

# SIN, THE GOSPEL, AND THE LAW





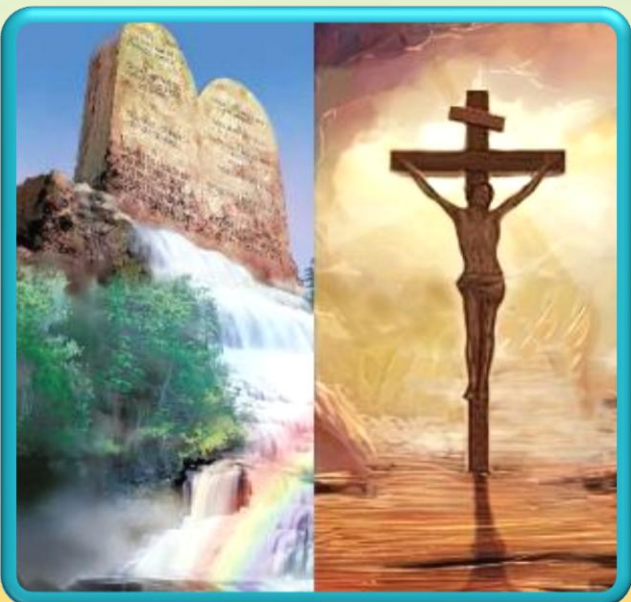
“I will never forget Your  
precepts, for by them  
You have given me life. I  
am Yours, save me; for I  
have sought Your  
precepts”

(Psalm 119:93, 94, NKJV)

Whether we accept it or not, sin is a problem that affects us all, destroying our relationship with God: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

How can we repair the gap that sin creates between God and us? Some have proposed two possible solutions to the problem: the Law alone (salvation by works, a misconception of the function of the Law); or the Gospel alone (salvation by faith, abolishing the Law).

Properly understood, Law and Gospel are not incompatible; rather, they both collaborate in our fight against sin. Each has its function.



 **Avoid temptation**


 **Tips to avoid sin**


**SIN**



 **The Law and Sin**


**THE LAW**



 **The Gospel and the Law**

 **Built on the Rock**

**THE GOSPEL**





**SIN**



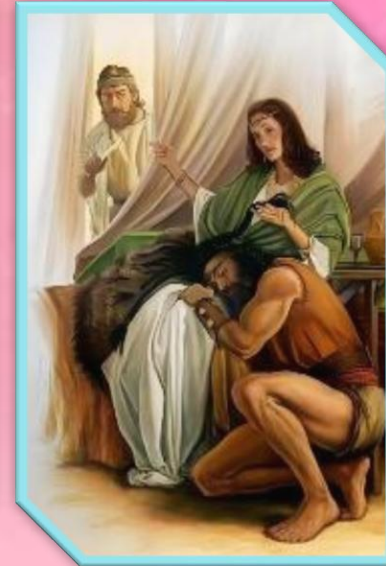
# AVOID TEMPTATION

**"but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed."** (James 1:14 NIV)



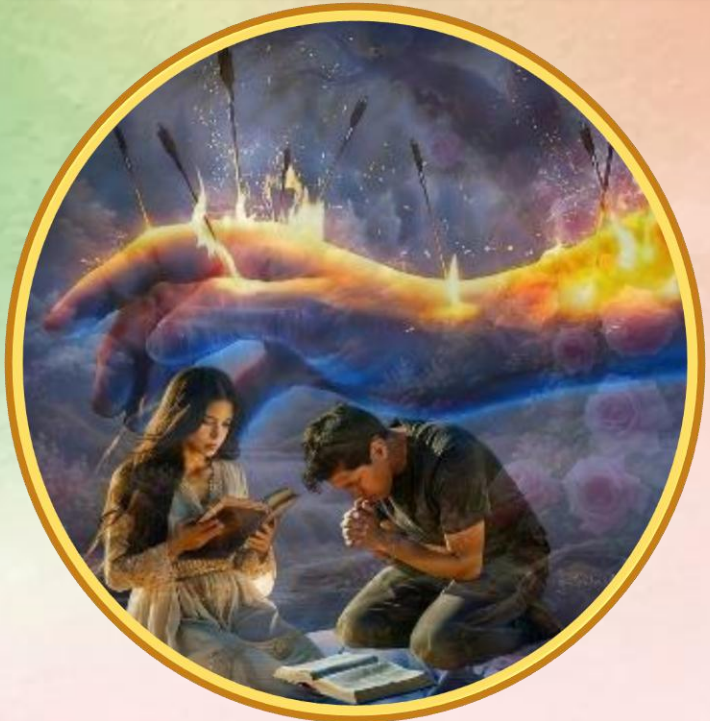
**James calls the one who resists temptation "blessed" (James 1:12 NIV). But he clarifies that temptation does not come from God (James 1:13 NIV), but rather arises from our own evil desires (James 1:14 NIV) .**

