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Mini Study

The Law: *Blessing or Burden?* by Steven Kieler

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:29-30)

Are the commandments and statutes of God a burden? Not too many people would argue with the boss if he told them to "take an extra hour off for lunch." Yet, man refuses to rest on the Sabbath day. We refuse to tithe even though God promises great blessings for doing so. (Malachi 3:10) *"Bring you all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."* Most people look at the commandments of God as a burden or restriction yet they are described as *"The law of liberty."* (James 1:25) *"But whoso looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."*

That phrase seems an oxymoron, but if we would all live by the "law," we would all be truly free. (John 8:32) *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

Look at the following verses; some of the key words are in bold.

- "The law of the **LORD** is *perfect*, converting the soul: the testimony of the **LORD** is *sure*, making wise the simple. The statutes of the **LORD** are *right*, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the **LORD** is *pure*, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the **LORD** is *clean*, enduring forever: the judgments of the **LORD** are *true* and *righteous* altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is your servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse you me from secret faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression." (Psalm 19:7-13)
- "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things *are true*, whatsoever things *are honest*, whatsoever things *are just*, whatsoever things *are pure*, whatsoever things *are lovely*, whatsoever things *are of good report*; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things. (Philippians 4:8)
- "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for *sin is the transgression of the law*." (1 John 3:4)
- "Know you not, that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16)

The law can be a burden if you make it so. Like a rug, it is soft, comfortable, warm and safe if you rest on it. If you carry it or wear it, it is a burden. The law delivers us from the dominion of sin. Look at the divine law as a blessing, not a burden.

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