



Seventh Day Adventist Church Inter-European Division

Sabbath School Ministry

Sabbath School Department Inter-European Division

Outline with ideas for group discussion largely taken from the Teachers' Edition of the Sabbath School Lesson prepared by the General Conference SS ministry.

Lesson no.: 02 **07 - 13 October 2017**

Title: **The Controversy**

Key texts: ***John 1:17; Hebrews 8:6; Galatians 1:1-12; Rev. 12:17; Acts 15:1-29; Leviticus 23.***

A. Themes to Explore:

1. As the plan of salvation prepared by God has unfolded during history there have been moments of controversy between truth and error. Amongst the reasons for this was, and still is, a misunderstanding of the relationship between the first and second covenants and the place of laws.
2. Amongst the areas in which there has been confusion are the various categories of law (for example circumcision).
3. The conference at Jerusalem (Acts 15) represents an important moment in history which helps us to understand the terrain of the conflict in which the early church was engaged and offers us some indications for understanding the passage from Old to New Covenant.

B. Learning Objectives*

- Know:** Grasp the problems that were behind Paul's concerns and which pushed him to write the letter to the Romans.
- Feel:** Study the relationship between salvation by grace for all (Jews and Gentiles) and the place of the Law of God.
- Do:** Reflect on and ask for divine guidance in order to have a clear understanding of the relationship between grace and law.

C. Other possible questions for deeper study, debate, sharing and testimony**

1. **Why is this lesson important to me? (Motivate);**
 - 1a. Why can't God's moral values and principles be cancelled, modified or substituted?
2. **What else is there still to learn from God's Word? (Explore);**
 - 2a. Why did God plan a new covenant? What things continued and what changed?
 - 2b. What makes the 10 commandments a set of distinct and perennial laws?
3. **How can I practice what I've learned from God's Word? (Apply);**
 - 3a. What can we learn from the way in which the early believers sought to resolve conflict on controversial points?
4. **How can I communicate and apply what I've learned from God's Word? (Create).**
 - 4a. What teachings have we received from this lesson with regards to our mission today?

NOTES:

- * Copied from the Teachers Edition that adopts active, functional and sharing principles (Know, Feel, Do).
** To compare and use together with the final questions found in the lesson study every Friday.
*** The questions in red are drawn from the Teachers Edition.