



SHARING SCRIPTURE

Discover • Jesus • Together

Covenant Faith

For use: June 13 - 19

Texts: Galatians 6:14; Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:11, 13; Romans 4:1–7; Leviticus 7:18; Leviticus 17:1–4; Romans 5:1

Gilbert Poole is tasting freedom for the first time after spending 32 years in prison for a murder that DNA forensic evidence now proves he did not commit. His exoneration came after 18 years of tireless work put forth by the Western Michigan University Cooley Law School Innocence Project. [1]

During his release hearing, Poole reflected on how he fought the powerlessness he felt behind bars, stating, “God stepped in and sent me a band of angels to look past the rules and regulations and look to see who was standing here in the furnace.” [2]

Just as Poole, unable to save himself, put his faith in the interns at the WMU Cooley Law School Innocence Project, we put our faith into Jesus Christ who has died and now stands as our substitute to satisfy the perfect principles of Heaven. We also see in these two cases how law, meant to preserve justice, can be abused when seen as the absolute rather than as guidelines to helpful community living.

Looking back at the Old Testament, the Law of Moses is revealed to guide a sinful Israel into alignment with God. This set of rules set forth for the Israelites had no power to save them; rather, it was a list of guidelines to reveal to them their sinfulness and a need for right relationship with, and faith in, their Creator.

Unfortunately, the Israelites failed to adhere to the laws as well as to maintain faith in God. Many turned to strict adherence to Levitical Law and forgot about the role faith played in God's covenants with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the other forefathers of those who would become the Jewish nation. Paul constantly reminds his audiences of this fact.

Romans 4 sums up the issue succinctly. Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. This credit also applies to those of us who believe in the Lord who died to fulfill the Law and to save us.

The wages of sin, and comparably a broken legal system, is death; but the gift of our Substitute is life (Romans 6:23).

~Stefani Leeper

[1] <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/gilbert-poole-free-man-after-32-years-wrongfully-imprisoned>

[2] <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/oakland-county/2021/05/26/mans-1988-pontiac-murder-conviction-vacated-new-dna-evidence-tested/7436292002/>

For Reflection

Connecting: San Marino boasts the oldest acting constitution in the world, and its legal system operates based upon it. What are some of the advantages and limitations of a constitution that seems to defy the test of time?

Sharing: If the Levitical Law, just as human-made laws, can become obsolete and outdated, what does that imply about biblical beliefs such as abstaining from premarital sex or keeping the Sabbath?

1. Mosaic Law is fulfilled in Christ, but the 10 Commandments must still be upheld
2. The 613 commandments applied only to time and place; there are exceptions to every rule
3. They are guidelines for healthy holistic living but do not need to be stringently followed
4. Mosaic Law is still perfectly viable
5. I don't know
6. Other:

Applying: Poole compared his experience to that of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3). In the end, their oppressors' eyes were opened to the errors of their ways and they made amendments. We are all guilty of falsely accusing someone, at least accidentally. Did you ever apologize? If you have not yet, and if you feel comfortable doing so, you may choose to make an effort to apologize for the accusation. You might also choose to pray for their healing.

Valuing: What is a rule your parents/guardians upheld during your childhood that you eventually grew out of (E.g. sleeping curfew, sugar restrictions, work before play)? How did that rule influence your growth and development, even if

it lost its applicability over time?

Other Helpful Resources

[Creative Ministry's website](#) equips you with [friendship evangelism](#), [small group](#), [community outreach](#), and [healing ministry](#) tools right at your fingertips. Our website also features [Adventist research conducted by Monte Sahlin](#), as well as [Sharing Scripture archives](#), [ScripShots](#), and [more](#). And if you're tired of staring at a screen, digital files are available for download as PDFs and to print.

We believe [CreativeMinistry.org](#) is an online library you'll want to be a part of. We'll see you there!

If you appreciate using Sharing Scripture as a resource, and you know others who may be interested, please share these newsletters with your friends. Better yet, have them personally sign up for this free resource. They can do that by calling 800.272.4664 or by emailing us at creativeministryinfo@gmail.com.

Three decades ago, we created this resource for small groups and Sabbath school classes, and it continues to bless so many people worldwide. Thank you for your continued interest in these biblical themes and what they mean to your life and those people with whom you share it.

Paul Richardson
Executive Director

[Go to Website](#)



www.creativeministry.org | 800.272.4664.