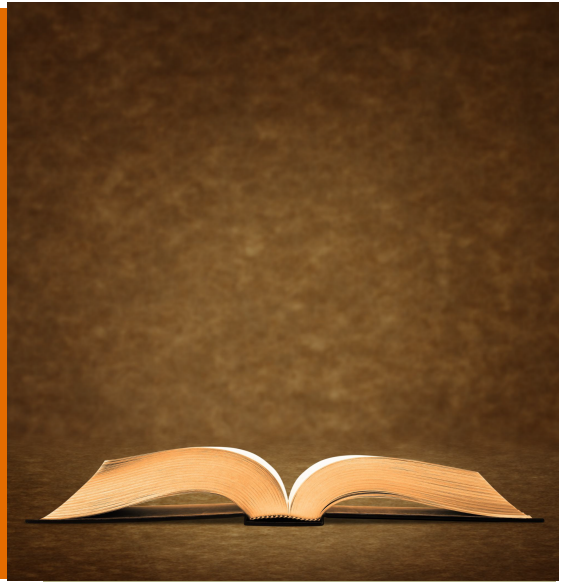


WHAT MUST I DO?



When the young rich man asked Jesus Christ: "Master, what good thing shall I DO, that I may have eternal life?" -- Jesus replied, "If thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS"

(Mat. 19:16-17).

What?

KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS? That's what Jesus said!!
Does that

SURPRISE YOU?

LESSON 4

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The 3 Words God Wants to Hear

A relationship with God begins with three words, "I Was Wrong." Real conversion starts with these three words, I was wrong. On the day of Pentecost they had been brought to a conviction, they admitted their wrong doings before God. The next step was just as important. Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? (Acts 2:37 KJV) What must we do? The answer, repent. But repent of what? Sin. What is sin?



Lesson 4

What Is Sin?

People have numerous ideas about what constitutes "sin." Many think that sin is something to be DESIRED. To illustrate, several years ago in Hollywood -- the movie capital of America -- there was sold in newsstands a book titled "How to Sin in Hollywood". Visitors from all over the world who came to Hollywood would buy that book.

Actually, the book was quite harmless, merely giving names of restaurants and similar places. Most of them were eating places WITHOUT any entertainment.

But the point is that sin always SEEMS to be the "forbidden fruit" that is most glamorous and that would be most desirable if some unfair God had NOT denied it to us. That seems to be what human beings think of sin.

But that ISN'T WHAT GOD THINKS about sin!

1. What is God's definition of SIN? Is it the TRANSGRESSION of the LAW? I John 3:4.

2. IS GOD'S law being spoken of in the previous scripture? -- didn't Paul state that the LAW says, "Thou shalt not covet"? Rom. 7:7.

COMMENT: The LAW that said, "Thou shalt not covet," TAUGHT the apostle Paul what constitutes sin. And one cardinal point of that law is the TENTH COMMANDMENT! (Ex. 20:17.) So the law against coveting is ONE of God's TEN COMMANDMENTS! God reveals that the VIOLATION of His commandments and their principles constitutes SIN!

3. Does sin -- the VIOLATION of the Ten Commandments and their principles -- work AGAINST our own best interests? Rom. 6:23.

COMMENT: "The WAGES of sin" -- the "reward" YOU EARN by sinning against God's law -- the thing you BRING upon yourself --

is DEATH! A shorter and unhappier life here, and ETERNAL OBLIVION in the hereafter -- unless you REPENT of all your sins, have them WIPED AWAY by Christ's blood and begin OBEYING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS!

Way to Happiness Must Be REVEALED!

You want to be HAPPY above all things, don't you? Everyone does! You would like to lead a life that is just full and abundant and INTERESTING -- as a matter of fact, a little bit exciting all the way along, wouldn't you? And you want a life where everything is pleasant, where there is no pain or suffering.

You don't want a life of boredom. You don't want a life of sorrow. You want a HAPPY life, and you would love to feel well, jolly and joyful -- happy all the time.

YOU COULD have a life like that. Everyone could. This ENTIRE WORLD could be like that -- if we only UNDERSTOOD THE WAY! That way has to be REVEALED!

GOD reveals that way in His Guidebook for mankind -- the Holy Bible! God Almighty in His great LOVE for humanity, reveals that He set a LAW in motion. That law was designed to PRODUCE just that kind of happy life in you!

God is Creator not only of matter -- solid matter, liquid matter and gaseous matter, as we know it -- but God is also Creator of FORCE, ENERGY and of EVERY POWER and LAW. The laws of physics, the laws of

chemistry -- every law that is in motion and is energized.

