

Mar 9 2026 weekly reflection

The Role of the Law: Leading Us to Christ

One of the key functions of the Law in God's redemptive history is to guide people to recognize Christ and to understand that salvation comes through Him alone. Paul states clearly in *Galatians 3:24*: "So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith." This verse reveals the deeper purpose of the Law: it was never meant to save people through works, but to show them that they *cannot* be saved by works, and therefore must turn to Christ.

The Law first reveals God's holiness and righteousness, showing that His standards are absolute and perfect. At the same time, the Law exposes human weakness and corruption, helping people realize that they cannot meet God's requirements through their own efforts. As *Romans 3:20* says, "Through the law we become conscious of our sin." The Law functions like a mirror, showing us our true condition; it also acts as a strict teacher, making us aware of our need for a Savior.

The Old Testament sacrificial system, priesthood, and festivals further foreshadow Christ's redemptive work. The book of Hebrews tells us that these rituals were "a shadow of the good things that are coming" (*Hebrews 10:1*), with Christ Himself being the true substance. Every sacrifice reminded people that sin requires a payment they cannot provide; every priest pointed toward the greater High Priest; every festival anticipated the salvation that would be fulfilled in Christ. The ceremonial aspects of the Law thus served as a preview of the gospel, stirring expectation for the Savior who would remove sin once for all.

Therefore, the ultimate purpose of the Law is not to make people righteous through works, but to lead them to understand that righteousness comes only through faith in Jesus Christ. As *Romans 10:4* declares, "Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes." Christ did not abolish the Law; He fulfilled it, satisfying its demands completely. The Law reveals God's standard; Christ meets that standard. The Law exposes human sin; Christ removes that sin. The Law shows humanity's need for salvation; Christ becomes the source of that salvation.

In this way, the Law plays an indispensable role in God's plan of redemption. It reveals God's justice and human inability; it identifies the problem of sin and points to the One who solves it. Ultimately, the Law brings people to Christ, helping them understand that salvation is not by works but by faith; not by human effort but by God's grace; not by the Law itself but by Jesus Christ, who fulfilled the Law.