



The Controversy

Memory Text: *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. .”* ([John 1:17 KJV](#)).

Additional Verses for Meditation and Study This Week:

Hebrews 8:6; Matthew 19:17; Revelation 12:17; Leviticus 23; Acts 15:1-29; Galatians 1:1-12;

Main Thought for the Week: The backdrop to the book of Romans is the controversy over the role of circumcision and the ceremonial law among the Christian believers - particularly the Gentile believers. This week, we will be looking at the process used for coming to a resolution to this crisis, with emphasis on seeking God’s will in all things. It is easy to conclude that there should never be controversy in the church of the living God, but as long as the Great Controversy rages, we can expect to find mini-conflicts raging among God’s people. There is no need to fear, however, for the Spirit of God is prepared - as the administrator of the body of Christ - to guide us through these issues and into the necessary solutions according to God’s will. We just have to be willing to submit to Him when He has shown us His good will and pleasure.



A Better Covenant

Sunday's Summary – October 8:

1. What are the better promises of the “New Covenant” that make it a better covenant?

Hebrews 8:6 _____

Jeremiah 31:31-34 _____

2. Is there any change to the moral law in the New Testament?

Matthew 19:17 _____

James 2:10-11 _____

Revelation 12:17; 14:12 _____

Discuss/Consider: What is it that makes the promises of God so powerful? What can the promises of God tell us about the law of God? _____

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Jewish Laws and Regulations

Monday’s Summary – October 9:

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: Before we can understand what Paul is speaking about in Romans, it is important to understand how he is using the term “the law.” Jesus and the apostles often used that term to refer to the 10 Commandments, but sometimes they used it to refer to following as well: (a) The first 5 books of the Bible; (b) All of the laws, statutes and judgments given to Israel by God through Moses. Much confusion arises because people often choose whichever interpretation of “law” they want to suit a particular situation without looking at the context found in the scriptures in question.

1. What was the primary distinction that God used to differentiate between the moral law and the laws of ceremonies and rites and types?

Deuteronomy 31:25-26 _____

Deuteronomy 10:2-5 _____

Discuss/Consider: How can we help people understand the difference between laws that are types and shadows vs those laws that are perpetual and eternal? _____

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



As the Custom of Moses

Tuesday’s Summary – October 10:

1. What was the underlying source of the dissension?

Genesis 17:10 _____

Acts 15:1,5-6 _____

Romans 2:28-29 _____

ILLUMINATION: While looking to God for direct guidance, he [Paul] was ever ready to recognize the authority vested in the body of believers united in church fellowship. He felt the need of counsel, and when matters of importance arose, he was glad to lay these before the church and to unite with his brethren in seeking God for wisdom to make right decisions.
– Ellen G. White, **The Acts of the Apostles**, p. 200

Discuss/Consider: What are some of the reasons why that Jews were reluctant to let go of the ceremonial rites and practices that they had long practiced? _____

PERSONAL NOTES: _____
