

Jew and Gentile



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Surveying the Source

Matt. 19:16–22; Acts 15:1–29; Gal. 1:1–12; Heb. 8:6.

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Understand that we don't obey God in order to be saved. We obey because we love Him.
- ▶ Recognize some of the warning signs

of falling into the trap of legalism.

- ▶ Realize that even though we are saved by grace, God still expects us to obey Him.

Preparing to Lead

“All legalism, all the sorrow and woe by which you may encompass yourself, will not give you one moment of relief. You cannot rightly estimate sin. You must accept God's estimate, and it is heavy indeed. If you bore the guilt of

your sin, it would crush you; but the sinless One has taken your place, and though undeserving, He has borne your guilt. By accepting the provision God has made, you may stand free before Him in the merit and virtue of your Substitute.”¹

Materials

a laptop computer with Internet access (or a copy of the movie, *Finishing Strong*, to show on the computer or in a DVD player, if you don't have Internet access); multiple slips of paper with Romans 3:31; Romans 6:1, 14, 15 written out in their entirety

Getting Started

A. Show to your class one of moving YouTube videos in which Dick Hoyt enters and wins a race for his son, Rick, who has cerebral palsy and is unable to compete on his own. The following link is one of many you can choose from: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-SYmlj4kBE&feature=fvsvr>. Lead a discussion with your class, drawing an analogy between the scenario in the video and what Jesus did for us on the cross. *Ask:* •“How do you think Rick feels about his father, knowing how much his father loves him and the great lengths he went to for him?” •“Seeing this real-life illus-

tration, how does this make you feel about Jesus, who ‘won the race’ for us so we could be saved?”

B. *Read the following quote to your class:* “Priests and rulers became fixed in a rut of ceremonialism. They were satisfied with a legal religion, and it was impossible for them to give to others the living truths of heaven.”² Discuss with your class what Ellen White meant by this statement. *Ask:* •“Why does a legal religion make it impossible to share God's truth with others?” •“How do we as a church sometimes fall into the same trap today?” •“How can we avoid this?”

Delving Into the Word

A. Have the class do the activity on page 32. When everyone has finished, review the answers as a class. Then, us-

ing all the texts they looked up, work together to compose a summary statement about God's law. Write it on the board.

B. Say: “It is a common belief among other Christian groups that because we are saved by faith, we do not have to keep the law.” Then divide into small groups and hand out two slips of paper with the following texts written on them (one text per slip): Romans 3:31; Romans 6:1, 14, 15. (Make multiple copies so that there is a copy of each text for every group.) Ask those with texts to read them aloud to their group. Then have each small group discuss and come up with an appropriate response to someone who believes that

we no longer have to keep the law. Allow about 10 minutes for discussion, then select two people to role play in front of the entire group. One of them says, “Doesn’t the Bible say that we no longer have to keep the law?” and the other responds with a Bible answer, based on the earlier discussion. Allow the group to share observations about the role play and to give their suggestions on how to respond appropriately to people who believe this way.

Discussing the Ideas

1. Janice and Jennifer have been friends since high school. Jennifer, who is not an Adventist, is getting married and has invited Janice, an Adventist, to be a bridesmaid in her wedding, which will be held on a Friday night. Janice told Jennifer that she would be comfortable participating in the wedding, but not in the reception, so she has declined the invitation. Jennifer thinks Janice is being legalistic. What do you think? How would you respond in such a situation, and why?

2. Where did the idea that we can be saved by our works come from in the first place? What can we do to guard against this type of thinking? How can we help others who believe this way?

3. In Paul’s day, circumcision was an issue that sparked debate. What are some

current issues that could be points of contention in today’s legalism controversy?

4. Thursday’s lesson brings up the subject of cultural differences causing misunderstandings about what is right or wrong. How does one distinguish between a matter that is simply *cultural* (what’s appropriate varies according to time, place, or culture), and one that is a matter of *principle* (applies in every situation, regardless of time, place, or culture)?

5. The Bible tells us that we are saved by grace, not by works. So does that mean it doesn’t matter what we do? Explain your answer.

6. A term that is often used today in religious circles is “cheap grace.” Share your understanding of what this means.

Closing the Activity

Close by reading the following quote from the chapter “Faith and Acceptance” in *Steps to Christ*, page 49: “It is peace that you need—Heaven’s forgiveness and peace and love in the soul. Money cannot buy it, intellect cannot procure it, wisdom cannot attain to it; you can never hope, by your own efforts, to secure it. But God

offers it to you as a gift, ‘without money and without price.’ Isaiah 55:1.”

Encourage the class to go home, read the entire chapter, and put the principles found there into practice.

Close with a prayer of dedication and consecration, thanking God for what He has done for us.

Pat Humphrey, Keene, Texas, U.S.A.

1. Ellen G. White, *The Bible Echo*, July 2, 1894.

2. *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 15.

Look up the following texts and fill in the blanks:

God's law leads us to _____. (Ps. 19:7)

Keeping God's commandments brings great _____. (Ps. 19:11)

Salvation comes by _____. (Eph. 2:8)

Sin is _____. (1 John 3:4)

Breaking God's law leads to _____. (Rom. 6:23)

Being saved by faith gives us the desire to _____. (John 8:29)

Love always leads to _____. (John 14:15)

In the new covenant Jesus _____. (Heb. 8:10)

God places in us the _____ to do His will. (Ps. 40:8)

God's last-day people will _____ through faith. (Rev. 14:12)