Do you realize that God Almighty also created a SPIRITUAL LAW? That spiritual law is what REGULATES YOUR HAPPINESS! But most people are NOT living that way. They're breaking that law, and it has been breaking them for a long time, because that's precisely what happens when you BREAK GOD'S SPIRITUAL LAW!

That law is simply LOVE. It's the WAY of love. It's the way that love should be EXPRESSED -- love toward God and love toward neighbor.

1. Did Paul say he would not have known what sin is except the law had pointed it out to him? Rom. 7:7.

COMMENT: We don't know what is right and what is wrong unless God REVEALS it. Even the apostle Paul would not have known what sin is if God's law had not told him.

Human nature will not teach you because human nature is BASICALLY EVIL (Jer. 17:9). As Paul says, "I had not known lust." That is, he would not have known that lust was wrong or evil; HE DIDN'T HAVE SUCH INSTINCTIVE KNOWLEDGE -- "except the LAW HAD SAID, thou shalt not covet."

Do you realize that when you were born you DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING! YOU WEREN'T even born with instinct as animals are. Animals don't have to be taught a law to know what to do or not to do; they don't have to learn about a law that will show them HOW to be happy, and how to AVOID suffering. Animals are just dumb brutes which

God has equipped with INSTINCT. They respond AUTOMATICALLY to this instinct God built into their simple brains when He originally created them.

But you and I are vastly different. We are made AFTER GOD'S IMAGE. Our minds possess, to a very limited degree, divine characteristics. We were put here as free moral agents for the purpose of PRODUCING CHARACTER -- holy, righteous, spiritual character. If we submit to God and follow His law of love, He will be creating His spiritual character within us.

2. Did the apostle Paul say that the law -- the Ten Commandments and their principles -- is SPIRITUAL? Rom. 7:14.

COMMENT: But Paul said he was CARNAL. He was fleshly and material. So are we all. The law is a SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE, and it REGULATES YOUR HAPPINESS -- a SPIRITUAL matter. God's law directs and guides you as to what YOU SHOULD do so you can be happy.

3. Did Paul say God's law is sin? Rom. 7:7. Or did he say the law is HOLY, and the commandment is HOLY, just and good? Rom. 7:12.

COMMENT: That isn't what we are taught today, is it? Many people have been reared in the belief that the law is UNHOLY, harsh and cruel and ALTOGETHER WRONG! That it's bad for us, and therefore Christ had to DO AWAY with it!

WHAT A PARADOX! People think God's law -- the very thing that points the WAY to true

happiness -- is WRONG! God reveals it is the very thing which shows us HOW to AVOID unhappiness!

Commandments in Force From Adam

God FIRST REVEALED the Ten Commandments to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Why? So that they and their progeny could know what sin IS and AVOID it!

EVERY ONE of the Ten Commandments was then in full force and effect. And it was a SIN to break any one of them between the time of Adam and Moses, just as it is TODAY! Let's understand the truth.

1. Didn't Paul plainly state that sin is NOT IMPUTED where there is NO law? Rom. 5:13.

COMMENT: God reveals that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). But where there IS NO law, there obviously could be NO lawbreaking and therefore NO penalty could be imposed!

2. But do we find death DID reign -- that the death penalty was IMPUTED because of sin -- beginning with the very time of Adam? Rom. 5:12, 14. Then didn't there obviously have to be a LAW in existence from the time of Adam?

COMMENT: Adam SINNED! But he could not have sinned had there been no law. How plain that God's law existed then and that it STILL is in existence to this day; for God says: "all have sinned"! (Verse 12.)

The law of God existed FROM THE BEGINNING. God instructed Adam and Eve in His law and revealed that living BY His laws would net them true happiness and material abundance. He revealed all this to them on the very NEXT DAY after their creation -- on the SABBATH -- the SEVENTH day of the week!

3. Doesn't all this plainly show that God's law was first given far EARLIER than is generally assumed -- much earlier than the time of Moses? Rom. 5:14. Note the words "Adam TO Moses." Didn't Adam PRECEDE Moses? Same verse.

COMMENT: Obviously those who believe that God's spiritual law was not given UNTIL the time of Moses are absolutely WRONG! EVERY ONE of the Ten Commandments was in existence during the time of Adam. It was SIN to break any one of them BEFORE they were RESTATED to Moses and the people at Mount Sinai!

