

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

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In THE SCRIPTURES, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS are called by many other names, eg. THE LAW, JUDGMENT, THE COVENANT, STATUTES; and PRECEPTS - just to mention a few. Theologians often refer to them as “THE MORAL LAW”, to differentiate them from THE CEREMONIAL LAWS or THE CIVIL LAWS. Some people even teach that they have been done away with since JESUS DIED on the CROSS. Others teach that THE TEN COMMANDMENTS only applied to the JEWS

Some years ago I wrote to the people who produce the little devotional “Our Daily Bread”, and asked them what they meant when they referred to “THE MORAL LAW”. To my surprise the answer came back that “THE MORAL LAW” referred to the nine of THE TEN COMMANDMENTS that are mentioned in the NEW TESTAMENT; that one of THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, - THE SABBATH COMMANDMENT, was not mentioned by JESUS, or any of the NEW TESTAMENT writers, therefore it did not apply to Christians today. – But we must ask ourselves, is that true?

As is our usual practice, we will look at what THE BIBLE teaches. By working that way we will find out who is correct, and what COMMANDMENTS we should be keeping. Our main objective in this lesson is to find out how many of THE TEN COMMANDMENTS are mentioned in the NEW TESTAMENT.

Matt 4:10

“.... Thou shalt WORSHIP THE LORD thy GOD, and HIM only shalt thou SERVE”.

The FIRST COMMANDMENT is certainly mentioned here by JESUS, when HE was being tempted by satan.

Matt 22:37

“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”.

So again JESUS tells us to KEEP the FIRST COMMANDMENT.

1 Jn 5:21

“Little children KEEP yourselves from IDOLS. Amen”.

That is an abbreviation of the SECOND COMMANDMENT, which forbids the making of and, the WORSHIPPING of IDOLS. And also an indirect reference to the FIRST COMMANDMENT.

Acts 17:29

“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of GOD, we ought not to think that the GODHEAD is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, GRAVEN by the ART of MAN’S DEVICE”.

That CERTAINLY supports the fact that Christians should still be KEEPING the SECOND COMMANDMENT. Although the Roman Catholic Church has deleted the 2nd Commandment in their catechisms; they still include it in their BIBLES, worded very much the same as the Protestant BIBLES in my possession.

1 Tim 6:1

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

“... That the NAME of GOD and HIS DOCTRINE be not BLASPHEMED”. [or, spoken, or used, in a VAIN, or foolish or repetitious way].

The THIRD COMMANDMENT forbids the TAKING of THE LORD’S NAME in a VAIN or, BLASPHEMOUS way.

Matt 24:20

“But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the SABBATH DAY”:

JESUS was referring to an event that was to happen 39 years in the future, the destruction of Jerusalem, in 70 A.D. This prophecy has a double application as it also refers to THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS. It would be impossible for GOD’S people to keep the SABBATH DAY HOLY as required, if they were fleeing from the enemy where they live, or from this earth, on GOD’S HOLY SABBATH DAY.

If you remember the study on “THE SABBATH” that we did a while back, you will remember that we found that Paul mentions at least 84 SABBATHS that he kept. So it is WRONG to say that the SABBATH COMMANDMENT is not mentioned in the NEW TESTAMENT. We will also see other references to GOD’S PEOPLE KEEPING that MEMORIAL of CREATION. – This is a CLEAR REFERENCE to the need for the KEEPING of the FOURTH COMMANDMENT.

Mk 2:27,28

“And HE [JESUS] said unto them, the SABBATH was made for MAN, and NOT MAN for the SABBATH: Therefore THE SON of MAN is LORD also of THE SABBATH”.

JESUS clearly tells us which DAY is HIS DAY, - the SABBATH DAY; the ONLY “LORD’S DAY”, and HE informs us that HE made the SABBATH DAY for MANS, or better still, “MANKINDS” benefit. Many critics of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and of the SABBATH DAY claim that these verses say that the SABBATH was made only for the JEWS.

So we will look at another verse that uses the term “MADE FOR MAN”, and see if there is any chance that these critics believe that it still means “MADE ONLY FOR THE JEWS”.

