

# Daily Prayer

TUESDAY, JULY 7

Today's prayer is based on I Timothy 1.8, ESV.

*Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,*

Lord,

You know how I can get confused sometimes,  
help me to think my way clearly through this teaching about your law.  
First, I am pretty sure Paul is writing about *your* law - not just any law.  
Some of the laws of my country are appalling.  
Lord, have mercy.

Then it must be important to think of your law as *good*.  
I know many times throughout the history of your people  
your law has been *misused*, *misapplied*,  
and many have had *bad* experiences when that has happened.  
So Paul quickly adds the qualifier *if one uses it lawfully*.

Help me to use your law lawfully.  
Help me to see the goodness in your law.  
Help me to see how understanding your law correctly teaches me about *you*.

I begin to see it when I hear what Jesus said about the law -  
it will never pass away,  
*He* will fulfill all its demands,  
murder is *anger*,  
adultery is *lust*.

Following Jesus' logic then what do the *other* commands become for me?  
What other elemental passions do I have that need to be corralled,  
that need to operate in *his* channels,  
that should not be allowed to run unchecked.

Lord, you have *told* us the path to a society that would please you -  
the path of obeying your law from our hearts.  
How happy and healthy we would be if we followed your law in our hearts -  
and how amazing it would be to live in such company!

Lord, I begin to see how your law is, indeed, *very* good,  
and how very good *you* must be to have pointed us in this direction.

Lord, I understand that, for me to use your law  
as a means of justifying myself before you  
would actually be an *unlawful* use of it.  
But for me to see the great good that you desire for me in it,  
and to guide my behavior out of a grateful heart -  
well, that would certainly be a *lawful* use.

Lord, grant that I may see clearly to use your law the way *you* intend -  
and not as a bargaining chip for my vanity,  
for Jesus and His kingdom's sake. Amen.

One is not righteous who does much, but the one who, without work, believes much in Christ. The law says, 'Do this,' and it is never done.  
Grace says, 'Believe in this,' and everything is already done.

Martin Luther