

About The Ten Commandments: Part 7
The Patio Pulpit, Wednesday, 6/24/20
Exodus 20

Do you know people who insist that we must keep the ten commandments if we want to go to heaven? I do. I had an aunt who said to me within weeks of my coming to faith in Christ, “Don’t you think we must also keep the ten commandments?” I didn’t know what to say. I was a baby in Christ. I “felt” at the time that she was wrong, but I couldn’t have told you or anyone at the time why I felt that way. I can now.

I know of an entire denomination, a cult if you will, that professes to be Christian and tries to live by the ten commandments, in particular, the fourth commandment, ⁸ *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exod. 20:8 NAU)* The cult is The Seventh Day Adventists. They preach and teach that without keeping the sabbath, worshiping corporately on Saturdays, one cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. And they say that Sunday worship is the equivalent of taking the mark of the beast.

They also hold to the dietary laws of the law of Moses. My late cousin, whom I loved to the bone, once told us that they, the Seventh Day Adventists, believe that if they have some unclean food in their blood when the Lord returns, they’ll go to hell. That, beloved, is damnable heresy.

The leaders in the Seventh Day Adventist cult are anathema according to the word of God in Galatians 1:6-9. If you’re a member of the Seventh Day Adventist cult and you teach their doctrines, you are anathema. You are preaching a different gospel and a different Jesus.

² *Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, or if you keep the sabbath law, Christ will be of no benefit to you.*

³ *And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, or receives the law of the sabbath, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.* “Under obligation.” That means that those people are indebted to the law, not Jesus but the law. Those who choose to obey the law of the sabbath and the law of tithing in order to be justified, are yoked or tied to the law or are married to the law and will be judged by

the law rather than by grace. There is no freedom from the penalty of sin or the power of sin in the law. No one will be justified by the law.

Those preachers and pastors and teachers who insist that one must keep the sabbath and worship only on Saturdays have fallen from grace and are anathema. What they teach and preach is another gospel and another Jesus. They also seem to overlook the New Testament truth that if one tries to keep one of the ten commandments that one is obligated to now keep them all without fail.

Galatians 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. Do you know what the yoke of slavery is? It's the law of Moses. Living under the law yokes unbelievers to their flesh. The law enslaves people to their sins; Jesus frees us from that yoke. The law is a yoke of slavery and a burden to everyone who tries to live under it. Jesus spoke about the law and told the Jews that they could be free from the burden of the law.²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

³⁰ "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30 NAU)

I want you to get a picture of the apostle Paul throwing his hands up in disgust and exhaustion, saying "Wretched man that I am. Who will rescue me from the body of this death?" That's where his striving with his sins and the law of Moses got him. And that's the very purpose of the law, to drive us to Jesus.²² *But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.*

²³ *But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.*

²⁴ Therefore **the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ**, so that we may be justified by faith.

²⁵ *But now that faith has come, **we are no longer under a tutor.***

²⁶ *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Gal. 3:22-26 NAU)*

I never had a tutor when I was in school, never needed one. I was satisfied with “C’s” and “D’s” with an occasional “B.” And no one, including my parents, ever suggested I have one. Our heavenly Father, on the other hand, put the whole world in the hands of a tutor. ¹⁹ *Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;*

²⁰ *because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.* The purpose of the law.

²¹ *But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,*

²² *even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;*

²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Rom. 3:19-23 NAU)* Law of Moses keeping Jews and lawless Gentiles are all sinners.

So, spiritually speaking, apart from Jesus, God assigned a tutor to everyone. And that’s the purpose of the law. ²⁴ *Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.* That’s awesome! Even the law is an instrument of God’s grace. The law, as burdensome as it is, points us in the direction of God’s grace which is found only in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Do you remember the central truth found in Paul’s letters to the Romans and the Galatians? It is simplified for us in the “five solas.” Remember them? Well, here it is: “Justification is by **grace alone**, through **faith alone**, in **Christ alone**, through **the gospel alone**, for **God’s glory alone.**” No one will be justified by the law. “*Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight;* If someone listening to this lesson is Roman Catholic or Seventh Day Adventist, repent, and call upon the name of the Lord that you might be saved.