Man Must Choose

God ordained from the beginning that He would NOT FORCE His way to supreme happiness -- His spiritual law -- upon mankind. He determined man would have to CHOOSE whether or not he would obey.

1. After creating Adam, did God place him in the Garden of Eden? Gen. 2:8. Then what did God give him PERMISSION to do? Verse 16.



PHOTO CAPTION: Animals Live by Instinct but man was created with mind. Man must CHOOSE the way he will live. Choosing the way of disobedience to God's Law brings suffering and death. But the way of OBEDIENCE to God's Law brings true happiness and contentment.

2. Now notice God's WARNING immediately afterward. Gen. 2:17. Is it indulging in a MIXTURE of good and evil actions that God warns us against? Same verse.

COMMENT: Here we see that God is Supreme Ruler. God is giving the orders and is teaching. The man DIDN'T KNOW he shouldn't partake of the tree of good and evil. He had to be told. He had to be TAUGHT and INSTRUCTED.

3. What is the PENALTY -- what can be expected when one "eats," or partakes of a MIXTURE of good and evil? Gen. 2:17.

COMMENT: God warned man that disobedience -- SIN -- to His command would

end in DEATH, for "the wages of sin is death"! (Rom. 6:23.) But notice that the very fact God said "In the day that THOU eatest thereof ..." shows that man was ALLOWED to do it, that the man was a FREE MORAL AGENT -- that the man himself had to MAKE THE CHOICE!

God designed that you and I must CHOOSE whether we will obey His law or not. Animals don't make a choice. Animals have instinct. And animals are usually contented. We have our "contented cows." But we don't have many contented people. Do you know WHY?

Cows don't make any choice. God simply ordained from their creation that they would AUTOMATICALLY live contented lives. But God ORDAINED that you and I MUST MAKE A CHOICE. And if we CHOOSE the RIGHT WAY to live according to that law which God set in motion to produce happiness and contentment and a full, thrilling, enjoyable life -- WE CAN HAVE IT! (Deut. 30:15-19.)

But if we CHOOSE to live the OTHER WAY, we're going to have suffering, SORROWS and CURSES -- that's what the world has elected to do!

The First Sins

1. God, the Creator, lovingly warned man that if he committed sin, he would SURELY DIE (Gen. 2:17). But what did the Devil say? Gen. 3:1-4. Note especially verse 4.

COMMENT: "YOU shall NOT surely die" is the FIRST LIE of which we have any historical

record. It was not told by a man, but by the DEVIL. "YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE. You're an IMMORTAL SOUL." Or "You have an immortal soul that won't die." That's what the devil was REALLY saying.

2. What else did the devil say? Gen. 3:5. Note especially the words, "For God DOTH KNOW."

COMMENT: In other words, the devil said "God knows better; God's been LYING to you!" That's what he wanted the woman to believe.

3. And then what did Eve do? Gen. 3:6. Did her husband also partake of the fruit? Same verse. Here was the FIRST human sin!

COMMENT: Analyze exactly what happened. God is the One we are to OBEY. Do you realize that's one of the definitions of God? Whoever or whatever you obey is your god. It might be your slavishness to your automobile. Maybe it's an actual idol. Whatever it is, THAT'S your god.

Adam and Eve had another god IN PLACE of the true God -- they broke the first commandment, "Thou shalt have NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME" (Ex. 20:3). They also broke the FIFTH by dishonoring their only Parent. How? The genealogy of Christ goes back to Adam who was the "SON of God," because God CREATED him. Adam was the son of God by a DIRECT CREATION, not by begetting or birth.

Adam not only dishonored his Parent, but he also broke the TENTH commandment. There was LUST when the woman saw that the

fruit was good for food and to make one wise -- vanity, egotism and pride entered into her heart.

Lust is what causes a person's inordinate desire to have something that is not legal. Lust causes one to STEAL and Adam and Eve broke the EIGHTH commandment by STEALING what was not theirs.

FOUR OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WERE BROKEN IN THE ORIGINAL SIN. And in other ways, ALL of the Ten Commandments were actually broken in the very first sin!

4. What were the names of Adam and Eve's first two children? Gen. 4:1-2. What did Cain do? Verse 3. And what did Abel do? Verse 4. Was Cain's offering -- Cain's act -- ACCEPTABLE to God? Verse 5 and I John 3:12.

5. If one does well -- does the things God wishes -- aren't his deeds acceptable to God? Gen. 4:7, first nine words. But if one does that which is NOT ACCEPTABLE to God, what "lies" at his door -- SIN? Same verse.