**Paul speaks of a "tempter" (1 Thessalonians 3:5), whom Jesus identified as Satan (Matthew 4:3, 10). He is the one who best knows how to use our weaknesses to lead us into sin. Let us not forget that we are immersed in a cosmic war between Christ and Satan, and that the tempter will do everything possible to turn us away from Christ.**



**Samson is a clear example of a person who gives in to temptation by letting himself be carried away by his emotions, even knowing that these went against God's will (Judges 14:1-3; 16:1, 4).**

**How to avoid temptation? By seeking God (Mt. 6:33); spending time alone with Him (Mk. 14:38); taking up the shield of faith (Eph. 6:16).**



# TIPS TO AVOID SIN

“And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell.” (Mark 9:47)

Jesus left us clear instructions to avoid sin:



Avoid doing things that could lead you to sin (Mark 9:43; Job 23:12). For example, buying alcohol.

Avoid going to places where you might sin (Mark 9:45; Job 23:11). For example, going to a nightclub.

Avoid watching things that might lead you to sin (Mark 9:47; Job 31:1). For example, watching movies with indecent scenes.



In short, do everything you can to avoid sin and being tempted to sin. Pray about it.

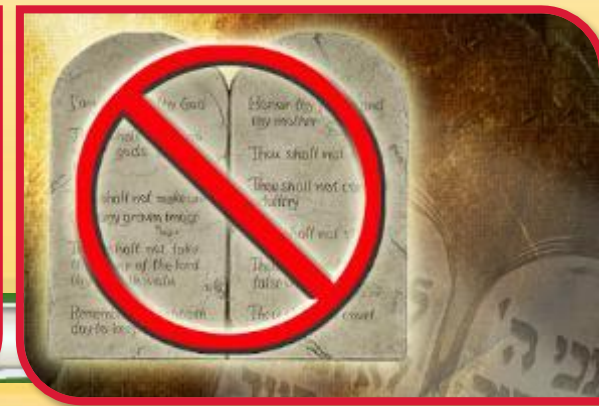
- 1 Do not think you are self-sufficient (1 Cor. 10:12)
- 2 Stop telling everyone how good you are, be humble like Jesus (Mt. 6:2)
- 3 Do whatever is necessary to eradicate lust from your heart (Mt. 5:28-29)
- 4 Stop criticizing and judging others (1 Cor. 4:5)
- 5 Do not hate your enemies, but pray for them (Mt. 5:44)
- 6 Stop being angry with those around you (Mt. 5:22)



