

THE ETERNAL LAW AND SAVING GRACE

Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of this lesson: In our history, Seventh-day Adventists have sometimes been accused of proclaiming "law, law," and minimizing their emphasis on God's saving grace. Ellen White once said that we had preached (over-preached?) the law until we had become as dry as the hills of Gilboa. We have always believed in salvation only by grace, thus the emphasis we were making must not have been balanced, or at least misunderstood. Thus, we must work hard to teach law and grace in correct balance, and teach it prayerfully in order not to be misunderstood even today.

Study this "commission" on this subject very thoughtfully: "If we would have the spirit and power of the third angel's message, we must present the law and the gospel together, for they go hand in hand. As a power from beneath is stirring up the children of disobedience to make void the law of God, and to trample upon the truth that Christ is our righteousness, a power from above is moving upon the hearts of those who are loyal, to exalt the law, and to lift up Jesus as a complete Saviour."--Gospel Workers, 161, 162.

Our purpose in this lesson is wonderfully clear. Listen: "The law and the gospel, revealed in the Word, are to be preached to the people; for the law and the gospel, blended, will convict of sin."--Evangelism, 231, emphasis supplied. Our prayer must be to properly blend them.

During the study itself: Do not hurry over any text. Each needs careful explanation, and progressive incorporation into the total study. See the completed visual aid below so that you will see the beginning to the end of the overall thrust of the study.

Appeal: Question 5 contains the "germ" of the appeal. If you have time, read all of the four Scriptures. Show your student that when Christ is in the heart, there immediately springs up the motivation to accept and seek to emulate the character of the Trinity (the ten principles of the commandments).

Illustration: Continue to tie the elements of law and grace together in the illustration. Make it crystal clear.

