**Scripture:** Romans 3:1-20

**Singing:** 267 – 68 – 217 – 428:6, 10

Intro. Has your thinking about the *Law of God* changed to Paul’s or David’s confession? (Rom. 7:12; Ps. 19:7-10)

A. That only and always happens when God *saves your soul*

1. Separated from Him, the *Law is terrifying and hated*

a. because we all know thru internal monitor that we are guilty!

b. because law confronts us with our inner *sinfulness*

c. because we feel the law *restricting us*

2. Once united to Him, the Law becomes our desire - goal: Phil 3:14

**God’s Use of the Law in the life of a Sinner**

By the law is the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20b)

**I. God’s purpose with Law is *not to tell us how reach eternal life***

A. This was the purpose of Law ***only*** in unfallen Paradise

1. For Adam/Eve the *Law was the* ***way to eternal life***

2. But since we are no longer in the *condition of Paradise the law is no*

*more the way to eternal life*

**II. God’s purpose of the Law in life of sinner is to *reveal his/her sin***

A. The Law is His *diagnostic tool to convict us about our hopeless and*

*helpless condition* (Romans 3:20; 7:7)

1. Consider God’s law like *mirror - x-ray – MRI machine*

2. Without the Law of Love before us

a. we remain blind for our real condition (Eph. 2:1-3)

b. we remain indifferent to the message of grace or salvation

3. Abandon efforts to *fix yourself* upon seeing your *diagnosis*

B. God uses the Law to *guide sinners to Jesus Christ*

1. Gal. 3:24 *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto*

*Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

a. define schoolmaster in Greek culture

2. To understand this relationship between Law to Gospel is vital!

a. they are distinct yet they are complementary

● Law is God’s court servant to lead us to His throne of grace

● The Law doesn’t save but leads to the Savior

● The Law and Gospel are like the *injection* in doctor’s hand

b. the law is powerful to kill us but powerless to kill love for sin

3. We will always need this *schoolmaster* as long as we live on this earth

a. God’s law will always remain a source of conviction especially as

seen in the Master’s love

b. God’s saints, though justified, aren’t fully sanctified till we grace

gives way to glory

● Rom. 7:14; Rom. 8:7

Finally: Take time to reflect on *your relationship to God’s law!*

A. The Pharisee (or legalism) isn’t extinct

1. be aware that legalistic thinking *is familiar to us*

a. because that’s how we operate in daily life

b. because that’s how we used to relate to our Creator

B. The Biblical X-Ray

1. Do you love God with **all** intensity of your heart like Jesus?

2. Likewise, do you love your neighbor as you love yourself, to the

extent that Jesus did, even to His enemies?

C. The Biblical Verdict: Gal. 3:10

● *Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things*

*which are written in the book of the law to do them.*