

Law and Gospel (With a view towards the Parables)

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<http://www.bowardstudio.com/images/023-Bible&Cross.jpg>

Understanding the words “law” and “Gospel” in Scripture requires care.

- We have been talking about “law” and “Gospel” in the strict, or narrow, senses, where each is distinct from the other.
- Scripture and church writers also use both words in broad, or wide, senses, where each includes the other.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Law}_{\text{wide}} &= \text{Law}_{\text{narrow}} + \text{Gospel}_{\text{narrow}} \\ \text{Gospel}_{\text{wide}} &= \text{Law}_{\text{narrow}} + \text{Gospel}_{\text{narrow}} \\ \text{Law}_{\text{wide}} &= \text{Gospel}_{\text{wide}} \end{aligned}$$

- Mark 1:1, 4; 1:14-15; Acts 20:24



2

That the law serves the Gospel relates to other things' purposes.

- Bible
 - Shows who we are as sinners
 - Shows what God has done to save us
- Church services
 - God speaks and we confess our sins
 - God forgives us, we praise and thank Him
- Sacraments
 - Not something we do
 - Something by which God gives us forgiveness



3

In cancer treatment, radiation and bone marrow are correctly handled.



<http://www.srlc.com/services/technology/image/Clinic.jpg>



http://www.medicalprogress.org/facts/news.cfm?news_id=359

- Lethal radiation kills cancerous cells.
- Life-giving bone marrow replaces dead cells.
- Doctors must correctly handle the two.

4

The Word of God also is correctly handled: divided and applied.

- 2 Timothy 2:15 (ορθοτομούντα; KJV “rightly dividing”)
- Purpose and work of each must not be confused
 - Law must be applied in its severity
 - Gospel must be kept pure
 - Improper “divisions” must be avoided (for example, the Gospel cannot “excuse” sin)



5

Who are believers, to whom God speaks words of law and Gospel?

- Sinful by nature and thus in debt to God (accused by law; think Gospel is foolishness)
- Redeemed by faith in Jesus Christ (instructed by law; comforted by the Gospel)
- Return to Baptisms daily
 - Law kills Old Adam (sinful human nature)
 - Gospel births new person (redeemed spiritual nature)



6

Let's discuss Biblical examples of applications of law and Gospel.

- Mark 9:14-27



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