Rom. 7:12 states, "Wherefore the law is holy, and commandment holy, and just and good."

When we apply the same standard of holiness to ourselves, we don't measure up for "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

3. The law judicially condemns and judges transgression and the transgressor.

The law provides a definition of sin in that, "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law, for sin is the transgression of the law" (I Jn. 3:4).

The law continually accuses and condemns because it judges our weaknesses and reveals that which is inferior to it.

4. The Law declares many penalties for the transgressor, including the death penalty.

"Cursed be he that confirms not all the words of this law to do them" (Deut. 27:26), and "Whoever keeps the whole law and yet offends in one point is guilty of all" (James 2:10).

God's justice is based upon Lex Talionis, which is an eye for an eye and a life for a life (Deut. 19:21). His judgments are true and righteous altogether (Ps.19:9).

Deut. 27:15-25 list 11 violations that place man under a ban or curse. Verse 26 lists the 12<sup>th</sup> violation and the 12<sup>th</sup> curse. "Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them." Any man who fails to put the law into effect or who does not make the law the model and standard of his life and conduct comes under the curse. Since the 12<sup>th</sup> curse includes every law of God, it allows no area of escape from the curse except for total obedience. The unredeemed man or the man bound by his moral imperfections was unable to live a life of total obedience to God's righteous law and holy standard. The ethics of the law condemned sinful man to God's righteous justice.