



# Truth For These Times



## 22. THE LAW OF GOD

*Use with Chart "Attack on the Ten Commandments"*

It is commonly believed by many Christians today that God's commandments were meant for those who lived in Old Testament times, and do not apply to Christians who are under grace in the New Testament. The Bible has much to say on the subject of law and grace, but even though it is true that Christians are saved by faith in Christ, nowhere does it say God's laws are not binding upon man. Keeping the commandments is not the method of salvation, but the fruit of it.

1 John 3:4                      Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and SIN IS LAWLESSNESS.

This text defines sin as the "breaking of God's law". Keep in mind this text was written by one of Jesus' disciples many years after Jesus died upon the cross. The definition of sin is the same in both Old and New Testaments. This same disciple also wrote: "All unrighteousness is sin ..." (1 John 5:17). Therefore, "righteousness" is a life without sin, and since sin is lawlessness, then a life of righteousness is a life which is in harmony with God's law. The Apostle Paul says, besides God, "There is none righteous, no not one ..." (Romans 3:10). There is only One who is righteous, and that is God (Psalm 11:7). You cannot abolish God's righteousness nor separate it from His law.

Isaiah 51:6,7                      Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

We see here that God's righteousness is His law. God's law is not something that He imposes on us. God's law is how He has created life to operate. Anything outside that life naturally results in death.

Romans 6:23                      For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Take note that it is "sin" that brings death to the sinner, not God. God never forces His will. He will never interfere with our freedom of choice. He will tearfully permit us to live outside of His law of life and judge ourselves unworthy of everlasting life (Acts 13:46). Many people have viewed God's law as a list of arbitrary rules which require arbitrary punishments from God if disobeyed. This view wrongly places God's law as operating no differently than human law. Thus people have viewed God's law as the means of salvation. If you obey the rules you're in the club, if not you cannot enter or you will be kicked out. But this is not the function of God's law. His law is not the MEANS of salvation, but the FRUIT of salvation.

Romans 3:20            Therefore BY THE DEEDS OF THE LAW NO FLESH WILL BE JUSTIFIED in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

This text does not say it is unnecessary to keep the law, but it says we are not justified by keeping it. We are justified by the blood of Jesus. This text in no way says it is unnecessary to obey God's requirements. We are saved by God's grace alone through faith. But that does not mean "works" are null and void in the Christian life.

Ephesians 2:8-10      For BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Romans 6:14,15        For sin shall not have dominion over you, for YOU ARE NOT UNDER LAW BUT UNDER GRACE. What then? SHALL WE SIN BECAUSE WE ARE NOT UNDER LAW but under grace? CERTAINLY NOT!

Not being under the law means we are not under the condemnation of the law because of the grace of Christ. We will remain under condemnation by a continual view that we must keep the law in order to be saved. This is an impossibility and will always result in failure and self-condemnation because "the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject [submissive] to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Romans 8:7). We must first have the Spirit (presence) of God through Christ dwelling within.

Romans 8:9,10        But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

God's kingdom is not based upon performance, but upon our inheritance through Christ as sons and daughters of God.

Romans 8:12-17        Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

The question is asked by Paul; "Shall we sin (or break the law) because we are not under the law but under grace?" and the reply is most definite – "God forbid". God's forgiveness to us does not give license to sin.

Romans 3:31            Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, WE ESTABLISH THE LAW.

Genuine Christians will not seek to break God’s law, instead they establish it; uphold it and keep it. It is only as one breaks the law that he feels the condemnation of the law. Simply because we are under grace, does not give us free rein to break the law rather we are under greater obligation to keep it. God’s grace will always reveal itself in keeping the law. Condemnation originated with Adam when He condemned God and his wife when asked about why he ate the fruit. We inherit from Adam a spirit of condemnation which bites us when we do the wrong thing. When we break the law that we accept as good, our consciences naturally condemn us. (Rom 2:15,16).

Romans 7:7                      What shall we say then? *IS THE LAW SIN? CERTAINLY NOT!* On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”

Paul is emphatic. There is nothing wrong with the law. In fact he says that he would not be conscious of sin without the law to show him his errors. Here he quotes from the 10th commandment. The commandments can be likened to a mirror. If a boy with a dirty face looks in the mirror, then the mirror tells him his face is dirty – but it won’t clean it for him, he needs soap and water. As we look at the commandments they show us our sins, but they do not cleanse us. We need the blood of Christ to make us clean. When we are cleansed and look into the commandments, we no longer condemn ourselves when looking at the law.



