

SERMON

Doctrine to be lived 19
Christian Faith and God's Law #1013

Romans 3:10-4:8; 6:1-14; Exodus 20:1-17; Luke 18:9-14; Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 5:48; John 14:15; Galatians 2:16-3:14; 2 Corinthians 3:6

1. Reasons for obedience
 - a. Legal obedience seeks blessing
 - b. Gospel obedience responds to blessing

2. The failure of legal obedience
 - a. Cannot achieve perfection
 - b. Never satisfies God
 - c. Can earn no reward
 - d. Offensive pride against God

3. The blessing of gospel obedience
 - a. Depends on Christ's perfection
 - b. Welcomed by God
 - c. Rewarded on basis of Christ's obedience

GOSPEL READINGS Romans 3:10-4:8, 6:1-2

³¹⁰ as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;¹¹no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹²All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." ¹³"Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." The venom of asps is under their lips." ¹⁴ "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." ¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known." ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

⁴ What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷ "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

⁶ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?



BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 3, 2026
www.bedfordpca.org
49 Nelsons Landing Blvd., Bedford, NS

Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us today. We envision a church worshipping with joy, loving each other with compassion and reaching out to the world with grace and justice.

CHILDREN

There is usually Children's Church for children between the ages of 3 to 10. There is no Children's Church today so that everyone can attend the service celebrating the Lord's Supper. Downstairs there is also a nursery and a separate room for nursing mothers.

UPCOMING

English Conversation Group: May 6, 12:45 p.m.

Mothers' Day Luncheon: May 8, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. RSVP online: bedfordpca.org/rsvp/mday

Church Bonfire: May 16, Details to follow.

Women's Retreat: May 22–24 Malagash Bible Camp. For more information: malagashbiblecamp.com

BIBLE STUDIES

- **Adult Bible study:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays via Zoom. Led by Reid Campbell. Meets next on May 6. Studying 1 Samuel.
- **ISMIC study groups** are meeting—contact Will or Chi Perrie.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the home of Laura Priddle studying Joshua. The 7:15 p.m. Monday evening study on Romans meets every other week.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE OPEN DOOR CENTRE which provides a safe place for youth who are sexually exploited or who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. On Mother's Day we invite you to pick up a HEY (Helping Exploited Youth) box or a baby bottle and fill it generously. Bring the box or bottle back with your donation inside, on Father's Day. Your gift is tax deductible. We are so thankful for your partnership with us! To find out more about Open Door visit opendoorcentre.com

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Family of the week: Rob and Emily Walker

HOW TO GIVE

E-transfer to bedfordpca@gmail.com

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Come unto me, all you who labour and are heavily loaded and I will give you rest.

People: Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Leader For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
—Matthew 11:28-30

HYMN OF PRAISE

All Glory Laud and Honour

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 20: 1-17

20 And God spoke all these words, saying,

²“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Leader: “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days”
—Deuteronomy 30:19-20

SONG OF REFLECTION

Psalm 54 (Trinity, tune of O the Deep Deep Love of Jesus)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: O Lord our God, your love and grace to us is beyond our understanding. We were rebels against you, enemies, yet you reached down to take on our flesh to save us. You drew us out of our darkness into your light. You have given us abundance in this world, but more, you have given us yourself.

Forgive us Lord, that we have taken lightly the miracle of your kindness to us. Forgive us for failing to stand up against the evil of Satan that seems so strong in this time. Forgive us for being ashamed to talk about all you have done for us, for hiding our blessing in silence for fear that we might offend some. Forgive us for all the people we know personally who have never heard the good news of Christ from us. Forgive us for putting the world and its approval before you, for letting the world shame us into silence where we should be shouting for the joy you give us. Bring us to true repentance, Lord. Pour out your Spirit on us, and make us enthusiastic about all you have done for us. Give us boldness to tell all around of your grace. Use us Lord, to show the world your glory, through Jesus our Saviour, Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

Declaration of Forgiveness:

Leader: “When the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that having been justified by his grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”
—Titus 3:4-7

SONGS OF RENEWAL

Trust and Obey

This I Believe

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND CITY

Prayer for religious freedom and prayer for Rob and Emily Walker

THE LORD’S PRAYER

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

SERMON

Christian Faith and God’s Law

Rev. Don Codling

PROFESSING OUR FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed

THE LORD’S SUPPER

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus Messiah

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!