



In our last *Conversation*, we began to examine the distinction between *Law and Gospel*, by looking at the Law with Rev. Al Lewis. We learnt that God's Law has three purposes: the first purpose is to provide outward discipline as a good father does (find more details on that [here](#)). In today's *Conversation*, the Director of Communications (Dr. T) helps us to find out about the second purpose of God's Law, by putting this question also to Rev. Lewis:

Dr. T: You mentioned that God's Law has three purposes. We talked about the first; so, what is the second?

Rev. Lewis: The second purpose of God's Law is to show our sin. It is through the mirror of God's Law that our sin is revealed. We are no longer able to cover it up with homemade clothes of fig leaves. The Law breaks down our attempts to earn God's favour by our 'good' deeds. It knocks down our walls of self-righteousness and crushes our feeble attempts to earn God's favour by our own efforts. It drives home the truth that 'no clean thing can come from the unclean' (Job 14:4). We have an eternal problem that we simply cannot fix by ourselves despite all our knowledge and technology.

The Law was put in charge and holds us captive to show us our need for a Saviour to save us from sin, death, and hell (Galatians 3:21-25).

Fortunately for us, what we cannot fix God can and does. A couple of well-known Bible verses describe God's solution to our problem: "14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not

condemned, ..." (John 3:14-18a ESV). God's gift of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation is given to us because of Jesus' life of perfect obedience, His innocent death on the cross for us, and His victorious resurrection over sin, death, and the devil. Because of what Jesus has and is doing for us we are forgiven all our sins and cleansed from all unrighteousness. We are clothed in His white robe of righteousness, and we stand before God holy and blameless in His sight. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord!

And this leads us into the third purpose of God's Law. . .

Rev. Al Lewis graduated from CLS in 1992 and served as a parish pastor in B.C. and Alberta. After retiring in 2013 he ministered as an Intentional Interim Pastor in three congregations over ten years dealing mainly with conflict ministry. He is currently serving as vacancy pastor at King of Kings Lutheran Church, Dickson, AB.

As you see, there are three purposes of God's Law. Join us next week, to learn the third purpose, as we continue our journey back to basics in the *Conversations*. If you have questions that you would like to put to our pastors, send them [here](#), and get the answers you need in the *Conversations*.