

"You shall therefore love the LORD your God, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His ordinances, and His commandments. (Deuteronomy 11:1 NASB)

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." (John 14:21 NASB)

Paul wrote to the Philippians while he was a prisoner in Rome according to Acts 28:16, 30. He was imprisoned, of all things "for taking a stance on the Gospel." He had not committed any crimes. But, as always Paul makes something good of a perceived bad; just as we should. Paul writes in Philippians 1:15-17; *Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; (Philippians 1:15 NASB)*

the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the Book, Chapter and Verse Preaching *gospel; (Philippians 1:16 NASB)*
the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. (Philippians 1:17 NASB)

We have a lesson to learn from these few verses. We are to preach and interact with others out of love, not envy and strife. Paul gives these two comparisons in the above verses. Even though Paul was in prison he counted it a blessing to be able to promote Christ, even in his imprisonment, especially the whole praetorian guards and to anyone else. (Phi. 1:15) A praetorian would be up to several thousand soldiers and many of them would have known Paul personally. The praetorian guards probably knew Paul as many of them came in contact with him and some of them were assigned to guard him. Paul witnessed to everyone and any one, regardless of who they were or what they were doing.

One lesson today would be that regardless of the circumstances, God is there, He has not forsaken us, so don't give up the ship for He is coming back

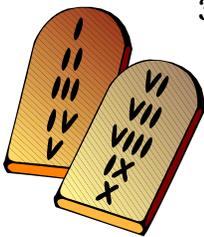
and we will be with Him if we hold tight. Praise Jesus for His faithfulness. Can we get an Amen to that?

The lesson for me today is that I'm bringing this message to you out of love for you and the love of Jesus to preach the true gospel, not watered down or acclimatized to today's culture of "anything goes," where the Bible is just a piece of the landscape. But we know the Bible is the Holy Word of God and it is the only way, yes the only way to salvation and eternal life. (John 14:6)

~The Commandments of God~

We are here today to discuss the commandments of God, the main ones; of course they are the Ten Commandments, the moral Laws of God.

1. I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods besides me. (Exo. 20:2-3)
2. You shall not make no statue or graven imagine of anything to worship it. (Exo 20:4-5)
3. You shall not name the Lord your God in vain. (Exo. 20:7)
4. Remember the Sabbath; it shall be a holy day to you. (Exo. 20:8-9)
5. Honour your father and mother. (Exo. 20:12)
6. Do not commit murder. (Exo. 20:13)
7. Do not commit adultery. (Exo. 20:14)
8. Do not steal (Exo. 20:15)
9. Do not lie. (Exo. 20:16)
10. Do not desire what belongs to your neighbor. (Exo. 20:17)



~Discussions of the Law~

I see these strong discussions, to say it mildly, concerning Law and Grace. Some will say we are not under Law, but under Grace. Others will say we are under the Law. Which one is right? This is what we will try to determine today.

I believe and I think the Bible confirms it, that we are under grace, but that does not say that the law does not apply! When we accept the free grace of God, we only know about God's grace by knowing about the Law. If we don't know what is right or wrong and we don't know that we are sinners, how would we know that we need a Savior? Only by the Law will we know this. The Law points us to a Savior, Jesus Christ.

That brings up another point that concerns me! Why would we want to do as little as possible to please God? When people tell you that you are too legalistic, they are paying you a compliment. Even though they don't think so. For Christians that follow the commandments of God will be condemned by other Christians that do the least that they can for God and still call themselves Christians.



I can't figure it out, a God that was there in the beginning, that came to earth and lived a perfect life, was crucified for our sins, and three days later was raised from the dead, so that we could choose faith in Jesus and live eternally, forever in His Kingdom. Why would a Christian not want to do what Jesus asked them to do, such as keeping the commandments of God and to love their neighbor?

I believe that if you love God you will do all you can for him. Certainly you will not do the least you can get by with. If you have turned your life over to Jesus, you are to have a changed heart and will seek the will of God. We will know them by their fruit. (Matthew 7:20)

~Psalms 119, the Law Psalm~

All through the Bible the Law is commented on. Let us look at the first 10 verses of the 119th Psalm. And then we can go over some other verses in this Psalm and see how many verses have information and enlighten us about the Laws of God. The Laws of God are important; otherwise they wouldn't be so frequently recorded. With Jesus as our example, we read in the Bible that He kept all the commandments.

