

Quarter Two: Growing in a Relationship with God

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Lesson 9—Sin, the Gospel, and the Law

Thursday: Knowing and Doing

May 28, 2026

- **Last Week:** “Having Faith”
 - Study on faith: what it is & how to grow it; how to handle doubt; how to possess Jesus’ faith
- **This Week:** “Sin, the Gospel, and the Law”
 - The disconnect sin creates in our relationship with God
 - Sin hurts us, others & God
 - The role of the law to reveal sin & the gospel to rescue from sin

Memory Text: “I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life. I am Yours, save me; for I have sought Your precepts” (Ps 119:93, 94, NKJV).

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Distractions & Temptations (SQ)
 - Various Scriptures – example of Samson & his sin, even while he was supposed to be following God; how Satan seeks to distract us from God & cause us to sin
- 2. **Monday:** Strongholds in My Relationship with God (John L)
 - Various Scriptures – barriers in our lives that keep us in sin or separate from God
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Law (Ryan)
 - Various Scriptures – the role of the law in relationship to sin; the beauty of the law (how it is not legalism, but reveals God’s love & character)
- 4. **Wednesday:** The Law & the Gospel (James)
 - Various Scriptures – relationship between the law & the gospel
- 5. **Thursday:** Knowing and Doing (Jill)
 - Various Scriptures – importance of internalizing the truth (Jesus); changing from “head” knowledge to “heart” knowledge & experiencing God for ourselves

Thursday: Knowing and Doing

Matt 7:21; Hos 4:1, 6, 10; John 17:3; Matt 7:24 – 29

- **2 Foundational Scriptures for lesson:**
 - James 1:22 – “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
 - Self-deception is real
 - We can claim to be Christians – listen in Church or even read our Bibles
 - & not actively follow Jesus

- Matt 7:21 – 23 – “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven, (22) Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ (23) And then I will declare to them, ‘I never **knew** you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”
 - We can follow Jesus – but never know Him
 - Knew = “experience” – to know through personal experience
 - We could be lost – while expecting to be saved
 - Self-deception is real – especially amongst Christians
 - Jer 17:9 – our hearts are deceitful & desperately wicked – who can know it?
- **Problem amongst Christians:**
 - Rom 10:1 - 3 – “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.”
 - God’s people weren’t saved
 - Luke 18: Pharisee & Publican
 - Thinking he was superior to others because of his good works (fast, pay tithe)
 - Publican went to his house justified
 - Pharisee was unchanged
 - 1 Cor 9:27 – “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, let, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified (“a castaway”).”
 - Can even preach the gospel & still be lost
 - Gal 5:4 – “You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.”
 - Thinking the law or good works can save us
 - That thinking pushes Jesus away (estranged)
 - Objective facts of Christianity – are true
 - Jesus died for my sins – perfect, substitutionary sacrifice
 - He rose again & is seated at the right hand of the Father
 - The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sins
 - Q: am I personally saved by those facts?
 - Do I possess saving faith?
- **5 keys to switch from head knowledge to heart knowledge**
 - John 17:3 – “And this is eternal life, that they may **know** You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
 - “experience” – to know through personal experience
 - **Key #1: Behold: fix your gaze on Jesus Christ in everything**
 - Eternal life doesn’t exist without Christ
 - The gospel isn’t about Jesus; the gospel is Jesus
 - Christ in our doctrines, Christ in the Word
 - Christ in relationship, Christ in religion
 - Christ in Church, Christ at work, Christ in the family

- Christ in life
- Phil 3:9, 10 – “and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; (10) that I may **know** Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”
 - Know = “experience” – to know through personal experience
 - **Key #2: Beware: turn away from self, self-righteousness, & self-effort**
 - Our own “good works” – righteousness from the law
 - From Christ Pseudo-righteousness = seeming obedience without love & faith
 - Letter of the law – without its spirit
 - Condemnation without conversion
 - Judgmentalism & hypocrisy
 - Hyper focus on minute point of the law – while I’m not even saved
 - Easy to degenerate into righteousness by works
 - Focus on self
 - Instead, righteousness by faith
 - Focus on Jesus
- Rom 10:1 – 3 – “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. (2) For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. (3) For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not **submitted** to the righteousness of God. (4) For Christ is the **end of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes.”
 - Submitted = Gk, “to subject, put in subjection” (surrender)
 - End = Gk, *tel’-os* = “goal / purpose” – “that to which the law points”
 - **Key #3: Bow: surrender (say “yes” to Jesus) & yield your will & way to Jesus**
 - Give up our will & way
 - “Submit” to the righteousness of God
- Gal 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”
 - **Key #4: Believe: receive Christ living & ruling within you**
 - To settle down & take up residence
 - Eph 3:17 – “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love”
- Rom 8:11 – “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”
 - **Key #5: Beseech: ask for the continual filling of the Holy Spirit**
 - The presence of the Spirit subdues the sinful desires of our bodies

5 keys to switch from head knowledge to heart knowledge

- Key #1: **Behold**: fix your gaze on Jesus Christ in everything
- Key #2: **Beware**: turn away from self, self-righteousness, & self-effort
- Key #3: **Bow**: surrender (say “yes” to Jesus) & yield your will & way to Jesus
- Key #4: **Believe**: receive Christ living & ruling within you
- Key #5: **Beseech**: ask for the continual filling of the Holy Spirit