

Pointing to Jesus

Someone once said, "Pain is our best friend." How can that statement be true? Pain is our warning sign that something is wrong with our body. What if you had a terrible disease, but you did not know you had it? You would not go to the doctor to get treatment. You would not know you needed help, and your condition would get worse and worse. Does the pain, itself, make you well? No, pain helps us see we have a physical need, so we can seek treatment.

In a similar way, God gave the laws so His people could see they had a spiritual need. When we see God's commandments, we see we fall short of being perfect. God did not give the law because He expected anyone to keep all of it. He gave to show us we could not keep it.

God's laws govern every part of us - right down to our thoughts and attitudes. Any time we do not keep God's law, we are sinning. Our sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). The Bible tells us that every one of us is a sinner (Romans 3:23). There is **no way** for us to make ourselves pure once we have sinned.

Remember, the covenant God made to Moses was an "if, then" promise. **If** the people obeyed, **then** they would be set apart and used by God. Because God knew the people could not do their part, He promised a new covenant. It would not be an "if, then" promise. It would be an eternal promise (Jeremiah 31:31-34). God promised to send someone who would take away the sins of His people (Romans 11:26-27).

Jesus, God's own Son, was the answer to that promise. Jesus came to live on earth in a human body. He faced all the things that other people face, but He never sinned. He was perfect. Because He was perfect, He could die in our place as our substitution. In John 1:29, the Bible calls Jesus, "*the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*" Because we can't keep God's perfect law, **we need Jesus** (Galatians 3:24).

But now God has shown us how to become right with Him. The Law and the Prophets give witness to this. It has nothing to do with obeying the law. We are made right with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ. - Romans 3:21-22a

Just as pain is a warning sign for physical need, the law is the warning sign for spiritual need. If you had the cure for a horrible, life-threatening disease, wouldn't you tell everyone you know about it? Those of us who know the truth of the Lamb of God must make it known to a world that is separated from God because of sin (Acts 1:8).