

DEVOTIONAL: THE POWERLESSNESS OF LAW

SERIES: *Gospel Preaching and Sanctification, part 9*

INTRO: We left off discussing our ongoing need for sanctifying grace, i.e., God's work to conform us to the likeness of Christ. We daily need this kind of grace because we are still sinners and to some degree, we still fail to see Christ's majestic beauty and our severe daily need for sanctification. We still need to discuss "Christ's majestic beauty," but first I want to round out our discussion of the proper use of God's law in our sanctification. Pointedly, God's law *shows us our need for sanctifying grace, but it is never the power of sanctifying grace.*

QUESTION 19: Why must we never treat God's law (His holy commandments) as the power of sanctifying grace? *Because the law arouses sinful passions rather than kills them.*

Romans 7:5–6, "For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code."

Romans 7:8, "But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead."

(continues on next column)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DEVOTIONAL: THE POWERLESSNESS OF LAW (cont.)

Romans 7:10–13, "The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹ For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹² So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. ¹³ Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

2 Corinthians 3:6–11, "who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

QUESTION 20: Does this mean that obeying commandments is not important? *NEVER! It means the power to obey commandments does not come from commandments, but only from the Spirit of the risen Lord.* It means we look to Christ alone to produce obedience and kill sin within us.

Romans 6:14–15, "For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!"

APPLICATION: If we genuinely desire holy obedience, we will look to Christ alone as the power source. We will be desperate for Christ and His sanctifying grace. We will indeed love God's law because it shows us God and shows us our ongoing need for our beloved Savior, ever turning our hearts to Jesus for mercy and Spiritual power.

Nursery Workers – January 7th

I AM (Crib) – Janie Steplowski and Bill Fornoff
II AM (Toddlers) – Alex Lewis and Phoebe Evans
PM– Combined I/II – Linda Mack and Marie Reid
Wed. (1/3) – Lynette Winzenried and Tami Cooney

Prayer Intercessor– January 7th– Tina Holmes

Greeters – January 7th– Anita Gearheart and Brian Akers

Ushers – January 7th – Gil Brown, Mark Evans*, Wesley Evans, Mark Huna, John Steplowski, and John Uhler*

Today's Ushers– Bradyn Citro, Mark Evans, Wayne Hudson, Vince Minichiello, John Steplowski, and Bill Tomlinson

* ushers that greet in the lobby



North Harford Baptist Church

www.NorthHarford.org
Standing for Truth

December 31, 2023



So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
Psalm 90:12

WELCOME TO NHBC

If you are visiting, we welcome you, and we are glad to have you. We hope your visit is encouraging. Use the **CONNECT WITH US CARD** in the lobby (at the Welcome Center and on the countertop) to let us know about your visit. You can place the card in the offering plate when it comes around during worship, or the offering plate on the counter in the lobby.

We have morning and evening worship services every Sunday. Morning worship focuses on preaching and applying the New Testament. Evening worship focuses on preaching and applying the Old Testament.

We want to help you come to faith and live out your faith according to God's Word. For more information, pick up a **WELCOME FOLDER** in the lobby.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service* (Church/Facebook) No Evening Worship
Monday	Church Office Closed—Happy New Year!	
Tuesday	9:00-10:00 AM	Precept Book Pick Up (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Church-wide Prayer (sanctuary)
	7:00 PM	Adult Bible Study (Rm. 1) Boys Bible Club (1 st –6 th grade boys) Girls in Action (1 st –6 th grade girls) Youth on Mission (7 th –12 th graders)
Friday	7:00–9:30 PM	Youth Christmas Costume Party
* Nursery Provided (birth-3 years old), Downstairs in Rooms 8 and 9		
M-F	8:30–9:00 AM	Ladies Phone Devotional

My Notes: