

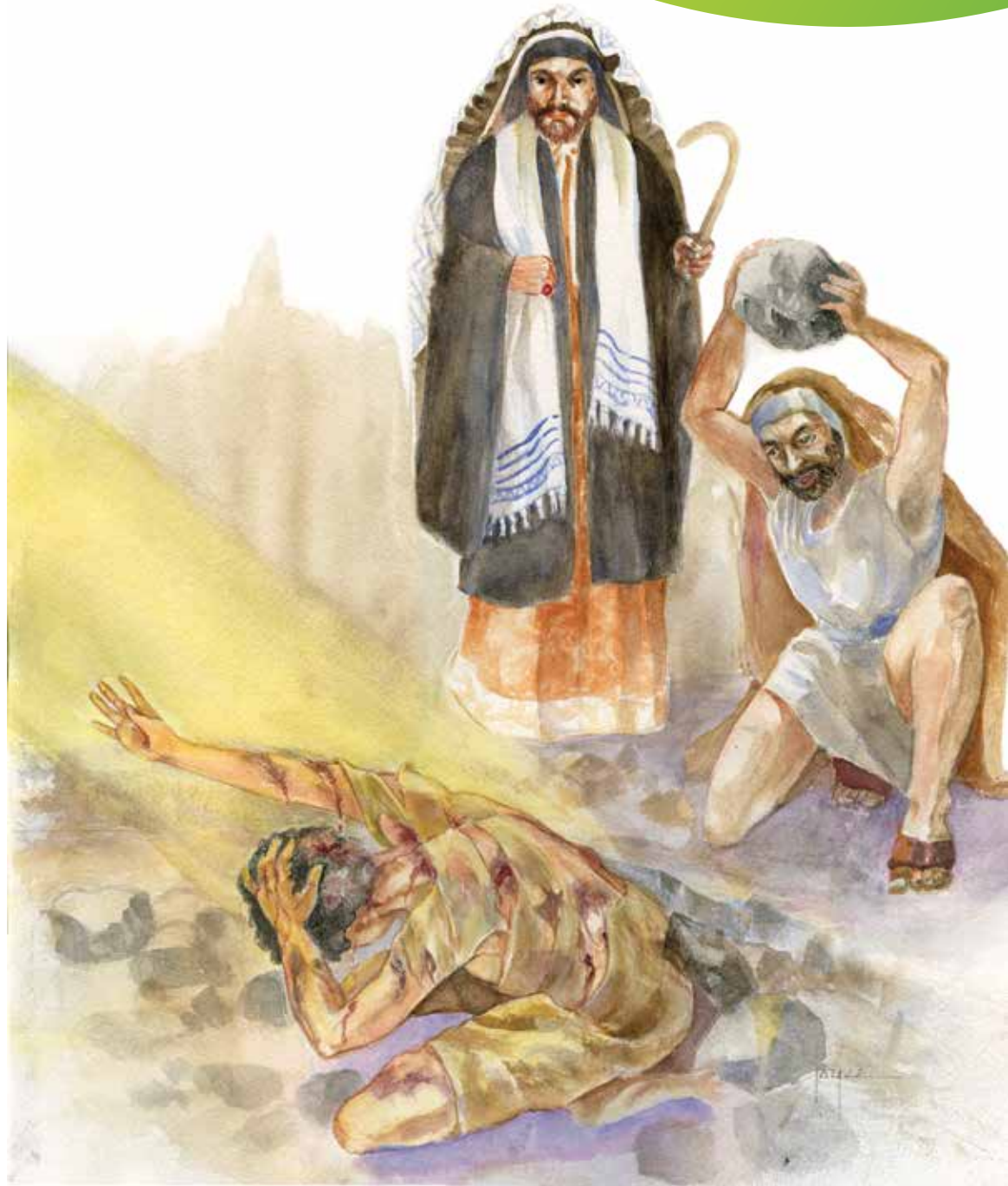
The Holy Spirit Shows Us Our Sin

Saul was furious! How he hated these people of “The Way” who were following Jesus. Saul thought they were speaking against Moses and against God. Going from house to house, Saul dragged men and women off to prison.

Saul was there one day when a crowd had gathered around a young man named Stephen. Stephen boldly spoke to the Jewish council called the Sanhedrin, accusing them of wrongly putting Jesus to death. Filled with rage, the angry mob rushed at Stephen. They began **stoning** him and didn’t stop until they had killed him. And Saul saw it all, and approved.

Saul was a rabbi, who had grown up learning God’s Law from a **distinguished** teacher.

Saul was **fanatical** about obeying the Law. He also **zealously** promoted the additional teachings of the Pharisees and spoke against believers in Jesus, whom he considered



enemies. This is why Saul was arresting them.

With letters of authority from the Jewish high priest, Saul was on his way to find these enemies in Damascus when a bright light from

heaven flashed around him. Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you **persecuting** Me?”

