

WE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE (ROMANS 6:14); WHAT DOES NOT LIVING UNDER THE LAW REALLY MEAN?

By George Lujack

Many mainstream end times Christian ministers preach that the law, the Mosaic law, or all of the laws of God are abolished based on Romans 6:14, which declares that we are no longer under the law, but under grace. This article will clarify and define what the Apostle Paul really meant when he wrote that "you are not under the law, but under grace."

ROMANS 6:14:

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Although many lawless-minded preachers proclaim that Romans 6:14 implies that the law is abolished and done away with, it does not actually declare that it is. Romans 6:14 states that we are not 'under' the law and in the context of the very next verse, it is clear that the law remains.

ROMANS 6:15:

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

If the law was abolished, we could not possibly sin, because without law there is no sin. Paul hypothetically asks, "What then, shall we SIN because we are not under law, but under grace? CERTAINLY NOT!"

Since sin still exists, therefore so does the law. And we should not sin, even though we are under grace, for God will judge us one day for our sins.

ROMANS 6:16-19:

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, YOU BECAME SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, SO NOW PRESENT YOUR MEMBERS AS SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HOLINESS.

When Paul wrote, "sin will not have dominion over you," he was not saying that sin will not have dominion over you *because* the law is abolished. Paul was declaring that we, as believers, are to overcome sin through faithful obedience to the law by living holy in righteousness.

2 PETER 3:15-16:

Our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

Lawless-minded Christians twist and use Paul's words to deceive themselves and others into believing God's eternal and unchanging laws are abolished.

WHAT DOES NOT UNDER THE LAW BUT UNDER GRACE MEAN?

ROMANS 6:14:

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not [LIVING] under [THE ORDINANCES FOR BREAKING THE] law but under grace [IN THIS AGE - TO TURN AND COME TO REPENTANCE].

GALATIANS 3:13-14:

Messiah (Christ) has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Messiah Yeshua (Christ Jesus), that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Most Christians fully understand what it would mean to live under Islamic Sharia law, but seem to become willfully ignorant to the fact that living under God's laws means virtually the same thing. In Islam, they stone adulteresses and harshly punish people for other sin violations of Islamic law. Similarly, living under the ordinances of the Tanakh (Old Testament) laws of God called for the death penalty for adultery, homosexuality, Sabbath breaking, and many other sins that were capital offenses.

Messiah (Christ) has redeemed us from the CURSE of the law, not the law itself. The curse of the law, for disobeying it, is death. The law remains. It is perpetual. The New Covenant is Messiah (Christ) taking death for us, so we can be redeemed, repent, and live righteously through faith in Him.

EZEKIEL 33:11:

'As I live,' says YHWH (the Lord) GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways!

Paul wrote that we are not to live *under the ordinances* for breaking the law, but grace, so that we can willingly turn from sin to live holy and righteously in this age of grace. God will surely judge us over our faithfulness to the law and for our sins. So then, is the law abolished? CERTAINLY NOT!