Error of the Lawless PART 2

STUDY GUIDE | ERROR OF THE LAWLESS PART 2

Finding the Ancient Path | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GsvmMLh3oME

Teaching Purpose

This Teaching continues Part 1 by asking how believers can reason together with intellectual honesty about biblical law, grace, covenant faithfulness and scriptural interpretation. It examines the speaker's use of passages from Matthew, Romans, 1 John and 2 Peter, challenges assumptions about Paul and the Sabbath, and calls for careful study that produces obedience and patient fellowship.

Quick Answer

The speaker describes the error of the lawless as an approach to faith that treats God's instruction as irrelevant while overlooking the biblical connection between sin, lawlessness and repentance. Part 2 calls readers to read Scripture in context, test disputed claims about the Torah and Paul, avoid straw-man arguments, and practice intellectual honesty in seeking truth. The Teaching's proposed interpretation of Acts 20 and its broader conclusions about law and covenants remain interpretations that students should examine.

Core Distinction

Faith and salvation are not presented as earned through works, yet the speaker argues that grace should lead to a changed life. The Teaching distinguishes what Scripture explicitly states from the conclusions drawn when passages are brought together. Respectful reasoning means reading an opponent's position fairly, and testing the meaning of sin, lawlessness and holiness across their original contexts.

Teaching Outline and Key Takeaways

Reviewing previous points

Part 2 revisits the speaker's Part 1 concerns about translations, lawlessness and the need to compare English renderings with the language and context of Scripture.

The importance of reasoning

Isaiah 1:18 and Proverbs 18:2 introduce a call to patient reasoning rather than arguing to win. The speaker asks the viewer to examine the text and seek understanding.

Intellectual honesty defined

The Teaching defines intellectual honesty through attention to evidence, acknowledgement of personal biases, fair treatment of opposing views, logical consistency and willingness to be corrected.

Applying honesty to faith

The speaker describes straw-man arguments, gives a Torah-obedience example and encourages listeners to distinguish honestly asked questions from distorted objections.

The unchanging nature of God

Uluru serves as an illustration of constancy. Malachi 3:6, Psalm 102, Hebrews 13:8 and James 1:17 are used to explore God's enduring character and faithfulness.

Challenging religious beliefs

The speaker argues that differences in God's manner of addressing people should not automatically be equated with changes to His character or commandments. This is the interpretive framework for the passages that follow.

Addressing lawlessness in Matthew

Matthew 7:21-23 and Matthew 5 are examined alongside the Greek idea of anomia. The speaker argues that the warning against lawlessness should be read against the Torah and Yeshua's teaching.

Misinterpretations of fulfillment

Matthew 5:17-19 is compared with Yeshua's statement in John 19:30 and Paul's words in Romans 3:31. The speaker distinguishes the completion of redemptive work from the claim that all biblical prophecy is finished.

Sin and lawlessness defined

Isaiah 59:2, 1 John 3:4, Romans 4:15 and Romans 5:13 are brought together in a discussion of sin, law, forgiveness and the consequences of a claim that law no longer exists.

Loyalty to Yeshua and the law

The group discusses Luke 16:16-17 and John 8:10-11. The speaker urges listeners to test their loyalties to institutions or preferred doctrines against Yeshua's teaching and practical repentance.

Prophetic validation of eternal law

Amos 3:7 introduces the speaker's question about prophetic support for the abolition of Torah. He contrasts this proposal with prophecies concerning Messiah, covenant and kingdom.

The law from the beginning

The speaker points to Genesis accounts involving Cain, Noah and Abraham to argue for divine instruction prior to Sinai, and connects the discussion with continuing prophetic promises.

Testing the Apostle Paul

The speaker gives a method for examining passages that seem to place Paul and Torah at odds: compare context, distinguish justification and obedient living, and examine Yeshua's words and the prophets.

Paul's misinterpreted writings

The Bereans' search of Scripture and Peter's warning in 2 Peter 3:15-18 are offered as reasons to read Paul carefully instead of inferring that he abolished God's law.

Shabbat and festival interpretation

Acts 20:6-7, the count of the Omer in Leviticus 23:15-16 and Passover language in 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 are used to challenge a common interpretation of the first day of the week. The proposed reading of Acts 20 is the speaker's interpretation.

The dangers of turning away

The speaker calls for honest self-examination and a practical life of holiness and seeking God. He warns against twisting passages to preserve a preferred religious worldview.

Group discussion and definitions

The closing fellowship explores differences among sin, transgression and iniquity, comparing Hebrew and Greek terms and passages including Exodus 34:7, Leviticus 4:2 and 1 John 3:4; participants also discuss gracious outreach and prayer.