6. Did Cain MURDER Abel out of jealousy? Verse 8. Did God therefore punish Cain? Verses 9-12.

COMMENT: Murder was a sin FROM THE VERY BEGINNING! And when God asked Cain, "Where is Abel thy brother?" Cain replied, "I know not" (Verse 9). But Cain DID KNOW. He knew his brother was dead. Therefore he LIED and broke another commandment. That, too, was SIN!

Cain broke the SIXTH and NINTH commandments. EVERY ONE OF these commandments was known from creation because God had REVEALED THEM TO ADAM. He thus revealed them to mankind at that time. But humanity as a whole has REJECTED them ever since!

7. Was literal idolatry committed BEFORE the time of Abraham? Josh. 24:2.

COMMENT: Here were people before Abraham's time -- LONG BEFORE MOSES' TIME -- worshiping idols, committing a SIN -- a transgression of God's LAW. No wonder we are told in the Bible that "death" -- the PENALTY OF SIN -- "REIGNED FROM ADAM TO MOSES" (Rom 5:14), for the law was in existence ALL DURING THAT TIME!

8. Was the sin of IDOLATRY also committed in the generations AFTER Abraham? Gen. 35:2.

COMMENT: Jacob was Abraham's GRANDSON.

9. Did Jacob command those of his household who worshipped idols, to PUT AWAY their strange gods? Same verse. What was DONE with these idols? Verse 4.

COMMENT: Even back then, long BEFORE Moses, it was a SIN to WORSHIP these idols they possessed!

The Third and Fourth Commandments Broken

1. What is the THIRD commandment? Ex. 20:7. COMMENT: To take God's name IN VAIN IS profanity. It is PROFANING the name of God.

2. Did God tell Moses and the rest of the Israelites that the heathen who possessed the promised land in generations PREVIOUS to Moses' time had been doing MANY ABOMINATIONS? Lev. 18:1, 27. What was one of these abominations? Verse 21, last half. Did God say these heathen nations had DEFILED themselves and the land because of such abominations? Verses 24 and 27. Then taking the name of God in vain was a sin at that time, wasn't it?

COMMENT: The third commandment of the law was being violated here. Therefore, profanity -- taking the name of God in vain -- was a SIN BEFORE MOSES' TIME!

3. What is the FOURTH commandment? Ex. 20:8-11. Is it the day on which everyone should REST from all his labors? Verse 10. Did God REST on that day after He had finished creating the earth and all life upon it? Gen. 2:2.

4. Did God tell Moses to have all the people KEEP -- rest on -- the Sabbath? Ex. 16:23. Did God command Israel to keep the Sabbath to PROVE whether they would walk in -- OBEY -- His LAW or not? Ex. 16:4. Note the word "law."

COMMENT: Here is God's law ALREADY IN EFFECT at that very time! God wanted to see whether the people would obey its fourth cardinal point -- WEEKS BEFORE THEY CAME TO Mount Sinai where the Ten Commandments were RESTATED (Ex. 20) and, months later the PHYSICAL RITUALISTIC "law of Moses" was FIRST GIVEN!

5. Did some disregard God's command to pick up a double portion of manna on the sixth day -- did they decide in advance to go out and WORK at gathering manna on this seventh day -- the SABBATH day -- on which God had commanded them to REST? Verse 27.

6. What did God say about this act of disobedience? Ex. 16:28. Notice this in particular -- did God just confine his rebuke to those refusing to keep this one command, or did He call attention to ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS and LAWS they had been breaking? Same verse.

COMMENT: This conversation was going on weeks BEFORE God RESTATED His spiritual laws to Moses and the people at Sinai. And it was MONTHS BEFORE God gave the SEPARATE RITUALISTIC LAW of sacrifices and ablutions which was to be in force ONLY UNTIL Christ's death!

So the Sabbath was ALREADY the law of God at that time, as well as the other commands and laws God referred to in verse 28!

The Fifth, Seventh and Eighth Commandments

1 . What is the FIFTH commandment? Ex. 20:12. Do we find a retribution -- a curse falling on one who broke this law LONG BEFORE the time of Sinai? Let's examine.

2. Did Noah become drunk? Gen 9:20-23. Did he realize a sin had been committed against him? Verse 24. What CURSE fell upon Canaan as a result of this sin against Noah, his GRANDPARENT? Verse 25.

3. What is the SEVENTH commandment? Ex. 20:14. Was it also in effect and known LONG BEFORE God reiterated His spiritual law to Moses and the people at Mount Sinai? Let's consider.