Now, and I’ll close with this, the law of Moses was added because of the transgressions committed by mankind between the fall and the

law. It was added to show mankind just how sinful they were in God's eyes. It was added to point the Jews to their Messiah. It was for the unrighteous, wicked, evil people who lived in egregious sins (Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Tim. 1:8-11). It was added to stir up man's sinfulness and make it worse (Rom. 5:20-21; 7: ^{NAU} ⁵ *For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. (Rom. 7:5 NAU)*

I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." (Rom. 7:7 NAU) Millions today don't know that.

¹² *So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. (Rom. 7:12 NAU)*

⁸ *But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully,*
⁹ *realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers*
¹⁰ *and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,*
¹¹ *according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, (1 Tim. 1:8-11 NAU)*

And the law of Moses reminds us of the holiness of God...and His righteousness and His kindness and mercy and love for the lost.

We are not under the law but under the blood. But when we preach for saving faith, we must begin with the law and then the gospel. Our hearers must understand that they are enemies of God. That they will be judged by the law and not by grace after they die. They can either stand before the Judge of all the earth and argue for themselves, or they can have the Son of God defend them on the Day of Judgment. "Come unto Me, all ye who labor and are heavy laden..." In Jesus' name, amen.

Acts 15:1 Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."

² And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. (Acts 15:1-2 NAU)

⁵ But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses." (Acts 15:5 NAU)

¹⁰ "Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?"

¹¹ "But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are." (Acts 15:10-11 NAU)

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants."

²⁵ *Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

²⁶ *For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;
(1 Cor. 1:25-26 NAU)*

²⁶ *"Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.*

²⁷ *"All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

²⁸ *"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.*

²⁹ *"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.*

³⁰ *"For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matt. 11:25-30 NAU)*

⁴ *You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*

(Gal. 5:1-4 NAU)

⁵ *For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.*

⁶ *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.*

(Gal. 5:5-6 NAU)

And this is what James said,

¹⁰ *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. (Jas. 2:10 NAU)*

The word of God is saying this, "If you try to be justified by keeping the law rather than by faith in Christ, you have rejected Jesus."

If you obey the law of the sabbath or circumcision or tithing or dietary because you are convinced that you must in order to be justified, you are not in Christ, you do not have the Spirit and you are facing the judgment of God on your own merits. You are still in your sins and you will die in your sins. Those in this well-known cult, the Seventh Day Adventists, are yet dead in their trespasses and sins and will be judged

by the law of Moses rather than by the law of liberty...except God should grant them repentance and they come to their senses and embrace the gospel.

Beloved, did you know that all who oppose the grace of God are ensnared by the devil? 2 Timothy 2:24-26 says this, ²⁴ *The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,*

²⁵ *with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,* ²⁶ *and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. (2 Tim. 2:24-26 NAU)*

2 Corinthians 4:1 *Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,*

² *but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

³ *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,* ⁴ *in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

⁵ *For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.*

(2 Cor. 4:1-5 NAU)

Does anyone remember to whom the law was originally given and why? It was given exclusively to the Jews thousands of years ago. It was engraved on two stones and brought down Mt. Sinai by the man of God, Moses, and was written on the stones by the finger of God. It was not given to the entire unbelieving world and specifically not to Gentiles.

¹⁴ *For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, (Rom. 2:14 NAU)* And as favorable toward the Gentiles as that may sound, it

isn't good at all. In fact, it's very bad. Remember, no one will be justified by the law whether it's the law of Moses or an instinctive kind of law.

Let me stop here for a moment. I have briefly mentioned here at Eastway that the harder we try to resist temptation and sin by telling ourselves we must not do that because it isn't right, the more likely we are to give in to that temptation. The law, whether it's the law of Moses or our instinctive inner voice kind of law gives the temptation and the sin its strength.

The law of liberty, the law of Christ, the law of the Spirit strips the law of Moses and the law of sin and death of their power over us. The law is what gives sin its power and strength (1 Cor. 15:56; Rom. 5:20-21) And what we can say, now that we are in Christ and not under the law, is this, "I don't have to do that." When we resist temptation in our own strength, we make that temptation stronger. And then when we give in to the temptation anyway, we can know this, "the blood of His Son cleanses us from all sin." What? Shall we sin now that we are under grace and not the law? May it never be!" We have both died to the law and to sin in Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:1 *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?*

² *May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?*

³ *Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?*

⁴ *Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

(Rom. 6:1-4 NAU)

Romans 8:1 *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

² *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. (Rom. 8:1-2 NAU)*

³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,

⁴ who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, (Rom. 9:3-4 NAU)

¹¹ Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision " by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands--

¹² remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Eph. 2:11-13 NAU)