1 Cor 11:9

“Neither was THE MAN CREATED for the WOMAN; but the WOMAN for the MAN”.

How many people after reading that verse, would AGREE that WOMEN were only CREATED for the JEWS? “WOMAN”, [like the SABBATH], was CREATED by GOD, for ALL “MANKINDS”, benefit, not just for the JEWS. There were no people called Jews at creation.

Heb 4:4

“For HE spake in a certain place of the SEVENTH-DAY on this wise, And GOD DID REST the SEVENTH DAY from all HIS WORKS”. Verse 9, “There remaineth therefore a REST to the PEOPLE of GOD”.

If you have a centre margin in your BIBLE, most likely there will be a number alongside the word “REST” in verse 9.

And the suggestion in the margin is that it would read more accurately; “a KEEPING of a SABBATH”, instead of “REST”.

If you look at a good Concordance, (which is a book that gives the meaning of the Hebrew or Greek words used in THE BIBLE), the word translated “REST”, is the Greek word,

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

“SABBATISMOS”, (“Young’s Analytical Concordance of the Bible” page 811), or, as the Greek Lexicon states it “A KEEPING of a SABBATH”, page 89 towards the back of the Concordance)

Paul makes it plain in these verses that he was referring to the SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH. JESUS says that we will be “KEEPING” the SABBATH DAY THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.

How then can anyone say, that there is NO MENTION of the NEED to KEEP the SABBATH DAY in the NEW TESTAMENT? In their catechisms, the Roman Catholic Church has reduced GOD’S FOURTH COMMANDMENT to only one line, and called it the THIRD, (See the last paragraph of page 1 of this lesson), then reduced the number of each Commandment accordingly, and broke the TENTH COMMANDMENT into two. That way they still have TEN COMMANDMENTS. However, their BIBLES still have GOD’S TEN COMMANDMENTS, reading much the same as they appear in other BIBLES.

Eph 6:2

“HONOUR thy FATHER and MOTHER; (which is the first commandment with promise”);

Paul supported JESUS on this point, so KEEPING the FIFTH COMMANDMENT is certainly recommended in the NEW TESTAMENT. We need to keep in mind, that Paul wrote this admonition to Christians around 64 A.D, which is 33 years after JESUS had returned to HEAVEN.

Matt 19:19

“HONOUR thy FATHER and thy MOTHER; ...”.

JESUS recommended that we still need to KEEP the FIFTH COMMANDMENT.

Matt 19:18,19

“He saith unto HIM, Which? JESUS said, Thou shalt do NO MURDER, Thou shalt NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, Thou shalt NOT STEAL, Thou shalt NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOUR thy FATHER and MOTHER: ...”.

JESUS again supports the need for us to be KEEPING the FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH, EIGHTH, and NINTH COMMANDMENTS.

Rom 13:9

“Thou shalt NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, Thou shalt NOT KILL, Thou shalt NOT STEAL, Thou shalt NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Thou shalt NOT COVET;”.

That takes care of the SIXTH, SEVENTH, EIGHTH, NINTH, and TENTH COMMANDMENTS.

This verse goes on to say that IF WE KEEP THESE COMMANDMENTS we will be showing others THAT WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBOURS, as we do ourselves, or, as we WOULD LIKE THEM to TREAT us.

Rom 13:10

“LOVE worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore LOVE is the “FULFILLING” of the LAW”. [or, the TEN COMMANDMENTS].

Surely this verse is “NOT” [as some scholars claim]; DOING AWAY with GOD’S TEN COMMANDMENTS, but, instead is telling us to KEEP those TEN COMMANDMENTS. Let’s look at some more verses that use the word “FULFIL” and see how it is used, and what it means in these texts.

Jas 2:8

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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

“If ye FULFIL the ROYAL LAW according to the SCRIPTURE, Thou shalt LOVE thy NEIGHBOUR as thyself, ye do WELL”.

James certainly recommends COMMANDMENT KEEPING to GOD’S PEOPLE. Note verse 11, where we find out what constitutes the “ROYAL LAW” It is another BIBLE NAME for the TEN COMMANDMENTS. While we are here we will also look at verse 12, to find another name that is used for GOD’S TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Jas 2:12

“So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be JUDGED by the LAW of LIBERTY”.

