

The Everlasting Gospel Bible study

Introduction

In the book of Revelation there is a description of an end-time message called the Three-Angel's message, and it is characterized by this statement in Revelation 14:12: *"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."* We have spent 8 lessons discussing what having Faith in Jesus means. Today we will discuss the relationship of the Law (commandments) to our faith in Jesus.

Lesson Nine: The Law and the Gospel

1. Let us first start off with understanding what are the commandments of God.

Read Exodus 20:1-17:

- a. How does Jesus describes this Law in Matthew 5:17-19. *"Do not think that I came to _____ 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 _____, 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."*
 - i. Jesus, obviously, believed in keeping the Ten Commandments. Especially when He says that He did not come to destroy, but to fulfill. The word fulfill is the word *Pleroo*. It means to bring something to its fullest or expound completely. We understand from the following verses that is exactly what Jesus is about to do. He is about to demonstrate that the Ten Commandments are deeper than what was just written on stone by Moses.
- b. Read Matthew 5:27-28: *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever _____ at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*
 - i. Jesus is teaching them that Moses gave you just the basic idea of the seventh Commandment, which is do not cheat on your spouse. But Jesus deepens (fulfills) this commandment by saying if you are thinking it in your mind it is adultery.
- c. Jesus actually is now taking the law to its deepest understanding:
Read Matthew 5:43-44: *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall _____ your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, _____ your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,"*
Read Matthew 22:36-40: *"Jesus said to him, 'You shall _____ the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall _____ your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*
 - i. Read Romans 13:10 what are the Commandments, or Law, really about?
 - ii. The Ten Commandments were actually codes that governed the relationship between God and man and between man and man. If you love your neighbor you would not even think to steal from them, and if you are not even thinking to steal you will never steal. This is what Jesus meant about fulfilling the law.

He showed how deep it goes. It is more than what was written on stone by Moses, but it reaches deep into the thoughts and heart of mankind.

- d. Before we can finish looking at how deep the Law actually goes, we must compare the Law to one more thing. Read: 1 John 4:7-8. This tells us that the Law and God are one in the same. The Law of love therefore is an expression of who God is; a God of love.

“As speech is to thought, so is Christ to the invisible God. He is the manifestation of the Father and is called the Word of God. God sent His Son into the world, His divinity clothed with humanity, to make known in His life and character the attributes of the Father, that men might bear the image of the invisible God. He was the embodiment of the Law of God, which is the transcript of His character.” Signs of the Times, November 15, 1899, par. 2

Now we see the whole truth that the Ten Commandments were but expressions of the character of God, and when Jesus came to this earth He was but a living illustration of what keeping the law actually looks like in real life.

2. What happens when we break the commandments? 1 John 3:4 (KJV): *“For sin is the transgression {breaking} of the Law.”*

- a. And what is the result of breaking the Law of God? Read Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death.....”*

- b. When we break the commandments of God we sin, and when we sin we are under the condemnation of the Law which is death, but there is still hope and good news.

- c. Read Romans 7:6. How are we delivered from the Law (the penalty of death) for breaking it?

For the answer read Romans 7:4: *“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the Law through the _____ of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.”*

- d. In lesson two we learned that Jesus died for our sins. His body was crucified for my law breaking. That is what Paul is saying. We have been delivered from the death penalty of the Law, and because we are free, what does he say we can now do?

- i. Read Romans 7:6 *“But now we have been delivered from the Law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the _____ of the Spirit and not in the _____ of the letter.”*

This simply is telling us the same thing that Jesus was saying in Matthew 5: That now we have forgiveness from sin in Jesus we are free to serve deeper than just the letter (The Ten Commandments written by God) but now we can keep the Law of God in the spirit. Meaning in our thoughts and in our heart.

- ii. Read the following text in Hebrews 8:10.

Discuss Hebrews 8:10. How does the gospel make it possible to keep the Law in spirit as Paul suggests in Romans 7:6?

3. What role do the commandments play in our understanding of the gospel message? Read Romans 7:12. *“Therefore the Law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”* Why is the Law Holy, just, and good? Read Romans 7:13: *“Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might _____ sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the _____ might become exceedingly _____.”*

- a. What does Romans 3:20 say about the purpose of the Law? *“Therefore, by the deeds of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the _____ is the _____ of sin.”*

- b. The relationship of the Law to the gospel is clear. The Law tells me what sin is, and sin is what I must repent of before I can receive by faith the life of Jesus in my place. {lessons two and three} Read Romans 3:21-22: We are condemned by the Law whenever we break it, but then as long as we repent we have Jesus to forgive us.
- c. The gospel and the Law work together in this way. The Law points me to Jesus when I am guilty of Commandment breaking, then Jesus points me back to the Law as a mirror to see if I need more repentance. This is illustrated in 2 Corinthians 3:18 *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a _____ the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*
- d. Remember The Law is not only what was written on stone, but in the mind and heart and ultimately the glory of the life of Jesus. The Law is like a great mirror, and the more we look into it the more sin we see, and the more we will see our need of forgiveness, but the good news is, the more we repent of sin the more we become like Jesus!

Discuss: Read Psalm 19:7. How does this text illustrate the Law and gospel working together? How does the Law help in the conversion of our soul?

- 4. The Law of God has a clear connection to the gospel in the fact that it forms the basis of our Repentance, which is the condition to being justified by faith. However, the Law is not only to point out our sin that we may know how to repent, but it also is the basis of our obedience. We talked about Sanctification in the last lesson, and we learned that it was the Holy Spirit working in our lives to bring us out of sin and into obedience to the will of God.
 - a. What does the Bible say we will do if we love God? John 14:15 *“If you _____ Me, keep My _____.”*
 - b. John 14:21 *“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who _____ Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and^lmanifest Myself to him.”*
 - c. 1 John 2:4 *“He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a _____, and the truth is not in him.”*
- 5. How does the end-time book Revelation characterize God’s people at the end? Revelation 12:17 *“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”*
 - a. Revelation 14:12 *“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the _____ of God and the faith of Jesus.”*

Obedience to God’s Law is made possible by the Spirit of God Romans 8:4 *“that the righteous requirement of the _____ might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the _____.”*

Summary: The Ten Commandments, or what is also called the Law of God, has an intimate relationship to the Gospel. We studied how the Law of God is important to both our Justification (redemption) and our Sanctification (transformation). In other words, His Law on the one hand condemns us as guilty sinners, pointing us to our need of faith in a Saviour, and on the other hand it shows us what the Holy Spirit wants us to be like – Christ. And Jesus was a reflection of the law himself, therefore if we are being transformed into His image, surely that means we will be obedient to His Law.

Appeal: Will you commit to keeping His Holy Law today?