

**THE "TEN COMMANDMENTS"  
OF THE OLD SCRIPTURES  
(EXODUS 20:3-17)**

I

*Thou shalt have no other Gods before Me.*

II

*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.*

III

*Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.*

IV

*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

V

*Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*

VI

*Thou shalt not kill.*

VII

*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

VIII

*Thou shalt not steal.*

IX

*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.*

X

*Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.*

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**THE "TEN COMMANDMENTS"  
AS FOUND IN THE NEW SCRIPTURES  
(JAMES 1:25)**

I

*"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10).*

II

*"Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21). "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device" (Acts 17:29).*

III

*"That the name of God and His doctrines be not blasphemed" ( 1 Timothy 6:1).*

IV

*"The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath; therefore the Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27,28). "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... For He that is entered into His rest, He also hath ceased from His own works, as God did from His." (Hebrews 4:4,10). For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth." (Colossians 1:16). (Read also Matthew 24:20).*

V

*"Honor thy father and thy mother" (Matthew 19:19). (Read also Ephesians 6:1-3).*

VI

*"Thou shalt not kill" (Romans 13:9). (Read also 1 John 3:15).*

VII

*"Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Matthew 19:18). (Read also James 2:10-12).*

VIII

*"Thou shalt not steal" (Romans 13:9).*

IX

*"Thou shalt not bear false witness" (Romans 13:9).*

X

*"Thou shalt not covet" (Romans 7:7). (also Romans 13:8-10).*

3

**FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW  
CONCERNING  
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

1 - The Law of God was "written with the finger of God" (Exodus 31:28), and since "He has added no more" (Deuteronomy 5:22) after writing the ten precepts it is evident that it is a complete, distinct and separate law in itself--separate from the ceremonial law, which expired at the cross.

2 - He also said, "For we know that the law is SPIRITUAL ... " (Romans 7:14). "I delight in the law of God after the inward man" (Romans 7:19).

3 - In this dispensation of Grace it is still true that "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). (Read also Romans 7:7-13).

4 - While it is true we are saved by grace through faith, "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:30), and "... faith which worketh by love" (Galatians 5:6), obeys Jesus in, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). (Read also 1 John 5:3).

5 - "... the Author and Finisher of our faith" (Jesus, Hebrews 12:2) plainly said, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17). He referred to the "Ten Commandments," (see Matthew 19:18,19).

6 - In this dispensation of Grace, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12): (Read also Romans 8:1-4,14,15).

7 - Revelation 12:17 says, "... which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

8 - Paul said, "Wherefore the law is HOLY, and the commandment HOLY, and JUST, and GOOD" (Romans 7:12).

9 - James, speaking of the Decalogue, says, "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:12). (Read also James 2:10,11; Revelation 22:14).

4

**GOD GAVE ONE PERFECT LAW  
OF LIBERTY AND SECURITY  
FOR ALL MEN**

There is **one perfect law**, or **rule of life**. It is God-given, and, if obeyed, insures liberty, peace and security for all. All of our national and international social and economic problems come as direct results of **disobedience** to that perfect, holy, just and good law. (Romans 7:7,12). David said in Psalm 19:7,8, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right ... the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." In Psalm 119:165 we read, "Great peace have they which love Thy law; and nothing shall offend them." Again we read, "Moreover by them is Thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward" (Psalm 19:11). "Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is the truth" (Psalm 119:142). This is an unchangeable righteous standard for all time in **old and new** scriptures.

**THE PERFECT MORAL LAW --  
WHAT IS IT?**

The perfect law is the **TEN COMMANDMENTS**, as recorded in Exodus 20:1-17, which God declared to Israel with a loud voice, and wrote them on two tables of stone, enforcing it by the two great commandments of **LOVE** (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18,34; Matthew 22:36-40; Romans 13:8-12). Those two commandments: loving God with all our heart, and loving thy neighbor as thyself, are taught in both old and new scriptures. Jesus plainly said, "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:40).

Paul, in dealing with love to our neighbor, wrote, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be

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any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:8-10).

