



Prayer of Thanksgiving: that Jesus having come to the earth in our incarnate flesh love and works with imperfect people to bring us to glory. **"But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." .. 10 "... And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." (Lu 5:8, 10 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 February 2019**

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

**In Saint John** – February 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, February 20 at 7:30 PM. **Topic: continuation of 1 Peter chapter 2.**

---

#### **UPDATES:**

**Please pray for the safety of our brothers and sisters in GCI as well as others who live in Haiti.** Haiti is presently going through a lot of demonstrations and some a political chaos.

**Please pray for the soon upcoming meeting between Danny Zechariah, GCI pastor in India, and Santhosh Joseph and the congregations he pastors.** They are interested in becoming associated or affiliated with GCI. Mr. Zachariah has established communication with Pastor Joseph this past week.

**Monthly GCI prayer guide** is now posted in featured articles on our [www.worshipim.ca](http://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](http://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 that we will see the good works that God has prepared for us in advance** so that we can enthusiastically participate in the on-going work He is doing now on this earth in bringing people in relationship with him in Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

**Please pray, as per Jesus' instructions, the disciples prayer, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. <sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt 6:9-10)** as our world is suffering so much and in need of complete restoration by the King of kings, Jesus. As we are his royal priesthood, let us proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, as we are instructed in 1 Peter 2.

**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: SABBATH, CIRCUMCISION, AND TITHING – INTRODUCTION (from <https://www.gci.org/articles/sabbath-circumcision-and-tithing-introduction/> )**

Many Christians have questions about the laws of the Old Testament. Many people claim to keep the Ten Commandments, for example, but then ignore one of them — the seventh-day Sabbath. In effect, their "Ten" means only nine — and many can't explain why. They may say, "Oh, the Sabbath was an Old Testament law" — but so were the other nine! Why one and not the others?

As another example, many churches teach that Christians should tithe — give ten percent of their income to the church. But if the seventh-day Sabbath does not apply to Christians, why should the law of tithing apply? Why one Old Testament law, but not the other?

**In this mix of ceremonial, civil, and ethical laws, how can Christians know which laws apply today?**

Anyone who reads the Old Testament is likely to wonder: In this mix of ceremonial, civil, and ethical laws, how are Christians supposed to know which laws apply today? Are there biblical principles we can use to evaluate the laws of the Old Testament?

Yes — and the results challenge some common assumptions. Whether we advocate the Sabbath or abolish it, someone will like it, and others will not. Whether we teach tithing or not, someone will disagree, and others will be happy to agree. It's a controversy, so we want to see what Scripture says. What does the New Testament say about Old Testament laws? Which laws are quoted with approval, and which are said to be obsolete? What principles do we use when evaluating Old Testament laws that the New Testament does not specifically mention?

Basic beliefs

We begin with two basic beliefs: that Christians should obey God, and that the Bible is a reliable guide to the way we should obey. People who don't accept those beliefs probably aren't interested in this book, anyway — they don't care which laws apply today, because they don't consider any of them very authoritative.

**Christians don't keep *every* law in the Old Testament. So what did Jesus mean?**

Entire books could be written about the authority of the Bible, and I will not discuss that question here. I will simply note that the Bible describes God's people as people who obey God. Throughout the New Testament, the expectation is given that Christians respond to God's grace by obeying him. A few scriptures illustrate this point:

Jesus told the apostles to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...and teaching them to *obey* everything I have commanded you" ([Matthew 28:19-20](#), italics added).

Timothy was told that the Scriptures he had known from infancy — that is, the Old Testament Scriptures — "are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." Even in the Christian era, the Old Testament is useful for "training in righteousness." It helps us know how to live ([2 Timothy 3:15-17](#)).

Paul said that grace is not permission to sin, and faith does not eliminate the validity of biblical law ([Romans 3:31; 6:1-2](#)). Far from it! "The law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good" ([Romans 7:12](#)).

Jesus said he did not come to do away with the law, but to fulfill it. "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](#)).

But wait a minute, someone might protest. Christians don't keep *every* law in the Old Testament. We don't make sacrifices, stone adulterers, or consider ourselves "unclean" after attending a funeral — and neither did Jesus. So what did he mean? The laws have not disappeared, but at least some of them are no longer in force.

## Why don't Christians have to keep the law of circumcision literally?

Is the law of circumcision good? Yes, says Paul. As part of inspired Scripture, is it useful for teaching Christians about righteousness? Again, yes — but in what sense? Christians do not have to keep it literally, but why not? Why can Christians ignore some of the laws that God gave? That's what this book is about.

I begin with another belief, too: that this subject is not just for scholars, pastors and professionals. It can be understood by ordinary Christians, and indeed it should be. Scholarly studies can help, but they do not help everyone. Some books make the subject so complicated that the average person soon gives up.

I have therefore tried to make this subject easy to follow, and rooted in Scripture at every step. I mention a few other books for those who want further reading, but for the most part, this subject can be properly understood from Scripture itself. My main goal is to help average Christian readers understand what the Bible says about the laws of the Old Testament.

About the author

You may also want to know a bit about me. What qualifications do I have to write on this topic? I have, at different times in my life, kept the Sabbath and various Old Testament laws. At other times, I have not. In my Christian ministry, I have written against the validity of the seventh-day Sabbath, and I have written in support of it. I have studied the issues from both sides, both in theory and in experience. I know the arguments of both sides, and in this book I hope to share with you what I believe to be the best understanding of Scripture.

*Author: Michael Morrison*

### Greetings from Namibia (From GCI Update, Feb. 6, 2019)



Dear Fellow Servants of Christ

Praise be to the Father, who by the power of his Spirit has blessed us with a gift of life to see the dawn of 2019! Time is a gift of grace. It allows us to start again, to try again, and to yearn for tomorrow. The start of each day, each week, each month or each year must always remind us of God's grace. We can rejoice in the new opportunities that a new year presents, and the hope it engenders.

Margaret and I saw the dawn of 2019 under the Namibian skies of the Caprivi strip. We joined Pastor Lascan Sikosi, the National Ministry Leader of Namibia, and the Namibian pastors for a three-day conference. The first day, we had a church service with the local church members. It was followed by anniversary celebrations of GCI Namibia, complete with a birthday cake, which we all shared, followed by Communion. The rest of the conference consisted of pastoral and leadership training.

Thank you for the prayers for safe travels. After almost two days of driving, I experienced a bout of motion sickness on arrival in Namibia, and had to see a doctor. Fortunately, the problem cleared quickly, and I was ready for the meetings the next day. We had great weather with rain, which started the day we arrived. Please pray for the members in Namibia. Unemployment is a huge problem. Many rely on subsistence farming in the villages.



Congratulations to those who have passed their exams last year. May your 2019 plans come together. I want to also congratulate Lorna Laister, our National Children's Ministry Coordinator, who has completed her Bachelor of Theology degree with UNISA. In the future, all GCI pastors will be expected to have minimum academic qualifications. This is a huge achievement by Lorna. Congratulations from all of us!

Shalom, Takalani Musekwa

#### Quote from CS Lewis:

Jesus Christ did not say, "Go into all the world and tell the world that it is quite right"

Source: "God In The Dock" (1970)

**GCI principle** website and Moncton Websites—[www.gci.org](http://www.gci.org), [www.worshipim.ca](http://www.worshipim.ca), [www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton](https://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](mailto:evautour47@outlook.com)*