

Prayer of Thanksgiving: that Jesus' mission on earth was completely selfless taking our sinful life to give us in exchange his perfect life. **"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."** (2Co 5:21 ESV)

Please do not forget to pray for all the shut-ins and isolated brothers and sisters in our congregations Mrs. Jack and C. Campbell (Fredericton) and J. Steffes (Caribou, Me), Mr. Ross Bathurst, P. Ward (Saint John) and others.

Open Hand Food Bank – Moncton - is in need of grocery plastic bags to give out food to those in need. If you are interested in donating your unused grocery bags, you can bring them to church and someone will collect them and bring them over. Those who want to bring food to give to the **Open Food Bank** may do so by bringing to church and giving it to **Michael M.** of the Moncton congregation.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF March 2019

Times of worship services: **Moncton** – 10:30 AM every Sunday

In **Saint John** – March 10 and 24 at 2:30 p.m.

Communion- on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

Address: Moncton—70 King St. —Sage building;

Saint John—50 Newport Cres., Portland United church.

Discipleship Group at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vautour this coming Wednesday, March 27 at 7:30 PM. **Topic: continuation of 1 Peter chapter 2** – to continue – and **chapter 3**

Please pray for people in our own New Brunswick communities that more will come to saving faith in Christ as the response to God's calling on their life.

Monthly GCI prayer guide is now posted in featured articles on our www.worshipim.ca website.

AUDIO SERMONS are also now uploaded to **YouTube.ca**. To listen to those sermons, you can Google **Grace Communion International New Brunswick** or go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgKazyWhmKmDZy69vJcFfPg>. Please pray that they will be a source of inspiration in sharing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to a wider audience. They continue to be available in our local website at www.worshipim.ca

The good news of the gospel is a message to be shared with others. Please pray that God will give us the love and wisdom to be able to share this message with others in a loving, clear and confident matter as we participate in his missional work on the earth in our generation. **"5 ¶ Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."** (Col 4:5-6 ESV)

Please pray that God will put an end to the senseless violence happening in North America continent and other parts of the world.

Pray for the world and for all people: we live in a world that does not know the way to peace. Important to pray as we are instructed by the apostle Paul — **"1 ¶ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,**" (1Ti 2:1-3 ESV)

OLD TESTAMENT LAWS: THE ETERNAL VALIDITY OF GOD'S LAW

(from <https://www.gci.org/articles/the-eternal-validity-of-gods-law/>)

Physical circumcision, which was once commanded by God, is no longer required. How can this be? God, the perfect and unchangeable Lawgiver, changed a fundamental aspect of his law — not only circumcision, but also sacrifices and temples and priesthoods. The infallible Scriptures contain commands that are obsolete.

Laws about sacrifice are valid in their intent, but we obey them through faith in Christ.

But Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished" ([Matthew 5:17-18](#)).

Jesus was talking about the entire Old Testament — the Law and the Prophets. So how can his statement be reconciled with the fact that some commands of the Old Testament are not required today? Perhaps the best approach to explain this is to understand that the laws are valid in their intent, but changed in their application. Laws about sacrifice continue to be valid, but we obey them through faith in Jesus Christ, who was sacrificed for us. The law required sacrifice, and Jesus confirmed its validity at the same time as he made it unnecessary for us to perform it.

Obeying in the heart

When God commanded animal sacrifices, he commanded a law that was perfectly appropriate to the times. When David said that God did not want animals ([Psalm 51:16](#)), that was also a perfectly appropriate administration of the law of sacrifice, because David was inspired to understand that repentance was the real command (verse 17).

The real law is eternally valid; the physical administration of it has changed.

When Christ sacrificed himself, he made all animal sacrifices unnecessary ([Hebrews 10:8-10](#)). The administration of the law shifted to faith in the effectiveness of Jesus to atone for our sinfulness. When we have faith in him, we are effectively obeying the laws regarding sacrifice. Likewise, we are obeying the law of circumcision when our attitudes are circumcised. The real law — allegiance to God — is eternally valid; the physical administration of it has changed. We live in a different age, needing a different administration.

God's law is written on our hearts by the Holy Spirit ([Hebrews 10:16](#)). This does not mean the physical details regulating specifics of worship practices are on our hearts, but it means the *intent* behind those regulations, especially faith and love and other fruits of the Spirit.

God's law did not originate with Moses — sin existed before Moses and sin does not exist without law ([Romans 5:12-14](#)). God's law existed before Moses did, and the people transgressed it. There is a law *behind* the Law of Moses. The Mosaic administration was a valid expression of God's holy, spiritual, righteous law, and it was appropriate for its situation, but it is not appropriate after the death of Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

In fact, to impose or to attempt to combine the Mosaic administration into Christian faith and practice can cause many problems. New wine makes old wineskins burst ([Matthew 9:17](#)). The old covenant, the old way of relating to God, is obsolete. However, many of the Mosaic rules, especially those concerning the way we should treat other people, are still valid applications of the spiritual purpose. Jesus explained them in the Sermon on the Mount, for example (see chapter 8).

[Matthew 5:17](#) does not prove that an Old Testament law must be kept in the same way as it was under Moses.

But many other laws of Moses, especially those concerning worship, are not valid practices because we have been given the spiritual fulfillment that those rituals only symbolized. Jesus criticized the Pharisees for paying too much attention to details and not enough on human relationships (Matthew 23; [Mark 7:11-13](#)). In summary, laws can remain in Scripture, and remain valid in purpose, and yet we may no longer be required to keep them in the letter. Just quoting [Matthew 5:17](#) does not automatically prove that an Old Testament law must be administered in the way it was under Moses. The law of circumcision illustrates the Christian approach to old covenant laws.

Review

Is the law of circumcision still valid? Explain one sense in which it is, and another in which it's not.

Are the laws of sacrifice still valid?

If a law was good at one time in history, is it always good?

Author: Michael Morrison

Devotional – Let There Be

FROM <https://update.gci.org/2019/03/devotional-let-there-be/>



²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over



By Nathania Mckinney

every living creature that moves on the ground.” ([Genesis 1:26-28](#))

In the earlier verses of Genesis chapter one, God said, “Let there be...,” and it was. When we get to verse 26 the scene changes and now God said, “Let us make man in our image.” Now God leaves no doubt in our minds that the triune God is going to be involved in making man not just one of the persons. The verse states that God (the triune God) took the dust of the earth and formed the man. He could have said let there be man and there would have been man just like was done for the plants and animals; man would have been a living, breathing being. But, the word indicates that like a sculptor molds a statue, God

molded a man.

When he was done molding the man, the word says he breathed into him the breath of life and then man became a living soul. From this we learn that each human being, no matter how the egg was fertilized, is special. As it says in the Psalms, God shapes our inner parts in the womb. That is how special we are to God. He takes interest in the smallest details of our lives and is with us every moment of every day, breathing his breath of life into us.

GCI principle website and Moncton Websites—www.gci.org, www.worshipim.ca, www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton; For a wealth of helpful articles about God, grace and his plan for salvation, who we are, etc., please see the GCI.org website. *Contact Information: Pastor’s contact information: email—evautour47@outlook.com*