Moses receiving the Ten Commandments.

Romans 7:12                      Therefore *THE LAW IS HOLY*, and *THE COMMANDMENT HOLY* and just and good.

God’s law is perfect – it cannot be faulted.

What change did take place at the cross concerning the law?

Daniel 9:27                      And he [the Messiah] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week *HE SHALL CAUSE THE SACRIFICE AND THE OBLATION TO CEASE*, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.



The sacrificial ceremonies were fulfilled and ceased at the cross.

An oblation is a rite or a ceremony. In Old Testament times animal sacrifices were made, symbolising the supreme sacrifice Christ or the Messiah would make when He came to earth. These sacrifices were given in order for man to see how depraved we were in our thinking. Sin has caused us to doubt God and His everlasting mercy. God’s mercy is free, but man believes God holds grudges and needs to be appeased. Jesus accommodated our own faulty ideas of justice by dying on the cross as a lamb. By dying upon this cross man would now believe in God’s forgiveness and as a result “sacrifice and oblation” would cease from our faulty thinking. When He died, the temple

veil tore in two as an indication that the temple services had come to an end. The ending of the

sacrifices, offerings and temple service did not apply to the other regulations, such as the statutes and judgments, which are simply the laws of the Ten Commandments amplified and explained in an explicit manner.

The Bible does not see the 10 commandments differently to the Law of Moses; for they both are given by God. One is the application and amplification of the other.

Nehemiah 8:1-3,8      And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of THE LAW OF MOSES, which the LORD had commanded to Israel. And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month [feast of Trumpets] ... and the ears of all the people were attentive unto THE BOOK OF THE LAW ... So they read in the book in THE LAW OF GOD distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. Nehemiah 8:1-3,8

Numbers 28 and 29 tell us that the animal sacrifices were to take place during all of God's Appointed Times including the weekly seventh-day Sabbath, Monthly New Moons, Yearly Festivals and also yearly Sabbaths. Paul teaches us that, even though the sacrifices and oblations are to cease, the days upon which these were offered remain as "times of refreshing" for the believer to receive multiplied blessings from God's presence.

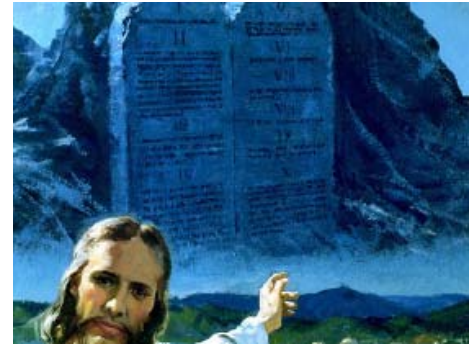
Hebrews 10:5-25      For this reason, the Scriptures say, when Christ was about to come into the world: 'You [God] did not want sacrifices and offerings, but you prepared a body for Me [Jesus]. In burnt offerings and sin offerings You never took delight.' Then I said, 'See, I have come to do Your will, O God. In the volume of the scroll this is written about Me.' In this passage He says, 'You never wanted or took delight in sacrifices, offerings, burnt offerings, and sin offerings,' which are offered according to the law. Then He says, 'See, I have come to do your will.' HE TAKES AWAY THE FIRST [sacrifices, offerings, burnt offerings, and sin offerings] in order to establish the second [God's will]; for by God's will we have been sanctified once and for all through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ ... And let us hold unwaveringly to the hope that we confess, for the One who made the promise is trustworthy. And let us take thought of how to motivate one another on to love and good works, NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near.

Acts 3:19              Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the TIMES OF REFRESHING shall come from the presence of the Lord.

To the unbiased reader of God's Word, it becomes more than clear that God's law is binding upon all men for all time in every place. They are to last as long as heaven and earth.

Matthew 5:17-19

DO NOT THINK THAT I CAME TO DESTROY THE LAW or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore BREAKS ONE OF the least of THESE commandments, and teaches men so, shall be CALLED LEAST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