4. When Joseph was in Egypt serving the Egyptians (Gen. 39:1-2), what IMPROPER advances did Potiphar's wife make toward him? Gen. 39:7. Did Joseph refuse? Verse 8. Why? Did Joseph say it would have been a SIN to follow her wishes? Verse 9.

COMMENT: Remember, where there is no law, sin is NOT IMPUTED. But here we see that Joseph KNEW God's law and he knew that sin WOULD be imputed if he broke that law! ADULTERY was a sin hundreds of years BEFORE Moses!

5. What is the EIGHTH commandment? Ex. 20:15. Did Jacob, who lived LONG BEFORE the Ten Commandments were repeated at Sinai, use the word "stolen"? Gen. 30:33.

COMMENT: Jacob knew and understood the meaning of the word "steal." Stealing was a SIN in those days the SAME AS IT IS TODAY!

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

1. Does God forbid the bearing of false witness -- LYING -- in His NINTH commandment? Ex. 20:16. But even RIGHTEOUS Abraham, who lived LONG BEFORE Mount Sinai, was not always able to keep this command perfectly. WHO did Abraham say his wife was when they passed through King Abimelech's country? Gen. 20:2.

COMMENT: Abraham WAS LYING! Of course; Sarah, his wife, was his HALF-SISTER; nevertheless, the intent was all wrong! It was a lie. Abraham BROKE the ninth commandment!

2. Did God prevent King Abimelech from marrying Abraham's wife, thus preventing him from UNKNOWINGLY committing adultery with her? Gen. 20:3, and first part of verse 4. Did God say that had Abimelech committed adultery, it would have been a SIN? Verse 6.

COMMENT: How plain it is that God's law was in existence from Adam.

3. What about COVETING -- is it the last of the Ten Commandments? Ex. 20:17. Were the people BEFORE the flood breaking this commandment? Gen. 6:1-3, 5. Does God say, through the inspired Psalms, that the WICKED are those who FORSAKE HIS LAW?

Psa. 119:53. Then weren't these people forsaking God's LAW? Gen. 6:5. Note the word "wickedness."

COMMENT: The "SONS of God" -- in the sense that God is the Creator-Father of human beings because He formed man of the dust of the ground -- were lusting after, COVETING, and taking wives that were not good for them.

They were in this way striving AGAINST God. God classified them among the wicked of those days -- among those who were breaking the law He had revealed to Adam and Eve at the very beginning. They were breaking the TENTH COMMANDMENT against covetousness. And it was this sin that He was denouncing.

4. Now here comes the CLINCHER! Did Abraham, who lived BETWEEN the time of Adam and Moses, have a THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE of God's COMMANDMENTS? Gen. 26:5. And God's STATUTES? Same verse. And God's LAWS? Same verse. How did Abraham LEARN all these things? Note the word "voice."

COMMENT: The people before the time of Moses were MUCH BETTER INFORMED about the law of God than is generally admitted today!

Obedience Necessary Today!

The Ten Commandments constitute a SPIRITUAL LAW that is eternal and inexorable. It is a law showing the way of LOVE and the FULFILLING of which is love. It is a law that God set in motion for man's HAPPINESS to produce EVERYTHING GOOD which man foolishly denies himself.

Obedience to God's law was JUST AS NECESSARY for the well-being and happiness of the world BEFORE the time of Moses and AFTERWARD, AS IT IS TODAY! That is why we have just seen that every one of the Ten Commandments EXISTED FROM CREATION. It has been a SIN to break any one of them from the beginning!

God created man a creature of CHOICE. And so God decreed that man MUST CHOOSE WHETHER or not he will obey God's law. The world as a whole has CHOSEN NOT to obey and you see the RESULTS of sin all around you!

Yes, the CHOICE IS YOURS. But the actual fulfilling of God's royal law of love does not lie within YOUR OWN power. It is only possible through the POWER of God's Spirit! But there are PRIOR CONDITIONS to receiving God's Holy Spirit. First you must REPENT of your past sins -- come to recognize and UTTERLY ABHOR your past disobedience to God's laws and QUIT SINNING! Then you must acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour Who shed

His blood to blot out your sins and reconcile you to the Father. Finally, God commands WATER BAPTISM as a symbol of your sincere repentance.

Once you have fulfilled these requirements, God promises to give you His Holy Spirit as a FREE GIFT! (Acts 2:38.) Only then will you be able to keep His SPIRITUAL law in its true spiritual intent.