Key Scriptures — Contextual Notes

- Isaiah 1:18 - The LORD invites His people to reason together, introducing the Teaching's approach to honest discussion.
- Proverbs 18:2 - A fool takes pleasure in expressing an opinion rather than gaining understanding; the speaker uses this as a caution against defensiveness.
- Malachi 3:6 - The LORD declares that He does not change; the Teaching applies this to God's character and covenant faithfulness.
- Psalm 102:25-27 - Creation changes and wears out, but God remains the same and His years have no end.
- Hebrews 13:8 - Yeshua Messiah is described as the same yesterday, today and forever.
- James 1:17 - Every good gift comes from the Father of lights, who has no shifting shadow.
- Matthew 7:21-23 - Yeshua contrasts saying "Lord" with doing the Father's will and warns those practicing lawlessness.
- Matthew 5:17-19 - Yeshua speaks of not abolishing the Law or Prophets and of the continuing importance of their commands.
- John 19:30 - Yeshua declares His work finished at the crucifixion; the Teaching contrasts completion of redemption with broader claims about prophecy.
- Romans 3:31 - Paul asks whether faith nullifies the law and responds that faith upholds it.
- Isaiah 59:2 - The prophet describes iniquity and sin as separating people from their God.
- 1 John 3:4 - John states that sin is lawlessness, a central passage in the Teaching's argument.
- Romans 4:15 - Paul writes about the relation of law, wrath and transgression.
- Romans 5:13 - Paul says sin was in the world before the law, and discusses its accounting where law is absent.

- Luke 16:16-17 - Yeshua describes the proclamation of the kingdom and then affirms the endurance of the law in the next verse.
- John 8:10-11 - Yeshua tells the accused woman that He does not condemn her and charges her to sin no more.
- Amos 3:7 - The prophet describes God revealing His counsel to His servants the prophets.
- Genesis 26:5 - God commends Abraham for obeying His voice, commandments, statutes and laws.
- Genesis 7:2 - Noah receives instructions distinguishing clean and unclean animals before Sinai.
- Deuteronomy 13:1-5 - Israel is instructed to test a prophet who would lead the people away from loyalty to the LORD.
- Acts 17:11 - The Bereans examine the Scriptures daily to test what they heard.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21 - Paul urges believers to test all things and hold fast to what is good.
- Romans 7:12 - Paul calls the law and its commandment holy, righteous and good.
- 2 Peter 3:15-18 - Peter acknowledges difficult passages in Paul's letters and warns against their distortion and the error of lawlessness.
- Acts 20:6-7 - Paul travels after Unleavened Bread; a gathering on the first day of the week is described as a meal and discussion.
- Leviticus 23:15-16 - The Torah commands counting seven complete Sabbaths and fifty days from the wave offering.
- 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 - Paul identifies Messiah with Passover and uses the feast's imagery to call for sincerity and truth.
- Exodus 34:6-7 - God describes His mercy and justice while referring separately to iniquity, transgression and sin.
- Leviticus 4:2 - The Torah addresses a person who sins unintentionally against one of the commandments.
- James 1:5 - Those lacking wisdom are encouraged to ask God, who gives generously.
- Psalm 119:160 - The psalmist celebrates the truth of God's word and the endurance of His righteous judgments.

Reflection and Discussion Questions

1. How does Isaiah 1:18 inform the tone of disagreements about biblical commands?

2. What does intellectual honesty require beyond simply knowing one's preferred biblical interpretation?

3. How can we recognize a straw-man argument without dismissing a sincere question?

4. What does Malachi 3:6 explicitly say, and what further steps are needed to apply it to covenant questions?

5. How does Matthew 7:21-23 describe the relation of profession, conduct and lawlessness?

6. How should Matthew 5:17-19 and John 19:30 be read in their respective contexts?

7. What does 1 John 3:4 say about sin, and how does Romans 5:13 complicate a simplified view of law?

8. What criteria does the Teaching suggest for evaluating Paul fairly and consistently?

9. What are the possible readings of Acts 20:6-7, and what evidence would help evaluate them?

10. How do the discussions of sin, transgression and iniquity affect practical repentance and fellowship?

Practical Study Applications

- Read Isaiah 1:18 and Proverbs 18:2; identify one habit that can make a difficult conversation more truthful and constructive.
- Read Matthew 5:17-19 with Matthew 7:21-23. List what each passage explicitly states before writing any broader conclusion.
- Compare Matthew 5:17-19, John 19:30 and Romans 3:31 in context; distinguish the text from interpretations about the ongoing place of Torah.
- Read 1 John 3:4 alongside Romans 4:15 and 5:13. Record how each passage uses the terms sin, law and transgression.
- Choose a debated passage in a Pauline letter. Study its audience, argument, nearby verses and relevant Torah background before deciding what Paul means.
- Read Acts 20:6-7, Leviticus 23:15-16 and 1 Corinthians 5:7-8. Compare possible calendar interpretations without assuming one from a single word.
- Use Exodus 34:6-7 and Leviticus 4:2 to discuss the difference between unintended failure, defiance and entrenched wrongdoing.
- Invite a trusted believer to discuss one difference of interpretation; listen, test the evidence and close the discussion respectfully.