

# ★ The Purpose of the Law 4th - 6th Grade Lesson 6

## ★ Guilty Before God

We have studied many stories from the book of Acts. In the New Testament, Acts is the book right after the four gospels. The next book is Romans. From reading the Bible, we can see that Paul wrote the book of Romans before he visited the city of Rome (Romans 1:9-12). At this time, Rome was probably under the rule of a man named Nero. Nero was not a Christian. In fact, Nero hated Christians.

In the book of Romans, Paul talks a lot about salvation! He tells us how someone can know for sure that he will be able to go to heaven when he dies. In this lesson, we are going to learn about the purpose of the Old Testament Law and how we can better understand salvation.

### God's Law Is Just

*Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*

—Romans 7:12

Do you remember when we learned about Moses? Moses led God's chosen people out of Egypt. God gave Moses His Law, and Moses gave the Law to the people. The Israelites were supposed to obey the Law (Romans 3:19a).

Why did God give this Law to His people? There were many things that the Israelites were and were not supposed to do. The Bible tells us that God gave them all of these laws so that they would see how sinful man was (Romans 3:19b). Some people think they never do anything wrong, but that is not true.

Have you ever thought of what it would be like to have no rules? Maybe that sounds like fun. But, really, it would be terrible. Imagine if there were no rules for driving. People would drive right through red lights! What if no one had to obey traffic signs? Many bad accidents would happen. God gave the Law so that man would know what he should and should not do. He gave us the Law so that we would know what is right and wrong.

After God gave Moses the Law, He gave Moses a plan for setting up the tabernacle. He also told Moses how the people would have to offer sacrifices when they did wrong. We have learned that sin always has a punishment. God knew that the people would have to pay a price for breaking laws. The people would offer sacrifices at the tabernacle to pay for their sins.

Do you know what the word *propitiation* means? It means "to appease." In Romans 3:24-25, *propitiation* means "payment for sin." When we have faith in Jesus, He is the propitiation for our sin. He paid the price for all of our sins!

*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the*

*whole world.*

—I John 2:2

## **God Is Just and Justifier**

The Old Testament prophets wrote about Jesus having salvation. Zechariah said, “He is just” (Zechariah 9:9). The word *just* means “holy and right.” In Romans, Paul wrote that Jesus was the “justifier” (Romans 3:26). That means that God can make people holy and right through His Son Jesus. The Bible calls this the “righteousness of God.”

Although God is righteous, man is not righteous. The Bible tells us in Isaiah, “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away” (Isaiah 64:6). Even though some people try hard to be good, the Bible says that everyone is unrighteous.

In order for us to be justified, we need God to help us. The only thing we have to do is believe in God’s Son, Jesus Christ. We need to believe that Jesus died in our place and paid for all of our sin.

*To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

—Romans 3:26

The Bible says in Hebrews 9:22 that “without shedding of blood is no remission” of sins. *Remission* means “forgiveness or release from a debt or penalty.” Jesus shed His blood on the cross so that He could pay for your sin! We know that Jesus paid the debt for our sin, because the Bible tells us He shed His blood for us.

## **Christians Are Justified**

Some people try to justify their sin by living by the laws of the Bible. This is not the right way to get to heaven. The Bible tells us that no one can get to heaven by just obeying the law. The law shows us how we sin. But obeying the law does not mean we get to go to heaven.

The only way we can get to heaven is by freely accepting Jesus as our Savior. By faith, we need to believe that Jesus shed His blood for the payment of our sins. We need to realize that it is God’s grace that saves us. We cannot do anything to save ourselves.

## **Conclusion**

*Redemption* is a big word. It means “to be set free.” We should be so thankful that Jesus set us free from our sin when He died on the cross for us. We learned some important things about salvation in this lesson. Jesus did a lot for us when He died on the cross. Every day, we need to take time to thank Jesus for redeeming us!