“LA W” TREATED AS “COVENANTS”

“I am not under the law, but under grace.”

Have you ever heard that line from someone to whom you were trying to explain the Sabbath? It is used as a conversation stopper: “Sorry, but I’m no longer bound by anything the law required, including the Sabbath, now that Jesus has come and put us ‘under grace.’”

While “you are not under law but under grace” is biblical (from the last verse in our inScribe section for this lesson—Rom. 6:11–14), many people do not realize that it is not the entirety of verse 14 but simply a phrase from the verse. Our purpose in this lesson is to study this verse in its immediate and wider context.

But before we begin, we need to add another key concept to the four we noted previously (see lesson 6 inTro) that is important to keep in mind as we study this and the next two lessons especially: when Paul and the New Testament authors discuss “the law,” or “law,” they often have covenant issues in mind. So the same historical/experiential models of interpretation apply to the discussions of the law as apply to discussions of the covenants, especially when the discussions are polemical (argumentative), appearing to portray a negative attitude toward the law, and are presented through a series of contrasts, as occurs in presentations on the covenants. In each passage one must ask, “Is this referring to the law as God gave it in history and intended it to function (the historical dimension) or to the way humans have rightly or wrongly responded to God’s Law (the experiential dimension)?”

Read This Week’s Passage:
Romans 6:1–23
Write out Romans 6:1–23 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Romans 6:11–14. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Romans 6:1–23. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How have you personally evaluated interpretations that state that Sabbath-keeping is no longer valid for those "under grace"?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Romans 6:11–14</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>&quot;Under the Law&quot;</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>“Sin shall have dominion over you” (v. 14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>You are &quot;alive&quot; to &quot;sin&quot; (v. 11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sin “reigns in your body… [you] obey its evil desires” (v. 12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Offer… yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness” (v. 13)</td>
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Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov08-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Considering that the historical old and new covenants teach the same gospel, which of the two explanations above have the greatest “explanatory power” and the least “academic burden”: interpreting Romans 6:14 historically or experientially? Why?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov08-4

*Under Law* vs. *Under Grace*
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Exodus 34:6, 7
Psalm 103:1–14; 145:8–16
Jonah 3–4
2 Timothy 1:8–10
Hebrews 4:15, 16

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Romans 6:1–23?

Review your memorized verse from Romans 6:1–23.
Meditate on Romans 6:1–23 again and look for where Jesus is.

How do you understand grace anew?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, where is grace needed in your life?

Where is grace needed in those around you?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/cov08-7
How has there been dissonance between the Old and Testaments in your mind?

Why is understanding the Testaments as contradictory so perilous?

Have has understanding the Testaments as noncontradictory raised your trust in the Bible and in God?

If you were discussing Rom 6:14 with someone, how could this week’s chart be helpful?

How do you understand the “Law” differently now?

How does this study bring change in how you understand Romans 6:14’s phrase, “you are not under law but under grace?”

What does living under grace mean to you?

How can we experience the wonder, the security, and the adventure of Christ’s grace daily?

“Under Law” vs. “Under Grace”