

**Colossians - Chapter 2**  
**“The Law - Nailed to the Cross!”**  
**Colossians 2:14**

**Verse 14**

1. Jesus Christ did what we could not do - He kept God's law perfectly. Never once did He sin or fall short of God's righteous laws. Christ said He came to fulfill the law. That is exactly what He did.
2. Every one of us has violated God's law, over and over again. The law stands up straight and tall, and looks at us, and cries out, “Guilty!” The law condemns us all to eternal death.
3. Our only hope would be for somebody to take it out of the way, and clear the way for us to be justified without performing the deeds of the law.
4. This is exactly what Christ did on the cross. He not only took our sins to the cross, He took the law to the cross and nailed it there. *“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us...nailing it to his cross.”*
  - The *“handwriting of ordinances”* is clearly a reference to the law that God wrote with His own finger on tablets of stone, and gave to Moses and Israel (the Ten Commandments). Deuteronomy 9:10
  - The word *“ordinances”* simply means “laws.” God's laws were against us in the sense that they condemned us and proved us guilty. None of us could keep God's righteous laws. We all fell short. Romans 3:19-20
5. Christ blotted them out when He died on the cross. This means “to smear out; to obliterate.”
  - The word *“handwriting”* speaks of the debt we owed. A debt is usually a written document. But, once paid, the debt is cancelled and taken out of the way. You can tear up the paper and throw it away. It's paid in full.
  - Christ paid off all our debts. He blotted out the debt. The law has no force against us; it cannot prove any standing debt. It cannot demand or inflict any penalty.
  - As Christ's body was torn on the cross (He was the embodiment of God's righteous law), it was as if that debt of the law (the *“handwriting of ordinances”*) was torn in two.
6. Keeping a set of rules and laws is no longer an issue in gaining a righteous standing before a holy God. Paul said, *“But now the righteousness of God **without the law** is manifested... Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe.”* Romans 3:21-22
  - Later on in Romans 3:28, Paul exclaims, *“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith **without the deeds of the law.**”*
7. How can this be? How can a holy God justify people who have fallen short of His righteous standards? He can do it based on what Christ did on the cross.
8. Christ kept the law in totality and then took it and nailed it to His cross. He took it out of the way. No longer is your law-breaking the issue. The issue now is your heart attitude towards Jesus Christ. Will you receive His payment for your sin on the cross, or will you reject Him?

9. Christ nailed the law to the cross, thereby forever dealing with the sin issue. Had it not been nailed to the cross, it could have reared its head against us again.
  - Some people teach that Christ nailed Israel's ceremonial law to the cross, but not Israel's moral law (the Ten Commandments, for example).
  - There are moral commandments that Paul reinforces to the church, but we don't obey these commandments in order to attain righteousness before God. We obey these commandments because we have **already** been made righteous, and Christ's life now lives within us.
  - If there was any part of God's law that Christ did not nail to the cross, then that means that it still has life and power to condemn us. No, Christ took it **all** out of the way.
10. Paul proclaimed that we are now delivered from the law: "*...that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.*" Romans 7:6
11. Any religious group that wants to hold all or part of the Old Testament law as a standard for acceptance with God is a false religion that has failed to rightly divide God's Word, and failed to understand the cross work of Christ.
12. Paul said in Galatians 2:19, "*For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.*" We now have life! But it didn't come from keeping the law. The law produced death. I have life - divine life - and it came from Jesus Christ.  
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