

— Romans 4.14-15 —
Romans Series 31
The Problem with the Law

Rom 4.13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, 15 because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.

* It's easy to get the impression that the law was just ...

* But then, Jesus said the law was all about ...

* The Jewish establishment esteemed and trusted in ... They acted as though simply having ...

* In vs 14, Paul is saying, "Look, if simply having the law makes one an heir of God's promises, that means ..."

* The law was intended as ... but the actual effect of the law was ...

* The law could instruct Israelites on the heart of love they should have toward God and one another, but it was powerless to ...

* Name two ways a righteous command results in more sin in an

unregenerate heart:

(1)

(2)

* How do these three passages show us the problem with the law?

(1) *Hab 1.4 The law is powerless.*

(2) *Jer 31.31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

(3) *Rom 8.3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

* Anyone who believed God's promises and trusted God to fulfill them was, by definition, someone ...

* How does this help us understand Hab 2.4: "The just shall live by faith"?

* What is the connection between faith and faithfulness?

* What does Rom 1.5 say was the goal of the apostles?

* What does Heb 3.18-19 say was the reason the people could not enter the promised land?

* What Hab. is acknowledging is that Israel's open unfaithfulness was underlaid by ..., and that those whom God would count as righteous would be those who ...

* Remember, the difference between a son and an employee is not ..., but ...