# THE LAW III

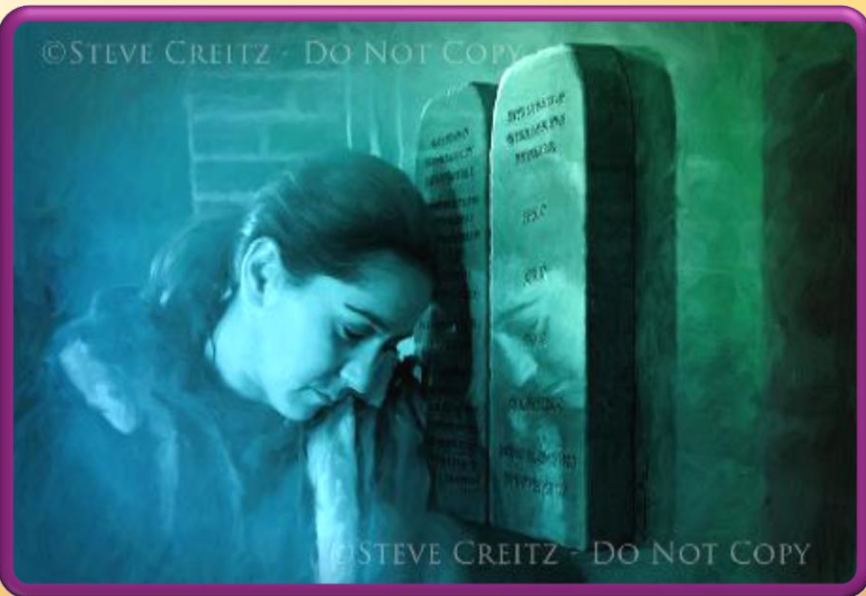
# THE LAW AND SIN

**"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness." (1 John 3:4)**



**The relationship of the Law to sin has been misinterpreted by some who think that by keeping the Law they can redeem their sins (Gal . 5:4). This idea has led others to the opposite extreme, namely, that the Law has been abolished.**

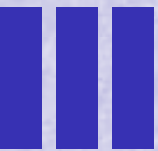
**The problem has been thinking that the Law is related to salvation, either as a means or as an obstacle to achieving it. But the function of the Law has never been salvific. What, then, is its function?**



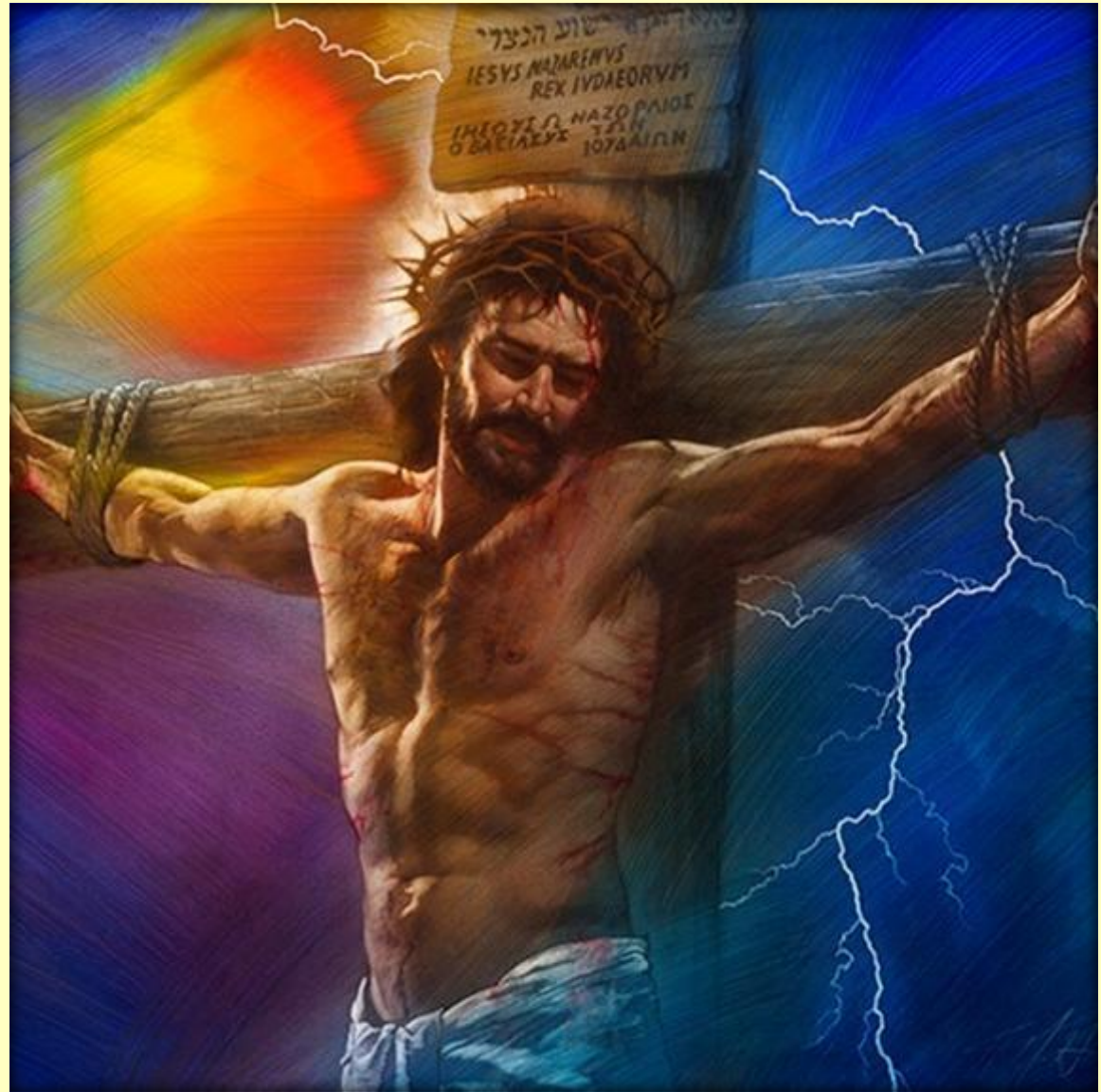
**The Law reveals sin to us (1 John 3:4). Without the Law we would not know what sin is (Romans 7:7) and, therefore, we would not seek a solution (Galatians 3:24).**