This verse teaches that everyone will be “JUDGED” by GOD’S TEN COMMANDMENTS, again note verse 11. If we are going to be “JUDGED” by THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, then surely we NEED to KEEP THEM TODAY. Notice that the TEN COMMANDMENTS are also called the LAW of LIBERTY. (See also Jas 1:25, where it is called “the PERFECT LAW of LIBERTY”). Why would GOD do away with HIS PERFECT LAW of LIBERTY?

Matt 3:15

“.... for thus it becometh us to “FULFIL” ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS”.

Did JESUS do away with the NEED to LIVE a RIGHTEOUS LIFE? NO! HE said we must “do” RIGHTEOUSNESS, or, “live RIGHTEOUSLY”, in other words, if we want to be judged worthy of ETERNAL LIFE.

Rom 7:7

“ Is the LAW SIN? GOD FORBID! Nay, I had not known sin, BUT by the LAW. For I had not known lust, EXCEPT the LAW had said, thou shalt NOT COVET”.

Paul made it clear for us to understand that WE MUST STILL KEEP GOD’S TEN COMMANDMENTS. He points out that the only way anyone can know what constitutes sin, is to KNOW the TEN COMMANDMENTS of GOD. Therefore, IF THEY ARE NOT FOR US TO KEEP TODAY - then we must conclude that there is no sin today - nor do we anymore need A SAVIOUR - JESUS NEED NOT HAVE DIED for our SINS. It gets more ridiculous all the time if we think that GOD’S COMMANDMENTS HAVE BEEN DONE AWAY WITH.

So it does not matter what anyone, Scholar, Minister, or Priest - says, we must be GUIDED by GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT, and by the BIBLE and the BIBLE only when we DECIDE WHAT WE WILL BELIEVE.

Of course it is important for us to KEEP the whole TEN COMMANDMENTS of GOD, or GOD would not have John tell us THREE TIMES in the book of REVELATION, Rev 12:17 ; 14:12, and 22:14, that THERE IS A “BLESSING” PRONOUNCED ON THOSE WHO KEEP the COMMANDMENTS - that ONLY COMMANDMENT KEEPERS will ENTER into the HEAVENLY CITY of NEW JERUSALEM.

To sum up what we have learned this lesson:-

1. Perhaps the main thing is that we MUST LET THE BIBLE GUIDE us, and not other people, no matter how well informed they appear to be, - or tell us they are.
2. JESUS, Paul, John, and James, ALL TELL us to KEEP GOD’S COMMANDMENTS.
3. The SEVENTH DAY is the SABBATH of GOD’S TEN COMMANDMENTS, - and CHRISTIANS NEED to KEEP it. It is the only “LORD’S DAY”, made known in THE BIBLE
4. KEEPING of the SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH by the DISCIPLES is mentioned in THE BIBLE many times (at least 84 times) after the DEATH of JESUS.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

5. The SABBATH was made for MANKIND, not just for the JEWS as some claim.
6. If we do not have to KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS, there can be no sin in the world.
7. ONLY the devil and his evil angels are HAPPY with those who TEACH, that "GOD'S COMMANDMENTS are DONE AWAY with".
8. If the COMMANDMENTS are done away with, there would have been no need for JESUS to have DIED for our SINS.
9. EVERYONE is going to be "JUDGED" by the standard of GOD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS.
10. Only COMMANDMENT KEEPERS will enter the KINGDOM of HEAVEN, according to the BOOK of REVELATION and the rest of the NEW TESTAMENT.

THE BIBLICAL evidence that has been presented over the past nine weeks has been very convincing that BELIEVERS STILL NEED to KEEP ALL of GOD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS in the CHRISTIAN ERA. I'm sure that you will want to do what GOD wants you to do.

That ends our series of lessons on THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, and I look forward to returning next week to learn together "HOW DID EVIL BEGIN", and where it first started. I know you will be surprised to learn what THE BIBLE teaches about that.

Till we meet again, may GOD richly bless and keep us FAITHFUL AND TRUE TO HIM. 'Bye for now.

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