Saul asked, “Who are You, Lord?”

The voice answered, “I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.”

This encounter with Jesus changed Saul’s life completely. Blinded by the light, Saul was led into the city where he was taken to the house of a man named Judas. For three days he stayed there until the Lord sent a disciple named Ananias to him.

When the Lord told Ananias to go to Saul, he was afraid. Ananias had heard about Saul and the cruel things he had done to the believers. But God told him, “I have chosen Saul to bring the good news of the Gospel to the Gentiles.” So Ananias went to the house where Saul was staying.

He found Saul just as the Lord had said, blind, but praying and waiting. When Ananias spoke to Saul, his sight was restored. He received much more than eyesight, however. He was baptized, receiving the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Saul had always strived to be a righteous man. He thought he could make God love him by keeping the commandments. Now, however, everything was changed. The Holy Spirit revealed to Saul that the laws he tried to keep actually condemned him. He understood that no one can perfectly keep God’s laws.

The man named “Saul” later became known as “Paul.” The books he wrote that are in the



Bible show that the Holy Spirit helped him see the truth. Here are two of these truths:

Romans 3:20b: “. . . for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.”

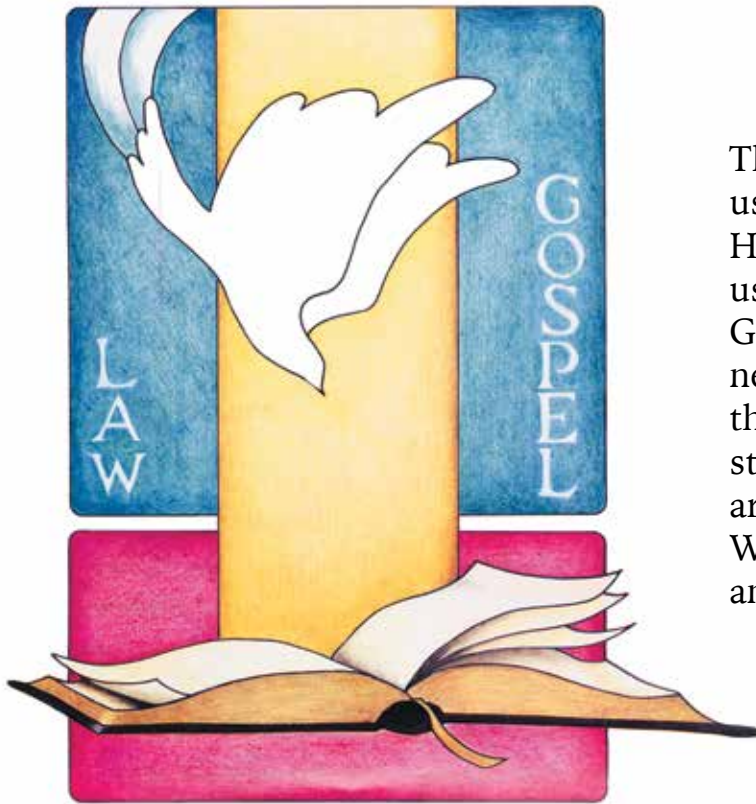
Romans 10:4: “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

Remember how zealous Saul was about the Law that he thought made him righteous before God? Well, he became even more zealous about spreading the Gospel—the good news of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Every time we hear and read God’s Word, we should pay attention to it because the Holy Spirit desires to speak to us. He will always show us the truth. He will use the Law to show us our sin, and He will use the Gospel to show us God’s forgiveness through Jesus.

ACTIVITY 1

Law or Gospel?



The Holy Spirit speaks to us through God's Word. He uses the Law to show us we are sinners and the Gospel to show us the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus. Decide if these statements from the Bible are related to Law or Gospel. Write an L on the line for Law and a G for Gospel.

- _____ 1. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
- _____ 2. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)
- _____ 3. There is none righteous, not even one. (Romans 3:10)
- _____ 4. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. (Romans 7:18)
- _____ 5. By grace you have been saved through faith. (Ephesians 2:8)
- _____ 6. The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:23)
- _____ 7. The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick. (Jeremiah 17:9)
- _____ 8. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)
- _____ 9. To one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin. (James 4:17)
- _____ 10. Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God. (Romans 5:1)
- _____ 11. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12)

ACTIVITY 2

Saul and Paul

Underline the ways Saul sinned against God. Circle the ways Saul, who was also called Paul, showed love for God.



1. He hated the followers of Jesus.
2. He approved of the stoning of Stephen.
3. He was praying and waiting.
4. He dragged believers off to prison.
5. He was baptized.
6. He wrote about God's truth.
7. He spoke against believers in Jesus.
8. He was zealous about spreading the Gospel.
9. He told people about the good news of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
10. He left for Damascus to find more believers to arrest.

Memory Verse

Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

—Romans 3:20

Enrichment Memory Verse:
Romans 10:4

Catechism

The Third Article of Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him; . . .