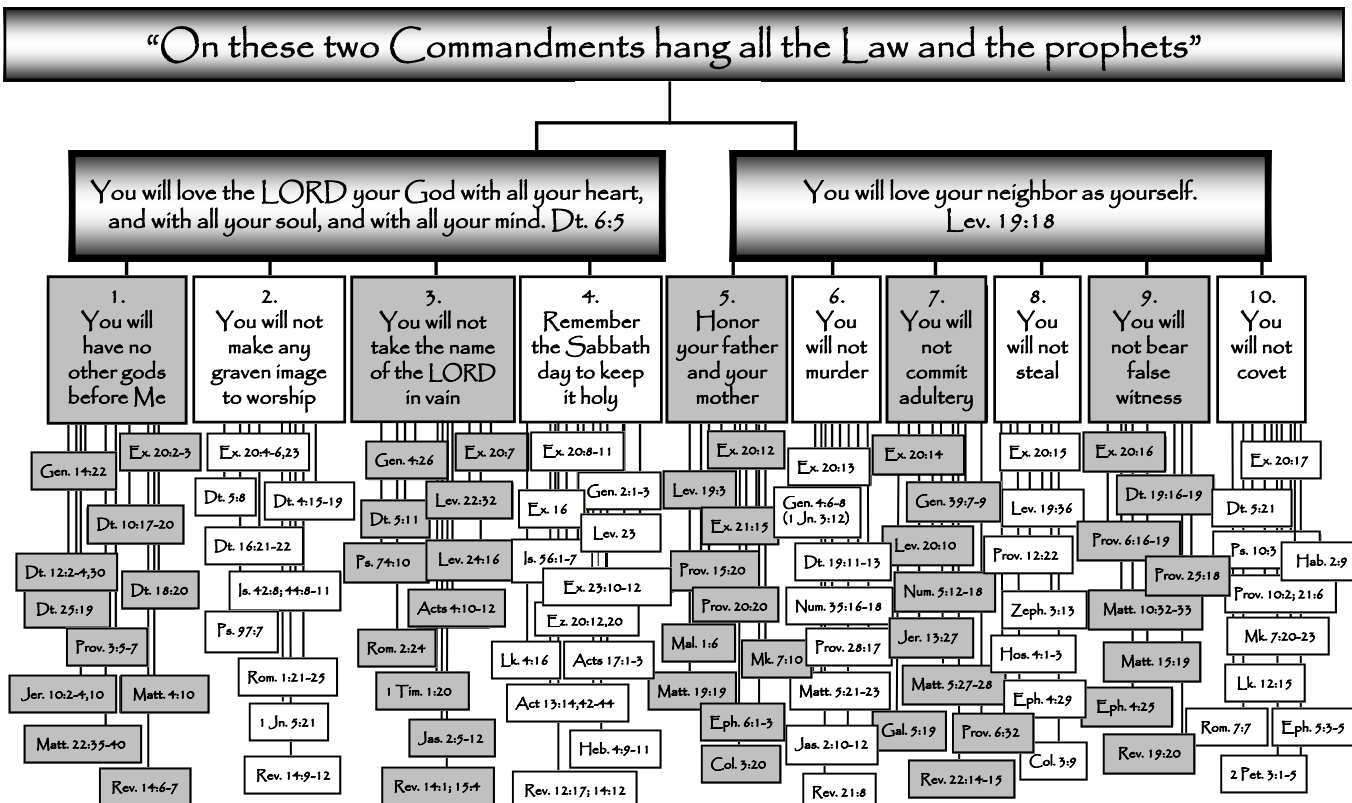


Jesus said – Don't think that I came to destroy the law.

Mark 12:29-31

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang ALL THE LAW and the prophets.

The first four commandments deal with our love to God, and the last six deal with our love for our fellowman. They can be divided into these two sections. There is one underlying principle behind these commands – LOVE. In these commands we see a transcript of God's character: "God is love". At first, they may appear to be a list of "don'ts", but when Christ reigns supreme in the heart a Christian is motivated by love, he wants to please God and respect his fellowman by sheer instinct. Written in the heart our view of the law changes from a list of 10 rules to a list of 10 promises.





Revelation 14 says that God's people in the last days will keep God's commandments. written directly by God!

The whole Bible has been written by man, yet inspired by God. The Ten Commandments, however, were written by God Himself. Surely He must have regarded them very highly.

Where were the Ten Commandments located?

Exodus 25:16 And you shall put INTO THE ARK THE TESTIMONY which I will give you.

A small box called the “ark”, which was situated in the sanctuary, was the resting place of the commandments. The book of the law, which included the Ten Commandments written upon parchment, was placed in the “side” of the ark. The Ten Commandments are often referred to as the “testimony”.

James 2:8-12

If you really fulfill *the* ROYAL LAW according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever shall KEEP THE WHOLE LAW, AND YET STUMBLE IN ONE *POINT*, HE IS GUILTY OF ALL. For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be JUDGED BY THE LAW OF LIBERTY.



The Ten Commandments were placed in the Ark.

