

## Psalm 19:7-13<sup>(NIV)</sup> and Legalism

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.

<sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

I grew up very much disliking the seemingly arbitrary rules that were forced on me. I don't recall as a teenager rejoicing over God's law. But the psalmist obviously thought that these were praiseworthy.

1

It was a long time before I realized there was a distinction between the rules of God and the rules of man.

I was not proud of the rules I lived by, more ashamed.

And I didn't learn the essence and value of God's law until I was much older. I am still learning that.

<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

2

My office mate in grad school.

The temptation to be pharisaical.

Look at the principles behind the law. I want to look at some of God's laws that I am proud of.

Be kind to foreigners Lev. 19:33-34

Be kind to animals Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. Prov. 12:10

Dietary laws?

Day of rest, plus its extensions – fallow land (Lev 25:4)

Year of jubilee – tied to consideration for the poor

Usury – making a profit off a loan from a poor person is exploiting that person (Exodus 22:25–27)

3

We are caretakers of God's creation. The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Gen. 2:15

If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him. Ex 23:5

You shall not bear false witness

For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield, <sup>11</sup> but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the beasts of the field may eat. Ex 23:10

Ps 19:14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

4