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## Law and Gospel—The Two Faces of God’s Word

### A VERY GREAT MESSAGE

Review the Introduction to the catechism (questions 1–8). Place the following words in the blanks below to make true sentences about the Christian faith and the Bible, God’s Holy Word.

verbal inspiration Jesus Christ  
New Testament Hebrew  
Jesus Christ Old Testament  
error Greek Aramaic

Christianity is the life and salvation God has given us through \_\_\_\_\_. God’s truth about Jesus Christ is revealed in the \_\_\_\_\_, which promises the coming Savior, and the \_\_\_\_\_ which tells of the Savior who has come. We believe that God the Holy Spirit gave His chosen writers the thoughts they expressed and the words they wrote. This belief is called \_\_\_\_\_. We believe the Bible is God’s Word and as such is without \_\_\_\_\_. The Old Testament was originally written in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The New Testament was originally written in \_\_\_\_\_.

### TWO GREAT DOCTRINES

God’s Word can be divided into either **Law** or **Gospel**. We need to examine the words of the Bible to find these divisions.

God’s **Law** tells us one or all of three things:

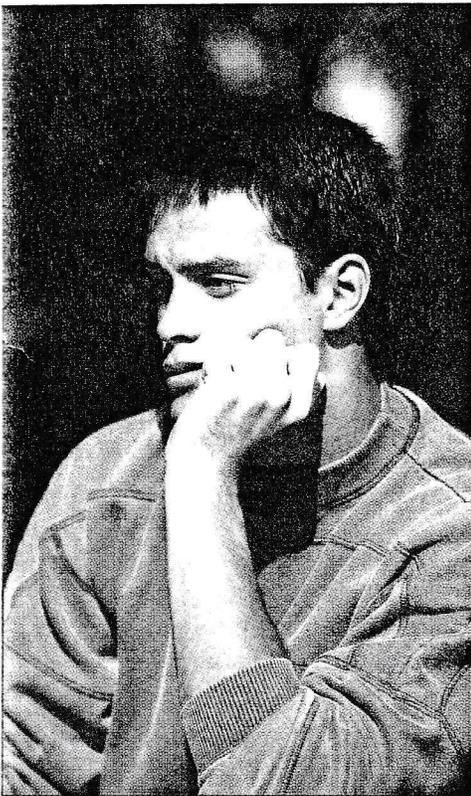
1. *What we should do*
2. *What we should not do*
3. *How we should live*

The **Gospel**, however, tells *what God has done for us* because of His great love. The Gospel is the Good News of our salvation in Jesus Christ through which God gives forgiveness, faith, life, and the power to serve Him in our lives.

Learn the italicized definitions of Law and Gospel to help you identify clear statements of Law or Gospel.

The following is a list of statements from the Bible. Read and think about each one. Write **L** before each Law statement and **G** before each Gospel statement.

1. “He was pierced for our transgressions ... and by His wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).
2. “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children” (Deuteronomy 6:6–7).
3. “Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy” (Leviticus 19:2).
4. “Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate” (Matthew 19:6b).
5. “Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her” (Ephesians 5:25b).



Use the same letters to identify Law or Gospel statements from life.

- \_\_\_ 6. Jesus loves me, this I know.
- \_\_\_ 7. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- \_\_\_ 8. We ought to obey God.
- \_\_\_ 9. Heaven is a gift of God.
- \_\_\_ 10. Jesus lived and died to save us from our sin.

### HOW LAW AND GOSPEL WORK IN PEOPLE'S LIVES

Christians often use Law and Gospel in their daily living. In this skit find examples of how Ricardo's father used Law and Gospel.

**Father:** Ricardo, it's time to mow the lawn.

**Ricardo:** Aw, Dad, not today! It's too hot! Besides, I promised Darnell I'd go to the movies.

**Father:** Yesterday it was swimming, and the day before you said the grass was too wet. You promised you'd do it today.

**Ricardo:** Dad, you don't understand. The movie won't be showing after today, and I can't go back on my promise to Darnell!

**Father:** Do you see what has happened, Son? You've made promises to do two things at the same time. Do you feel comfortable as a Christian when you give your word so carelessly?

**Ricardo:** Well, no, I guess I didn't stop to think about it that way. I'm sorry I did it. But how will I get out of this mess?

**Father:** I'm glad you see your mistake, Ricardo. I forgive you, and you know God has forgiven you, too. He paid for that sin and all others 2,000 years ago at Calvary. Let's talk to Jesus about this problem. Then let's work out a way for you to "get out of this mess."

1. How do you think Ricardo's problem was solved?

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2. Underline the father's words of Law. Draw a wavy line under his words of Gospel.

3. How did the Law statements make Ricardo feel?

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4. How do you suppose the Gospel statements made Ricardo feel?

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