

## Sermon Guide: Torah: Path to Obedience | Samuel Voo | Nov. 12, 2023

In this sermon, Sam delves into the complexities of God's law, or Torah, and its place in the Christian faith. The sermon begins with a personal anecdote about an encounter with a police officer, which serves as a segue into the ambivalence many feel towards the law. Sam's outline for the message begins with exploring the **right posture** towards Torah, then provides **reasons** for adopting this posture, considering some **roadblocks** we experience to embracing it, and, finally, the Christian **resolution** to these roadblocks.

The sermon explores the connection between Torah and creation, drawing parallels between God's ordering of chaos in Genesis and His desire to bring order to human existence through His word. Interestingly, in the ancient world, Torah is much closer to wisdom literature, providing principles for wise living, than it is a set of rigid rules. The right posture to Torah, then, is delight and joy, as expressed in Psalm 119 and Psalm 1, and it is the substance of the life-giving covenant between God and Israel, not unlike a covenant of love between a husband and wife in marriage.

Three roadblocks to understanding Torah are identified: the misconception that law and gospel are opposed; legalism that prioritizes Torah over a relationship with God; and the human heart's failure to keep Torah. The final solution to the failure of Torah is provided by the revolutionary understanding of Jesus that *he* is now the source of Torah. Jesus invites his followers to receive him by faith as the fulfillment of the promises of old and the climax of human history. Sam invites hearers to continue walking daily with Jesus in order to live out our obedience to God.

### Key Takeaways:

- Jesus' teachings in The Sermon on the Mount signify a pivotal shift in the understanding of Torah, positioning himself as the ultimate authority and embodiment of Torah. This perspective invites Christians to see Jesus as the resolution to the inadequacies of the law and the fulfillment of God's promises, challenging believers to a faith-centered acceptance of Jesus' role in salvation history. [\[33:43\]](#)
- Torah's connection to creation, order, and beauty in the universe, and its connection to wisdom as a source of life and guidance, rather than as mere set of rules, calls Christians to embrace the law with a posture of delight and joy, leading to obedience. [\[20:14\]](#)

### Discussion Questions

1. What emotions or attitudes towards God's law are expressed in Psalm 119:97 and Psalm 1:1-2?
2. How does understanding the law as a source of wisdom and guidance for living rather than as a body of rules to follow change your attitude towards the law?
3. Of the three roadblocks to a right understanding of law (law as being antithetical to gospel; legalism; and the failure of the law), which one do you resonate with the most, and why?

## **Going Deeper**

1. Think of a situation where you felt challenged by chaos or disorder. What is one principle from God's law that you can apply to bring order to that situation this week?
2. Recall a moment from the past week when you felt tempted to act in a way that was not aligned with God's law. How does framing the law in a life-giving way instead of a legalistic way change your attitude towards that temptation?
3. What is one relationship in your life that, as you walk in obedience to Jesus, could benefit from greater trust of and obedience to him? What is one action you can take this week to apply that wisdom to improve that relationship?