

Belgic Confession, Article 25, "How the Old Testament Law Applies Today"

Scripture Lesson: Galatians 3

Lesson Aim	To understand why the Old Testament ceremonial and civil laws (typological laws) are no longer in force and how the Old Testament moral law is still in force.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 25 and Galatians 3. Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	Different biblical covenants are important to Paul's argument in Galatians chapter 3. What is a biblical covenant? A biblical covenant, to over simplify, is the legal agreement between God and his people. Define the Abrahamic, Mosaic and New Covenants The Abrahamic Covenant was a covenant of grace between God and his people in the Old Testament. The New Covenant is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant, is a covenant of grace and is between God and his people today as they have faith in Christ. The Mosaic Covenant was as covenant of works between God and the people of Israel. This covenant emphasized that people cannot be saved by works but through faith in Christ only. Is the Mosaic Covenant still in force? No, it was only temporary. Why did the Mosaic Covenant end? "Faith came," as Paul puts it. That is, Christ came, True Israel, who fulfilled the Law. Also, the need to separate Jew and Gentile ended and now any Jew or Gentile can enter the Promised Land of heaven through faith in Christ. What specific laws ceased to be in force with the end of the Mosaic Covenant? The ceremonial and civil laws, which functioned to point to Christ. Are there any laws from the Mosaic Covenant that we are to obey today? Yes, the moral law found in the Ten Commandments and other places. We know that these are valid for today because they are all reiterated in the New Testament. Are there any blessings and curses associated with following the moral law today? No, Christ took on the curses of the Law in our place. There are general blessings or benefits of obeying God's law like the fifth commandment for children obeying their parents. Paul makes this point in Ephesians 6:2. If we are saved by grace and not by obeying the Law, what is the motivation for obeying the Law? Answer: That Christ was crucified and raised for us!!!
Bible Reading	1 Kings 22 – 2 Kings 6 (covering the great Bible stories)