



Churches Of God Outreach Ministries
People working together to proclaim the Gospel

"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

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Mini Study

Is the Old Testament Relevant?

...not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law till all is accomplished (Matthew 5:17)

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (II Timothy 3:16)

Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4)

Among believers it is widely considered that the Old Testament has little relevance to Christianity. Jesus, many say, began a new religion which cut its ties with the ancient text. Yes, there are New Testament references to the Old but, it's claimed, it is just a legalistic document with little relevance to Christianity. Does this stand scrutiny?

- there's no debating the fact that Jesus in his ministry—and indeed throughout his life—lived by and quoted as foundation truth *'every word of God'*, as did the apostles
- when the apostles refer to *'the Scriptures'* they refer to the *Old Testament*. The *New Testament Gospels and Letters etc* were not yet written
- he also elevated to a new level the partially obscured spiritual significance of the Old Testament. He added a clearer spiritual understanding to the foundation truths divinely-revealed from Creation
- in truth, Jesus did not 'start a new religion' but cleansed of its accumulated error the accretions to the then contemporary Judaism
- 'the Law of Moses' was Israel's national Constitution and its divinely inspired principles are universal and everlasting
- The *Torah* [instruction law] is a blueprint even for modern government
- the first Christians, because of their practices and teachings and submission to the Law, were considered to be a sect of Judaism
- Although saying the Law is 'done away' few Christians believe the last six of the Ten Commandments of the Law are, in Christ, abolished: theft, adultery, murder *etc*
- at least lip service is paid by Christians to three of the first four of these Commandments, omitting only the Sabbath command— also appointed for mankind since Creation
- willing Spirit-driven submission to God's revealed will in the Scriptures is not 'legalism'
- the apostle John—'apostle of love'—defines sin as *'...the transgression of the law'* or *'lawlessness'* (I John 3:4)
- he adds: *'this is the love of God—that we keep His commandments'* (I John 5:3), and writing of the end times says,; *"...the dragon [Satan, the Devil] was angry with the woman [Israel and the church] and went to make war with the remnant of her seed which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ"* (Revelation 12:17)
- these signify, clearly, that if we don't submit to the divine Law we are yet in our sins and not fit for the Kingdom

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Published by:
The Churches of God Outreach Ministries
PO Box 54621
Tulsa, OK 74155-0621
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www.cgom.org

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