

**Scripture:** Colossians 2

CoF 25 (1)

**Singing:** 420:5-6 – 402:1, 4, 6 – 42:1, 4 -- 178

*Why is article 25 in the Confession of Faith?*

A. To settle what of the Old Testament remains relevant for believers in Jesus

1. God teaches us that the ceremonial laws have ceased to be 'our law'
  - a. consider Col. 2; Heb. 9:1-14; 10:1; Matt. 27:51;
2. Why are they no longer **our law**?
  - a. because they were meant to be short-term (Heb. 10:1; Col. 2:17)
  - b. because they were all fulfilled by Jesus Christ: Col. 2:10; Heb. 10:11-12
  - c. because you as believers are complete in Christ (Col. 2:10; 16-23)

B. To point out the great remaining value the OT (including *ceremonial law*)

1. Jesus' own example: Luke 24:27, 44
2. apostle's example: Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:2; Phil 4:18; 1 Cor. 5:6; 1 Pet 1:13-16

<b>The uses of the Old Testament in your life as Christian believers</b>
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**I. You continue to grow in sanctification by the law & Gospel as believers**

A. Every born-again soul longs and strives to grow in holiness: Matt. 5:6

1. What particular will spur you on to grow?
  - a. the 'first' use of the law (Romans 3:20; Matt. 5:21ff)

B. That's why in our Reformed liturgy we read the Law of God (mirror)

1. To prevent us to be self-content about being a Christian
2. To lead you afresh to Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:24; John 13:10)

**II. You continue to be guided in sanctification by the law and Gospel as believers**

A. Every saved soul has a burning desire: Ps. 116:12; Acts 9:6

1. Here the 'third' use of the law functions: *rule of thanksgiving*

B. With that focus, there is a huge amount of instruction in OT law/prophets

1. Listen to few examples of the voice of God in OT:

a. Micah 6:8; Is. 1:16-18

b. Jonah's story

c. Mosaic food laws – clean/unclean animals

d. Mosaic leprosy laws

### **Two Closing Reflections:**

A. His rebuke and example is your call: Luke 24:25-27

B. His call is not just for believers and followers of Christ: John 5:39-40; Prov. 2

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Dear children,

Perhaps you sometimes wish you could go to the temple in Jerusalem! It seems there was a lot more to see. Your father would take an animal which would be sacrificed. Today we just come to 'listen to a sermon.'

But maybe you are wrong! For if you had to walk all the way from home to Jerusalem three times a year, you might not feel so happy. Or if you had to see and smell all that blood and the burning flesh in the hot weather, you might feel sick. Or, what if your father would take your special lamb and bring it to the priest to be sacrificed? You would be very upset.

Hopefully you understand why we are more blessed in the NT church!

1. Check the right reasons why we don't need to sacrifice anymore.

It is far too expensive to give a sheep or cow.

We are not allowed to make a fire to sacrifice in church.

God commanded us no more to do it because He changed His mind.

Sacrifice of animals are not needed because Jesus died for sinners.

Today we show our sorrow by confessing our sins and trusting Jesus.

2. God uses the law as a mirror. What does He want us to show by this mirror?

3. Each Sunday morning we hear God's law. Why do we do that every Sunday?

4. Which stories of the Old Testament were mentioned that teach about Jesus?

5. Write down a few things you will pray about when you come home.