Jesus taught in Matthew 5:17-28 that no change in the TEN COMMANDMENT Law was to be made, and that we **must** now obey from a heart of love, even for our enemies. Hatred makes us guilty of murder (1 John 3:15), and entertaining lust is adultery (Matthew 5:27,28). (Read also James 1:23-25 and James 2:8-12).

**WHY IS A HOLY, JUST AND GOOD LAW NEEDED?**

**(What is it's purpose with the gospel?)**

First of all, only God could give to man a holy, just, and perfect moral code to live by. David gives us a comparison in Psalm 19:1-4 of Divine Law and Order in the heavens: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech, nor language, [race of men], where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath He set a tabernacle for the sun ..." (Read also verses 5-7). David is emphasizing the divine law and order of the sun, moon, and stars in the heavens. These teach all men that God has set laws even in those heavenly bodies. God is a god of order. All things in His creation are ruled by law. Our scientists all know that to be a fact as they examine God's creation. Truly "... the heavens declare the glory of God ..." as we behold them from day to day. After verse 6, David brings his lesson home to man and his relationship on earth. Psalm 19:7 declares, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul ..."

Just as perfectly as the laws that govern the heavens, David is saying that if all men would obey God's divine laws, we would have harmony, peace and security on earth now. But man is a being of choice, as God planned it, created a little lower than the angels, with the right to eternal life with

God if obedient, or death if rebellious by disobeying the divine laws. Man sinned and brought death into this world. (See Romans 5:12). God, in love, sent His only begotten Son to redeem man by His death on Calvary. (Read John 3:16; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Corinthians 5:14-18).

**THE LAW GIVES US THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIN (The gospel gives us the remedy -- salvation from sin!)**

"He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). What is sin??? "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin" (1 John 3:4,5). Paul gives more in Romans 3:20, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Again in Romans 7:7,8 we read, "What shall we say then? 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. [Note here the quote from the Ten Commandments for identity]. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead." There would have been no sin, as Romans 4:15 says, "... for where no law is, there is no transgression."

There is no sin if there is no law. No sin-- no need for the gospel! Romans 7:10-14 states, "And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin." The law gives the knowledge of sin, and the gospel

gives the remedy: pardon and deliverance from the bondage of sin. (Read Matthew 1:21;

Romans 6:22). Jesus died for your sins (Hebrews 2:9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4), that through Him you can be reconciled to God, become a child of God (Galatians 3:26-28), have all sins pardoned, and be given a new heart with God's Holy Law written there by the Holy Spirit. (See Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 3:2,3; Ezekiel 36:25-27). To be set free from sin's bondage, we must obey Jesus' command to "... Repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:14,15).

Paul preached repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (See Acts 20:21). This was the center of Paul's gospel to all. To bring repentance, God's Law must be taught to give knowledge of sin, and the Holy Spirit brings godly sorrow for our sins as we look into God's perfect law of liberty. Sin then becomes "exceedingly sinful" to us. True repentance comes as the result of the working of God's Spirit in the heart of the sinner as the love of God leads them to repentance. (Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-11; James 1:25; Romans 2:4). Repentance toward God is because of disobedience to His Holy Law. Faith in Christ then brings justification and cleansing from all sin. (1 John 2:7; Romans 5:1,2; Acts 15:9).

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*God's Holy, Just, and Good Law*

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**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**  
 as Taught in Both Old  
 and New Scriptures

*by Frank M. Walker*

*"The law of the Lord is perfect,  
 converting the soul:  
 the testimony of the LORD is sure,  
 making wise the simple.  
 The statutes of the LORD are right,  
 rejoicing the heart:  
 the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
 enlightening the eyes."  
 —Psalm 19:7,8*

**IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** *God wrote His Law on two tables of stone. (Deuteronomy 4:12,13)*

**IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:** *God writes His Law in "fleshy tables of the heart." (II Corinthians 3:2,3; Ezekiel 36:25-27)*

With minor editorial changes by John Symonds and Clyde Senger, 2012.