**Far from being a burden, the Law is a protective fence that prevents us from suffering the terrible consequences of sin (1 John 5:3; Psalm 1:1-3).**





# THE GOSPEL

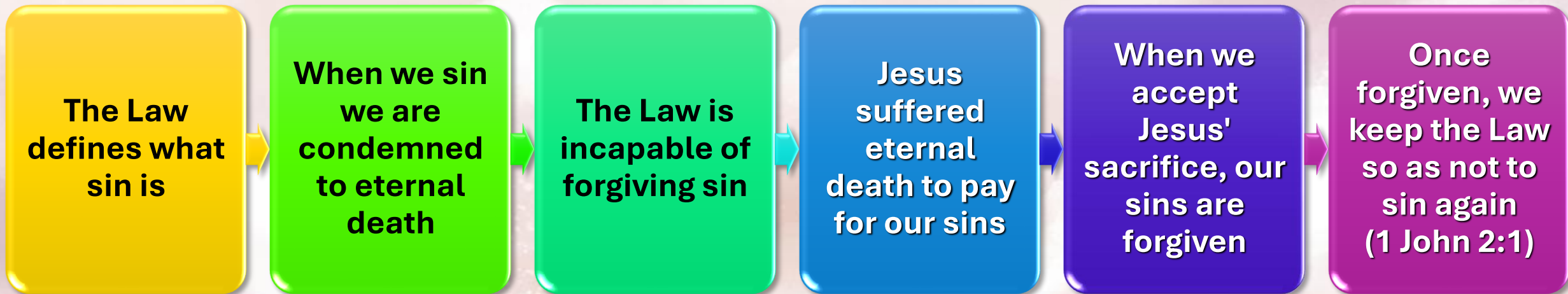


# THE GOSPEL AND THE LAW

"For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law." (Romans 3:28)

Our salvation (the forgiveness of sins and eternal life) is obtained through the work Jesus did for us on the cross (Gal. 3:13). This compels us to love Jesus for it (1 John 4:9, 19). And we demonstrate this love precisely by keeping his commandments (John 14:15).

Let's review the relationship between the Law and the Gospel (that is, salvation through the blood of Jesus):



Jesus never intended to abolish the Law, but to confirm it (Mt. 5:17). Both the Law and the Gospel are a reflection of God's very character: love.



# BUILT ON THE ROCK

**"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24)**



**Accepting the Gospel involves following a process. The first step is knowledge. We must know that Someone can redeem us (Rom. 10:14).**

**But knowledge alone will not save us. Jesus compared those who receive the knowledge of salvation but do not put the principles of the gospel into practice to a person who built on sand "and great was the fall of it" (Matt. 7:26-27).**



**Knowledge must be accompanied by concrete actions (Mt. 7:24-25). We are justified apart from the works of the Law (Rom. 3:28), but it is necessary that these works be seen in our lives as a result of our salvation (Mt. 7:18-21).**

**When we accept Jesus and live in close relationship with Him, keeping His commandments, we are building on the Rock.**



**“The law reveals to man his sins, but it provides no remedy. While it promises life to the obedient, it declares that death is the portion of the transgressor. The gospel of Christ alone can free him from the condemnation or the defilement of sin. He must exercise repentance toward God, whose law has been transgressed; and faith in Christ, his atoning sacrifice. Thus he obtains “remission of sins that are past” and becomes a partaker of the divine nature.”**

**EGW (The Great Controversy, p. 467)**