

Jesus Sets Us Free!

Pastor Adrian Rogers declared,

- You are not saved by keeping the law.
- The law says, “Do this, and thou shalt live.” The gospel says, “live, and thou shalt do.”
- The law says, “Pay me what thou owest.” The gospel says, “I freely forgive all.”
- The law says, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul, with all thy heart, with all thy mind” [Matt. 22:37]. The gospel says, “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” [1 John 4:10]
- The law says, “Cursed is every one who continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them” [Gal. 3:10]. The gospel says, “Blessed is the man whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered” [Ps. 32:1].
- The law says, “The wages of sin is death” [Rom. 6:23]. The gospel says, “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” [Rom. 6:23].
- The law demands holiness. The gospel provides holiness.
- The law says, “Do!” The gospel says, “Done!”
- The law places the day of rest at the end of the week. The gospel places the day of rest at the beginning of the week.
- The law makes blessing the result of obedience. The gospel makes obedience the result of blessing.
- The law says, “Run!” but it doesn’t give us any legs. The gospel says, “Fly!” and it give us wings.

Oh, thank God for the gospel! What the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, Christ, dying for sinful flesh, brought to us light and life and immortality in the gospel” [Rom. 8:3; 2 Tim. 1:10].

Dr. Rogers’s observations are similar to these differences between the legalism and grace:

- Legalism challenges but ultimately defeats us. Grace provides victory through surrender.
- Legalism points to an unattainable goal of righteousness. Grace puts us in the place of Christ’s righteousness from the start.
- Legalism says, “Earn recognition.” Grace says, “Recognize what Christ has done for you.”
- Legalism motivates through obligation. Grace encourages through love.
- Legalism lies to us about our ability. Grace tells us the truth about our helplessness apart from Christ.
- Legalism leads us to believe we’re right with God when we aren’t. Grace tells us we are alienated from the Lord but invites us to allow Him to forgive our sins and bring us into a right relationship with Him.
- Legalism says, “You have to.” Grace makes us want to.
- Legalism promotes pride. Grace fosters humility.
- Legalism imprisons. Grace liberates.
- Legalism is written in black and white. Grace is written in red—the color of Christ’s shed blood.
- Legalism makes sense but doesn’t work in the real world. Grace sounds too good to be true but genuinely transforms us and enables us to face everyday challenges.

The gospel of grace accomplishes what legalism rooted in the law never could! Yes, the law serves an important purpose, but that purpose is to bring us to a point of realizing our own helplessness so we would receive God’s grace! (See Gal. 3:23-24.) Having received God’s grace, we now have God’s power to live as transformed individuals. He makes it possible! (See Rom. 7:13-8:11.)

Quotations from Scripture by Dr. Rogers were loosely based on the King James Version.
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