Do you begin to realize how DESPERATELY YOU need to have God's spiritual law of love -- the Ten Commandments -- being FULFILLED in you? It is the ONLY WAY to achieve the true happiness and material and SPIRITUAL blessings you really desire!

IS OBEDIENCE TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS NECESSARY TODAY?

You've probably heard that obedience to the Ten Commandments is NOT NECESSARY today. That God's law was ABOLISHED -- "NAILED to the cross" by Jesus Christ! But is this assumption really true? This is no mere irrelevant theological or religious question. This is the very ESSENCE of your life -- your home life, your social life, your business life.

It's the very CRUX QUESTION behind ALL world troubles today! Strange as it may seem, the Ten Commandments did not begin at Sinai. They have been in full force and effect since human life FIRST EXISTED on this earth! DISOBEDIENCE to the Ten Commandments has produced all the wars, SUFFERING and

DEATH the world has experienced SINCE Adam!

The common FALSE teaching of modern Christianity holds that the old covenant WAS the Ten Commandment law. That Jesus Christ came to establish a NEW covenant containing only grace and promises -- liberty to do WHATEVER YOU PLEASE, but certainly NO LAW! "Grace ALONE IS what saves you now," they say. "NO COMMANDMENT KEEPING IS necessary today."

This diabolical teaching would lead you to believe that the law of God is harsh, CRUEL, ENSLAVING -- that the fault of the old covenant was with the law, and since GOD gave the law, the fault must have been HIS!

Then there are those who believe the Ten Commandments are either the SAME as, or PART of, the RITUALISTIC LAW of Moses. That the Ten Commandments didn't exist until Moses and that they lasted only UNTIL Christ.

What MISUNDERSTANDING! What DISTORTION of the plain truth about God's law!

DO YOU realize that those who believe and teach these false concepts are actually worshipping God IN VAIN -- worshipping Him WITHOUT any prospect of receiving eternal inheritance in the Kingdom of God?

Listen to what Jesus Christ says to them: "Howbeit IN VAIN do ye worship me, teaching for doctrines the COMMANDMENTS OF MEN. For laying aside the COMMANDMENT OF GOD, ye hold the tradition of men ... [and now note the following especially] ... Full

well ye REJECT the Commandment of God, that ye may keep your OWN TRADITION" (Mark 7:7-9).

Jesus plainly taught OBEDIENCE to the Father's law: "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that DOETH the WILL of my Father which is in heaven"! (Mat. 7:21.)

Back to the Faith Once Delivered

God warns us in the book of Jude: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the COMMON SALVATION, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was ONCE DELIVERED unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares ... Ungodly men, turning the GRACE of our God into LASCIVIOUSNESS, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 3-4).

Even before the New Testament was completely written, ungodly men had crept into the Church in an attempt to corrupt it by turning GRACE into LASCIVIOUSNESS. And what is "lasciviousness"? It means "license" -- unrestrained liberty -- abuse of privilege. In other words, license to do what seems RIGHT in your OWN eyes -- according to HUMAN CONSCIENCE -- though it disobeys God's law!

That is exactly what those ungodly men in the first century were beginning to do -- turning God's GRACE into unrestrained privilege to

DISOBEY His law! Turning to HUMAN conscience as a guide! We find this very SAME ATTITUDE permeating modern professing Christianity today!

This present age is desperately lawless! Everywhere the spirit of disobedience is sweeping society. From the pulpits you hear that Jesus Christ abolished His Father's Law -- that it is not necessary to obey God today.

But your Bible says no one can be born into God's Kingdom unless that individual recognizes and SUBMITS to the authority and rule of God in his life! Arguing with God or using human reasoning to evade the plain commands of Scripture will get us nowhere!

God is Supreme Creator and Supreme Lawgiver. He knows what is BEST for us. He has perfect wisdom and understanding and has given us His perfect law. We can therefore place ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE in Him and rely on His judgment which He has committed to us in writing -- in the Holy Bible.

Yes, it's time we look into the Bible to see what it really says about God's law!

Why Bad News Today?

The natural tendency is to use human reasoning to sidestep that which seems of lesser importance to us. It's so easy for us to say: "I don't see why God would want me to obey His law. It SEEMS SO IMPRACTICAL in this modern age. Now here is the way I see it."

The overwhelming truth is that God's laws are AS PRACTICAL today as they were in the beginning when He originally gave them!

