

# Luke

## See Jesus

### The Law and Our Hearts

#### Luke 16:14-18

Grace Fellowship Church | Dave Wernz | March 5, 2023

#### Psalm 139:23-24

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!  
<sup>24</sup> And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!”*

## I. Am I Using the Law of God for its Intended Purpose?

**Luke 16:15** *“And He said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves before men...’”*

Justification means that God declares you righteous and treats you as if you never sinned and have always obeyed.

**Romans 3:23-24** *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*

**Romans 3:20** *“For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight...”*

**Romans 3:28** *“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”*

What was the reason for giving us the Law in the first place? John Calvin, a French pastor in the early 1500s, saw three distinct purposes that God had for giving us His law:

### #1 The Law Is As a Mirror

**Romans 3:20** *“For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”*

**Romans 7:24-25a** *“Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”*

### #2 The Law Is As a Curb to Keep Sinful People from Being as Bad as They Could Be

### #3 The Law Is As a Guide and a Help Towards Pleasing God

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

## II. Do I Change the Rules to Suit My Strengths or Preferences?

**Luke 16:17-18** *“But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. <sup>18</sup> Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.”*

The Law is here to change you - not the other way around. If the smallest piece of the Law is going to outlast our galaxy, then what parts do you need to be more honest and intentional about?

Remember, our performance is not the basis for our relationship with God. Because of Christ’s finished work on the cross, you can be His - even on your worst day. But if you’re changing the rules, you need to change!

## III. Am I Excited About What God is Excited About?

**Luke 16:15-16** *“And He said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. <sup>16</sup> The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it.’”*

**Luke 15:7** *“Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”*

**Luke 15:10** *“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

Ways you can start getting excited about the things God is excited about today:

- 1) Look for repentance.
- 2) Open the newsletters.
- 3) Pray for lost people to repent.
- 4) A great way to celebrate more is to invest more. That could be giving, it could be praying, or using your time and talent to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God.

### **Psalm 115:3**

*“Our God is in the heavens;  
He does all that He pleases.”*