

29/21
My New Year

Difficult Scriptures

I. Scripture: Romans 6:14

II. How This Verse Is Misused By Some

Some point to this verse to try to prove we don't have to keep the law, or that it has been done away. Specifically, the argument here is that we don't have to obey the law because we are under grace, not under law.

III. True Explanation

- A. Remember that although people say you don't have to keep the law, they really don't mean this literally. Do they mean you can kill or steal or murder with impunity? No, of course not. What they do mean is that you can break the Sabbath, not tithe and not keep the Holy Days, etc. Remember this when you explain such verses so, if need be, you can point out this inconsistent and hypocritical stance toward the law.
- B. This scripture does not say we don't have to obey the law. It does say we are not under the law, but under grace. The term "under the law" refers to being under the penalty of the law -- not under the jurisdiction of the law.
- C. When we sin -- break God's law (I John 3:4) -- the law has a claim over our lives (Romans 6:23). We are then under the law -- under its penalty. It is the sinner who is under the law. On the other hand, when we repent and receive God's grace, made possible through the sacrifice of Christ, we are pardoned and the penalty of death is taken away. Then we are no longer "under the law" -- in other words, we are no longer under the penalty of death for having broken the law.
- D. Does this give us free license to sin (break the law) because we are under grace and not under the law? Paul asks this very question in verse 15 and answers it by saying, "God forbid." It is like a condemned murderer on death row waiting for execution. At the last minute the governor grants him a pardon. He is now a free man, but that does not mean he is at liberty to murder again. That would be absurd. His pardon covers only the past offense -- not future crimes.

E. If grace did away with the law, there would be no sin, because where there is no law, there is no sin (Romans 4:15). The fact that sin exists and that there is a need for grace to remove the penalty of sin shows that a law is being broken and therefore that the law is still in effect today.