Have you noticed that the news today is nearly ALL BAD? There's a REASON why! Not only do we have war, fear of war, and strife between NATIONS, but we also have strife and competition in BUSINESS. We have quarrels leading to divorce IN THE HOME. We have a nervous younger generation blowing off steam and getting into all sorts of troubles.

What's the matter with us anyway? Are we AFRAID to stop and look at things as they really are? Do we dare recognize the fact that we are bringing all this fear and worry, this heartache, suffering and frustrating emptiness on OURSELVES?

Many world leaders realize we must have world government in order to achieve lasting peace. But they don't realize we can't have world peace until God's government is set up on earth and His Laws are enforced on all mankind! We live in a desperately lawless age! Crimes of violence and rebellion against authority are increasing at an alarming rate. And no wonder. Mankind refuses to live by the Ten Commandments which, if obeyed, would bring all the happiness and material blessings this frustrated world longs for. Today's chaotic world conditions are prophesied to get worse until Jesus Christ steps in and ENFORCES God's Ten Commandments!

The Basis of Life

If you were told that GOD ALMIGHTY, the Creator, set in motion invisible, SPIRITUAL LAWS FOR OUR HAPPINESS and FOR OUR GOOD, and that all our woes and our troubles are the DIRECT RESULT of our REJECTION and TRANSGRESSION of those laws, you'd probably say, "But I've been taught that those laws were abolished by Christ!" Or, "Why, that's a religious and theological question that I know nothing about. It has NOTHING to do with my practical, down-to-earth, everyday life anyway."

You're WRONG!

It has EVERYTHING to do with your everyday life. It has EVERYTHING to do with all the bad news you hear and read about every day. It has everything to do with the fact that most people today are restless, discontented and not as happy as they would like to be.

It has everything to do with today's chaotic world conditions, with social unrest and with the troubles most people are having in their own homes!

It is the TRANSGRESSION of God's law of LOVE that has caused all the mental anguish and suffering in the world today!

God's Law of LOVE

God has ordained a law -- the supreme eternal SPIRITUAL law which is LOVE. God and Love are inseparable, "for God IS love"! (I John 4:8.) Love is the BASIC CHARACTERISTIC of God's nature!

God lives completely in accordance with His law of love at all times! And God has ordained that we all must LEARN TO LIVE BY His law of love if we are to inherit the gift of eternal life. "For this is the love of God, that we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3). Love toward God and love toward fellow man -- that is the very ESSENCE of God's spiritual law (Mat. 22:36-40). The first four of the Ten Commandments teach us love toward God. And the last six teach us love toward our fellow man.

These ten SPIRITUAL laws are summed up in the one word "LOVE." They compose the Royal Law that James expounded -- the Royal Law of Love! (James 2:8, 10.)

But man is CARNAL -- UNspiritual by nature. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

We, of ourselves, do not have the SPIRITUAL LOVE necessary to keep God's SPIRITUAL law. This love comes from God "because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts BY THE HOLY SPIRIT" (Rom. 5:5). With this love we CAN FULFILL the law, for "love is the FULFILLING of the law" (Rom. 13:10).

God will give us His Holy Spirit as a FREE gift -- IF we REPENT of our sins, are BAPTIZED and sincerely STRIVE to obey Him (Acts 2:38; 5:32). Notice the "fruits," or Godly characteristics, which will be manifested in our lives if we have the Holy Spirit. "LOVE, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Gal. 5:22, 23).

These attributes of God's Holy Spirit are what enable us to OBEY the various points of His SPIRITUAL law of love. And these are the "fruits" we must show forth in our lives to be born of God at the resurrection!

So the Ten Commandments constitute a SPIRITUAL LAW that is inexorable and eternal. A law that is love and the FULFILLING of which is love -- a law that was set in motion for our happiness to produce everything good which we have foolishly denied ourselves.

The Ten Commandments are obviously entirely DIFFERENT and SEPARATE from the RITUALISTIC "Law of Moses" which was just a code of PHYSICAL laws -- NOT spiritual laws.

Jesus Kept the Law!

Jesus tells us that our OBEDIENCE to the Ten Commandments is an absolute PREREQUISITE to receiving God's gift of eternal life (Mat. 19:16-17).

But did Jesus really PRACTICE what He preached? Or does He expect us to perform the impossible?

Witness Christ's absolutely SINLESS life (Heb. 4:15). Had Jesus sinned in the SLIGHTEST POINT of God's spiritual law, He could NOT have become our Saviour!