There is no virtue in keeping 9 commandments instead of ten. If a man is hanging from a great height by a chain with ten links, and only one link breaks, he falls. The strength of the chain is dependent on its weakest link. If we willingly break one of God's commandments, we are as guilty as if we break them all. True, we are not saved by keeping the law, but this text shows we will be judged by it. If Jesus reigns within, He will give us the strength to keep it.

Psalms 111:7,8

The works of His hands *are* verity and justice; all His precepts *are* sure. THEY STAND FAST FOREVER AND EVER, *and are* done in truth and uprightness.

God's commandments are eternal.

Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints; *HERE ARE* THOSE WHO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD and the faith of Jesus.

God's last people on earth before the end of time are commandment keepers. There is no thought that the law is abolished, instead they establish it.

Hebrews 8:10 For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR MIND AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

The object of the everlasting gospel has always been to write God's law upon our hearts. It was only written on stone because Israel told the Lord that all that God wanted to give them, they would do it instead (Ex 19:8). Jesus shows us much more clearly how the law is lived by the Spirit. Those who are led by the Spirit have these laws written in their minds and on their hearts. This is the promise of the Everlasting Covenant. They are firmly established in the Christian way of life (2 Cor 3:3).



God will write His law on our hearts.

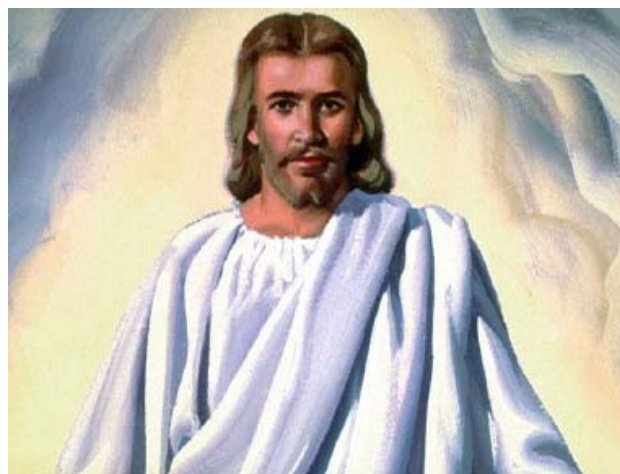
Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation TO ALL WHO OBEY HIM,

We are not saved because we are obedient – but because we are saved, we are obedient.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, FOR THIS IS MAN'S ALL.

John 14:15 **IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.**

Love manifests itself in obedience. Friend, does the love of Jesus give you enough power to obey Him? Remember, He loved you enough to die for you. His plea to you today is to keep His commandments. They are not grievous – in fact to keep them, will you trust Jesus to keep you out of trouble in this life, and bring you happiness. God's way of willing obedience is the best way, and if Jesus is supreme in your life, He will give you the strength to keep the commandments of God.



Those who love Jesus will keep His commandments.  
He promises this!

## Review Sheet – The Law of God

Assignment: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

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1. What is sin? 1 John 3:4  
Sin is \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Can we be saved by keeping God's law? Romans 3:20  
By the \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Does this mean that we don't have to keep God's law, seeing it is not God's way of justifying the sinner?  
Romans 6:14,15  
Shall we sin \_\_\_\_\_?  
\_\_\_\_\_!
  4. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin – the law does not: but the law is God's standard of righteousness.  
In this study, this truth is illustrated by the example of a boy looking into a mirror.
    - a) What does the mirror represent? \_\_\_\_\_.
    - b) What does the soap and water represent? \_\_\_\_\_.
    - c) What does the boy with the dirty face represent? \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. Was it the intention of Jesus to abolish the law of God? Matthew 5:17-19  
Do not \_\_\_\_\_ ... Whoever therefore \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ... shall be \_\_\_\_\_.
  6. Who wrote the Ten Commandments on tables of stone? Exodus 31:18  
Tablets of stone, \_\_\_\_\_.
  7. Does it matter if we disregard only one of the commandments? James 2:8-12  
Whoever shall \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ ... will be \_\_\_\_\_.
  8. How long will God's commandments last? Psalm 111:7,8  
they \_\_\_\_\_.
  9. How do God's people at the end of time regard God's commandments? Revelation 14:12  
Here are those who \_\_\_\_\_.
  10. Where are God's laws in the life of a New Testament Christian? Hebrews 8:10  
I will put \_\_\_\_\_.
  11. What is the natural result of our love for God? John 14:15  
If \_\_\_\_\_.
- Do you desire, by the grace of God, to keep all of God's commandments? \_\_\_\_\_.