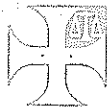


*God's
Law—
Our
Delight*

*A BIBLE STUDY
by
Mary Sgro*



CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY



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SESSION 1:
LEAFY
AND
GREEN

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.”

PSALM 1:2, 3

INTRODUCTION

Take time to introduce yourselves. Each person in the group may identify themselves by name, home, school or occupation, or use another icebreaker. Have you been to a Christian Legal Society meeting before? Do you have any expectations?

Read Psalm 1.

- 1 What are the two categories of people described in this psalm?
- 2 What distinguishes their behavior?
- 3 What distinguishes their destiny?
- 4 Verses 1 and 2 contrast the counsel of the wicked with God's law. Believers are blessed if they do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. Discuss examples of wicked counsel contrasted with God's law in cases you have read or experienced. When we study and practice with nonbelievers, how can we avoid wicked counsel?
- 5 Finally, share ways of how we can meditate on God's law day and night.



PRAYER

Close with prayer and ask for God's guidance in delighting in His law and in binding your hearts together for the duration of these studies. Let us not be cast out—let us be leafy and green. Let us bear fruit and prosper.

PREVIEW

In the next sessions we will discuss how God's law leads us to Christ, how in Christ we overcome the world and how the Spirit equips us to live the law of love.

SESSION 2: LED TO CHRIST

"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul."

PSALM 19:7

"So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith."

GALATIANS 3:24

In the last study we discussed the antithesis between those who fear God and those who don't. Unless God's law is our delight, we will be cast away with the wicked like chaff that the wind disperses. If we do delight in God's law, we will be leafy and green and will bear fruit and prosper. The implications for law students and lawyers are profound.

Now we will study how God's perfect law leads us to Christ. We will look first at the sources of God's law and the effects of sin. God's law leads us to Christ.

Read Psalm 19 and Romans 1:18-23, 2:5-11

Read Galatians 3: 10-14.

1. Where do we find God's law?
2. What are the characteristics of God's law? Contrast with the characteristics of human law.

- 3 Because of the fall of mankind and sin, what is the unbeliever's reaction to God's law and God's reply to those who reject Him?

- 4 For the believer, how is it possible to avoid God's judgment? What is Jesus Christ's relationship to the law?

- 5 (Optional) How do theories of jurisprudence that you have learned in school (e.g. natural law, positivism, realism, law and economics, critical legal studies, feminist jurisprudence or race critical studies) contrast with these Bible passages? Do they take into account creation, sin and redemption?

- 6 Have your studies and practice led you to Christ? List ways you as a law student or attorney can seek and find Christ through your studies and practice. How can your local Christian Legal Society chapter foster this? National CLS!

PRAYER

Close with prayer. Rejoice that God's law is perfect. Thank God that His Word leads us to salvation through Christ, and ask for God's guidance in seeking Christ through law.

PREVIEW

Next we will discuss how clinging to Christ, in turn, leads us to obedience to God's commands. In Christ we overcome the world!

SESSION 3: OVERCOMING THE WORLD

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

JOHN 15:5

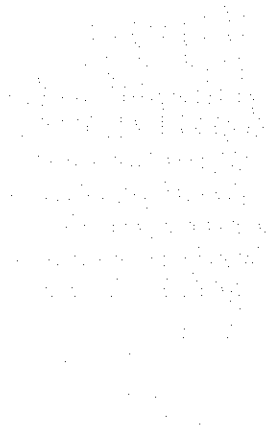
"And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."

JOHN 5:3b-5

So far we've discussed how the believer becomes leafy and green—by delighting in God's law (Psalm 1). Then we saw that God's law leads us to Christ. Now we will see that Jesus Christ, in turn, leads us to a life of obedience to God's commands. Therefore, knowing Jesus Christ is essential to fulfilling our callings as law students and lawyers, individually and corporately. In Him we overcome the world.

Read John 15:1-17 and 1 John 5:1-5.

1. How can we remain in Christ?
2. What will happen if we don't?
3. What is the relationship between clinging to Christ and obeying Christ's commands? What is Christ's command?
4. How do we love God?
5. What does it mean to overcome the world? Have you felt the reverse in your studies and legal practice—that is, overcome by the world?



Read **Matthew 5: 17-20**.

- 6 What spiritual problem is Jesus addressing?

- 7 How is it possible that our righteousness could surpass that of the Pharisees?

- 8 Consider your task in the legal profession. Is it subsumed under "teaching God's commands?" How do you compare your tasks with that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law in Jesus' day? What was their error? What unique perspective can Christians bring to interpreting the law?

PRAYER

Close with prayer, thanking Christ because He is the true vine, and He enables us to interpret and obey God's commands, which are rooted in love. Ask Him to help us overcome the world!

SESSION 4: LED TO LOVE

"Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."

ROMANS 13:10

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

GALATIANS 5:13, 14

This is our last session together. We've learned the necessity of delighting in God's law and how Christ fulfills God's law for us—the law of love. Today we will discuss how the Holy Spirit equips us to obey God's law of love.

Read Matthew 22:34-40, 23:23-24, Romans 13:8-10, John 14:15-21 and Galatians 5:22-26.

1. What is God's law in a nutshell? Contrast this with a one-line summary of human law.
2. Who does Christ send to dwell with us and help us fulfill God's law?
3. Give examples of how the life and ministry of Jesus Christ demonstrated God's love and justice, mercy and faithfulness.
4. Why aren't love and the other fruits of the Spirit mentioned in our law schools and firms?
5. If you are a law student, give examples of how you can express love, justice and mercy in your studies. If you are a practitioner, how can you express love? For example, how can you love your professors, fellow students, clients, opposing counsel, the judiciary, neighbor, etc.? How can your local Christian Legal Society chapter show love?

PRAYER

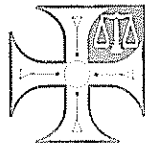
Close with a round of prayer. Pray for each other as you depart from this study! Thank the Lord for His law, and for our advocate, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the greatest student of the law and the greatest Counsellor and Advocate. Pray for the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives that He would lead us into God's love. Let us delight in God's law day and night!

*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple
They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
They are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the comb*

PSALM 19:7, 10

God's law is a rich and varied topic. It leads us to God's character and demonstrates His love toward us. Ultimately, the law points us to salvation through Jesus Christ, and through the Spirit, it is a guide for our lives as believers and lawyers.

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