Since Jesus was composed of human flesh with human nature, the same as we all have (Heb. 2:14), then HOW was He able to obey God? The answer is that He was BEGOTTEN by the Holy Spirit just as you can be -- if you repent, believe and are baptized! Jesus had

the POWER of the Holy Spirit working within Him!

Jesus Christ admitted He wasn't able to keep God's law by His own human power. Notice what He said: "I can of mine OWN SELF do NOTHING" (John 5:30) . "The Father that DWELLETH IN ME, He doeth the works" (John 14:10). The Father dwelt in Jesus by the Holy Spirit. And this power enabled Jesus to keep God's commandments perfectly!

Test Number Four

1. To receive eternal life, we must

- A. just believe on the Lord Jesus.
- B. follow the dictates of our conscience.
- C. repent, believe that Jesus Christ is our Savior, and begin to keep God's commandments.
- D. just join the church of our choice and shake the preacher's hand.

2. The law of God

- A. is cruel, harsh and enslaving.
- B. is the supreme, eternal, SPIRITUAL law of love.
- C. was the Old Covenant; therefore it has been done away.
- D. was "nailed to the cross" by Christ; therefore we don't have to keep it today.

3. In this modern age

- A. ministers everywhere are proclaiming obedience to God's Laws.
- B. God's spiritual laws have nothing to do with our everyday life.
- C. only your human conscience can be a true guide to joyful living.
- D. the world is unhappy because of our rejection and transgression of God's spiritual laws.

4. Which ONE of these four statements is TRUE?

- A. The Ten Commandments are a part of the RITUALISTIC law of Moses.
- B. The Ten Commandments are the SAME as the RITUALISTIC law of Moses.
- C. The Ten Commandments did not exist until God gave them to Moses at Mount Sinai.
- D. The Ten Commandments have been in full force and effect since Adam.

5. Which ONE of these four statements is FALSE?

- A. Love summarizes the supreme spiritual law of God.
- B. Love is the fulfilling of the law.
- C. The Holy Spirit of God imparts God's love to man.
- D. We were BORN with the love that enables us to keep God's laws.

6. Sin is

- A. the violation of the Ten Commandments.
- B. something to be desired.
- C. the keeping of the law.
- D. the transgression of our conscience.

7. Which ONE of these four statements is TRUE?

- A. Human beings instinctively know right from wrong.
- B. Human nature teaches us right from wrong.
- C. Our conscience tells us right from wrong.
- D. God must REVEAL to man right from wrong.

8. God first revealed His spiritual Law

- A. to Moses at Mount Sinai.
- B. to Adam by direct teaching in the Garden of Eden.
- C. to Adam in the Garden of Eden, but it was not made binding until Mount Sinai.
- D. in the days of Jesus.

9. The transgression of the law produces

- A. permanent high wages.
- B. true happiness.
- C. suffering, sorrow, and death.
- D. eternal life.

10. Has God given man the right to CHOOSE whether or not he will obey His law?

- A. Yes, it is totally up to us to decide.
- B. No, we have no choice at all in the matter.
- C. We don't know since this is a philosophical question.
- D. The Bible does not reveal the answer.

11. Cain

- A. obeyed God's laws perfectly.
- B. loved his brother Abel.
- C. sinned by murdering Abel.
- D. never transgressed God's Law.

12. Was idolatry a SIN long before Moses?

- A. Absolutely not!
- B. There is a possibility it might have been a sin.
- C. We can't know for sure since there is no record of it.
- D. Yes, the Bible clearly shows that it was.

13. God

- A. reveals that we may tell a "white lie" occasionally.
- B. reveals that Abraham SINNED by lying about his wife to King Abimelech.
- C. revealed to the Israelites that they didn't have to keep His laws and commandments.
- D. revealed only a few of His Ten Commandments before Sinai.

14. Dishonoring a parent was a sin in the days of Noah because

- A. "good common sense" revealed that it was.
- B. God's commandments had revealed it to be so.
- C. Noah said it was.
- D. Noah's grandson, Canaan, said it was.

15. Adultery

- A. was encouraged by God in Joseph's time.
- B. was committed by Joseph and Potiphar's wife.
- C. was not imputed as sin before Moses' time.
- D. was avoided by Joseph because he knew it was a sin.

16. Coveting

- A. was a sin being committed before the flood.
- B. was not a sin before the flood.
- C. is not a sin today.
- D. is the opposite of lusting.

17. Abraham, who lived between the time of Adam and Moses,

- A. discovered God's laws accidentally.
- B. was a lawless man.
- C. knew nothing at all about God's laws.
- D. was taught God's spiritual law by God's own voice.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.



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