**The “*Power”* Points is a teaching summary**

**from the classes of Grace Bible Church of PA**

**Taught by Pastor/Teacher Ed Rish**

**From Sunday, October 28, 2012**

**The Tale of Two Marriages**

JESUS CHRIST came to earth in the form of true humanity to go to the cross and be judged for sins. After He ascended into heaven He left behind a legacy for the church age. He left behind his thinking, the mind of CHRIST in written form, the Word of GOD. The Jews had the Mosaic Law. The Mosaic Law was divided into three parts, the Decalogue, the ordinances, and the judgments. The Decalogue or 10 commandments have to do with the nation of Israel. The ordinances are the spiritual code, where The LORD JESUS CHRIST is revealed as the Savior. The spiritual code deals with soteriology, the study of salvation, and Christology, the study of the person and work of JESUS CHRIST. The spiritual code also includes the essence of GOD, a study on justification, and the adjustments to GOD’s justice.

These doctrines, however, were presented in shadow form. They were presented through the rituals and the oral teaching of Moses. The tabernacle and everything in it, the holy days, and the Levitical offerings had a specific meaning. They all pointed to the person and work of The LORD JESUS CHRIST. The point here is through the spiritual code of the Mosaic Law the Jews were taught the Bible doctrine related to The LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The Mosaic Law still has significance today in that it illustrates how nations should be run. But the spiritual code of the Mosaic Law no longer exists. The writer of Hebrews tells us why in ***Heb. 10:1 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.*** Continuing in verse 8 it says ***SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE in them (which are offered according to the Law), then He said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*** The humanity of JESUS CHRIST came into the world to do The Father’s will. It began as a baby in a cradle and it ended at the cross.

This is what the spiritual code of the Mosaic Law pointed to. So when JESUS CHRIST appeared on the face of human history there was no longer a need for the law. Paul wrote in ***Col. 2:17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.*** What the law could not accomplish through offerings and sacrifices, JESUS CHRIST accomplished. So the law was taken out of the way. That’s what the phrase; *He takes away the first,* means. It refers to the old covenant, the Mosaic Law.

However note the phrase, *establish the second.* This has a direct connection to our current series. Old things have passed away and new things have come. New things have a direct connection to church-age believers. Through our LORD’s sacrificial spiritual death, believers have been sanctified, or set apart positionally. Set apart means set apart from rules and regulations, set apart from sin, set apart from the world and the domain of satan. And set apart to GOD. Believers have been made new; we’ve been given a new life, and with this new life comes a new purpose. That purpose couldn’t be accomplished through any law, whether it is the Mosaic Law, the Law of Moses, or the law that was written in the souls of men.

In our series in Paul’s letter to the Romans we’ve dealt with the principle of death to sin, where emphasis was placed on positional truth. Through a simple act of faith the believer’s old position in Adam is done away with. His new position is IN CHRIST. Following the two deaths of JESUS CHRIST on the cross and His burial, He was resurrected. His resurrection marked the beginning of a new life. Forty days later He ascended into heaven and His earthly ministry was over. Upon entering heaven He was seated at the right hand of The FATHER. What began on the cross continues in heaven. On the cross JESUS CHRIST atoned for all the sins of mankind and at the right hand of The FATHER, The LORD JESUS CHRIST began His heavenly ministry as our High Priest. It says in ***Heb. 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.***

The point is JESUS CHRIST had to die both spiritually and physically in order to live a new life. And because He lives, every person alive on earth in the church age has the potential to live a new life as well. This is made possible through a simple act of faith. Through faith in JESUS CHRIST believers died to sin.

The Law was much like a husband who imposed all kinds of strict rules and regulations on his wife yet couldn’t provide what she really needed. The Mosaic Law demanded a standard of holiness, but it couldn’t provide it. It made man aware of the fact that his sins violated GOD’s perfect standard of holiness, which would eventually result in judgment. According to the law of marriage Paul writes, if a husband dies the wife is no longer bound to him by law. In the Old Testament marriage points to the relationship between GOD and Israel. In the New Testament that same relationship exists between The LORD JESUS CHRIST and the church.

At the time Paul wrote this letter, believing Jews were going back to the law. These Jews had already been united in an intimate bond with The LORD JESUS CHRIST through the baptism of The HOLY SPIRIT, and this is an eternal union. It says in ***Gen. 2:24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*** Now look at what Paul wrote in ***1 Cor. 6:17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*** Both of these passages refer to a union that cannot be broken. The point is that going back to the law after being joined to The LORD JESUS CHRIST is analogous to a woman who commits adultery. According to Jewish law a woman could be stoned to death for committing adultery. The point is the marriage relationship was meant to be permanent. In the same manner union with JEUS CHRIST is permanent. To go back to the law after salvation then, is spiritual adultery.