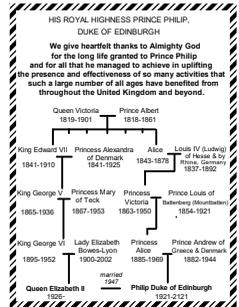
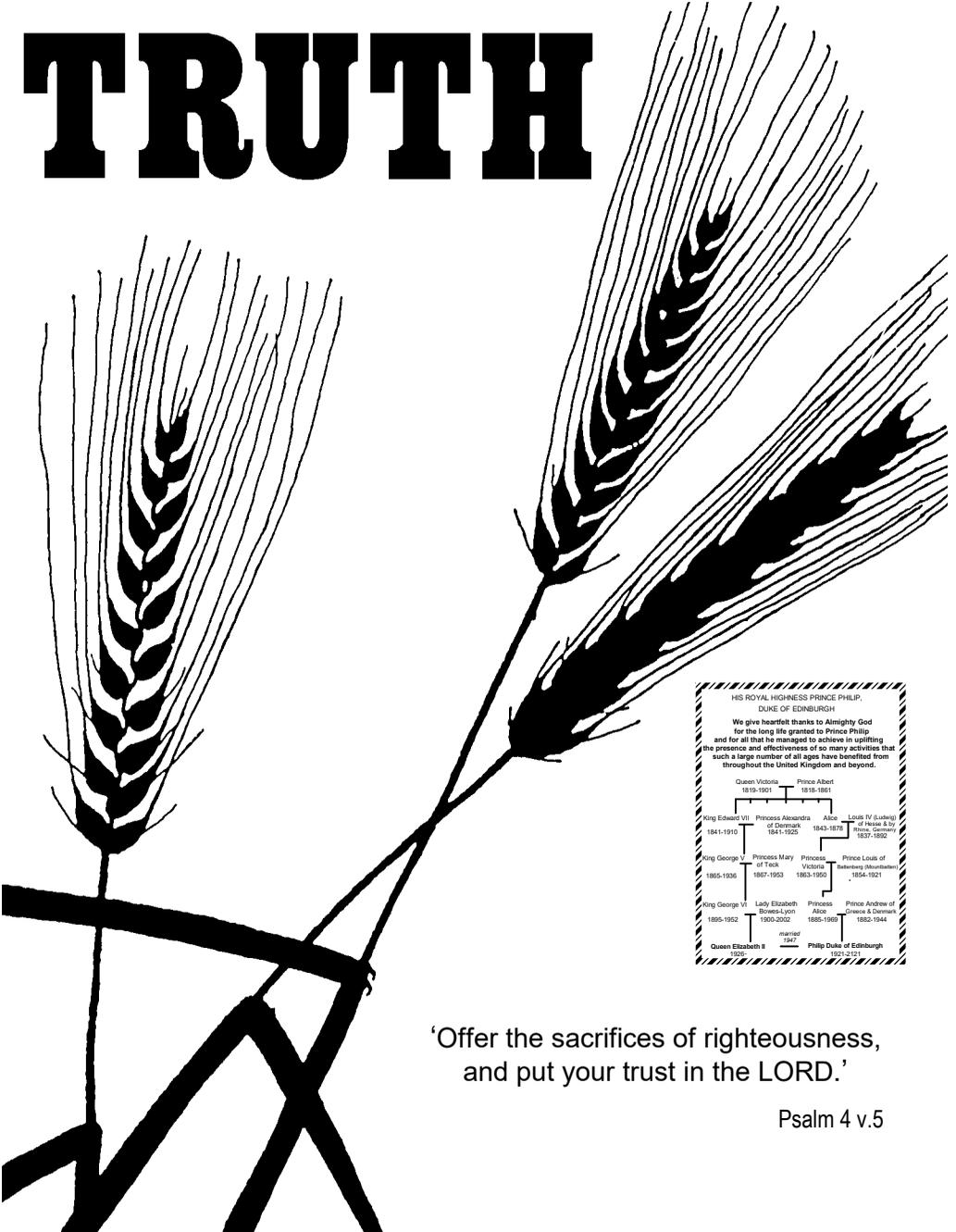


# BIBLE TRUTH

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‘Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,  
and put your trust in the LORD.’

Psalm 4 v.5

# SEVEN USES OF THE LAW OF GOD



by Pastor Dr Jory Brooks

During the Protestant Reformation, scholars studied the Bible's teaching concerning the Old Testament Mosaic Law. They realised that the Law of God was still binding on Christians in some ways,

‘But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;’

1 Timothy ch.1 v.8

but not in others.

‘Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.’

Romans ch.7 v.4

For example, our salvation is not based upon keeping the law, but upon Christ's sacrifice for sin.

‘... brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;’

1 Corinthians ch.15 vv 1-3

yet God has preserved the law for Christians as a guide to holiness and right living.

‘Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he

shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.'

Matthew ch.5 vv 17-20

'Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.'

Romans ch.3 v.31

The Reformation teaching on the law of God was summarised into seven proper uses, which are listed below with illustrative Scripture passages.

### **1. To uncover and reveal transgression.**

- The law helps us know right from wrong.
- Like a looking glass. (James ch.1 vv 23-25)
- We would not know what sin is without law. (Romans ch.7 v.7)
- Law makes us conscious of our wrong doings. (Galatians ch.3 v.19)
- The Law makes our transgressions, obvious. (Romans ch.5 v.20)

### **2. To restrain transgression and to set bounds and banks.**

- God's laws help to discourage immoral conduct.
- Those who do wrong will suffer wrath. (Romans ch.2 vv 8-9)
- Be bound to mercy & truth. (Proverbs ch.3 v.3)
- Blessings for obedience as well as curses for disobedience. (Deuteronomy ch.28)

### **3. A reprover and corrector for sin.**

- God's law is a standard for judgement. (James ch.2 vv 12-13)
- It is an object-lesson for the godless. (2 Peter ch.2 v.9)
- God executes judgement. (Jude v.15)

#### **4. To humble men for their sins.**

- God's Law points to the need for a Saviour. (Galatians ch.3 v.22)
- No one is guiltless. (Psalm 143 v.2)

#### **5. A spur to quicken us to obedience.**

- To engage in Law-breaking dishonours God. (Romans ch.2 v.23)
- God's Law is a tutor to discipline us for Christ. (Galatians ch.3 v.24)
- An agent in conversion. (Psalm 19 v.7)

#### **6. For a direction of Life.**

- Loving God means obeying His commands. (1 John ch.5 v.3)
- Those who obey will be recognised as upright. (Romans ch.2 vv 13, 21 & 22)
- For resetting the direction of a man's life (Phillips) and for moral discipline (Moffat translation). (2 Timothy ch.3 v.16)

#### **7. To Appreciate God's Goodness and Mercy.**

- 'To cause sinners to value the promise.'
- We should enter God's Kingdom blameless! (2 Peter ch.1 v.5)
- Having such promises, let us obey! (2 Corinthians ch.7 v.1)
- Blessings to the upright. (Psalm 84 v.11)

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