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Understanding the function of the law helps us to appreciate the salvation we have by God's grace. If it were not for the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ we would still be under the law, lost in our sins, and destined for God's wrath and punishment.

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# What is the Function of the Law?

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must be careful to use the law lawfully, and not contrary to its purpose.

The very life and blessing of the nation of Israel depended on their response to the divine law in faith.

However, through the failure of Israel to follow the law, God revealed his hidden purpose and wisdom that the law had no power to save sinful humanity ([Romans 3:19-20](#), [8:3](#)). Indeed, it did nothing else but to manifest the wickedness of sin in our nature. This does not show that the law is wicked or evil, but on the contrary that *WE* are wicked and sinful.

We are held in bondage to the law 'The law worketh wrath', and we who failed under the law were deserving of that wrath (Romans 4:15).

Yet, Jesus took upon himself God's wrath in our place ([Romans 5:8-9](#)). Giving

us his own righteousness by faith. He took our wages of death on the cross and satisfied God's justice for sin ([Romans 7:24-25](#), [8:2](#)). The law no longer has its power over us unto death, for in Christ we are dead unto the law.

It is not that the law does not exist, or ceases to perform its function. It is that the law has no more hold over us, since we have been crucified and have satisfied the justice of the law in Christ!

Our penalty has been paid, our flesh is crucified, and so the law has no effect. Christ enables us to serve him in righteousness by faith! 'Being then made free from sin [we become] the servants of righteousness' ([Romans 6:18](#)).

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