How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the LORD. (Psalms 119:1 NASB)

How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart. (Psalms 119:2 NASB)

They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways. (Psalms 119:3 NASB)

You have ordained Your precepts, That we should keep them diligently.

(Psalms 119:4 NASB)

Oh that my ways may be established To keep Your statutes!

(Psalms 119:5 NASB)

Then I shall not be ashamed When I look upon all Your commandments.

(Psalms 119:6 NASB)

I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments. (Psalms 119:7 NASB)

shall keep Your statutes; Do not forsake me utterly! (Psalms 119:8 NASB)

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. (Psalms 119:9 NASB)

With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. (Psalms 119:10 NASB)



What different Laws does these first ten verses talk about;

Verse 1 - walk in the Law, verse 2 - observe His testimonies, verse 3 - walk in His ways, verse 4 - ordained Your precepts, verse 5 - keep

Your statutes, verse 6 - all your commandments, verse 7 - learn Your righteousness judgment, verse 9 - keeping it according to Your Word. The Psalmist, at the end of verse 10, says, “Do not let me wander from Your commandments.” Are God’s commandments important? “You bet they are.”

I think this 119th Psalm has more verses in it, 176, than any other chapter in the Bible. So, when you get a chance, read the entire chapter to see what it says about keeping God’s Laws; His commandments, statutes, ways, His Word, ordinances, His precepts, as well as His testimonies.

~Two Roads~

Think about Law and Grace and Love as two roads, you might say there are a road on my left and a road on my right. The road on my left is a one way road that represents the Law and it is the road leading into hell damnation. Think about the other road on my right as a one way road, represents the love of

God's grace. On this road God wants us to come to Him by our faith in Jesus Christ.

Let's say, you are on the road on my left, the road leading you to eternal punishment. You start looking at the signs on the right, each sign has a different commandment and all of the sudden you see that you have sinned, realizing it by looking at those signs on the road, the road on my left. There's a sign for each one of the following commandments.



- 1 I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods besides me.
- 2 You shall not make any statue or graven image of anything to worship it.
- 3 You shall not name the Lord your God in vain.
- 4 Remember the Sabbath, it shall be a holy day to you.
- 5 Honor your father and mother.
- 6 Do not commit murder.
- 7 Do not commit adultery.
- 8 Do not steal.
- 9 Do not lie.
- 10 Do not desire what belongs to your neighbor.

By the time you get to the last sign, you see that you are a sinner and have broken most of God's commandments and the Holy Spirit calls you to repentance. The Ten Commandments have done their job; they have convicted you of your sins.

At this point you look over and see the road on the right, God's love of free grace. You say to God on the right road, I have not kept your commandments; can I come over to your road, I have repented. God's love lets you get off the next exit, which God put there and onto God's road to eternal life given to you by the Grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

But wait a minute, have you noticed the two roads are now merging, the Law road and God's grace roads are coming together and now you are truly on your way to eternal life.

You see this is the way that God's Law, His Love and His Grace come together. You are cursed by the Law until you make that commitment of repentance to Jesus Christ. Then the Law is written in your heart, where they were previously written on tablets of stone; Or in our example, written on the sign posts to show you the error of your ways.

~Standard of Conduct~

Let us see how Galatians 3:10 plays into the law.

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

(Galatians 3:10 NASB) (From Deu.27:26)



Paul and the other apostolic leaders kept God's seventh-day Sabbath their holy day.

Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

(Galatians 3:11 NASB) (Hab. 2:4)

However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM." **(Galatians 3:12 NASB)**

(From Lev. 18:5)

As one writer put it. So Paul is saying here that those people who have their basis of spirituality in their own works and righteousness, rather than in their Creator, are under a curse. In verse 10 above, as with much of the rest of his letter to the Galatians, Paul is addressing the problem of "justification" by works – he is not condemning the law. God's Law plays a vital part within the sanctification process, because it is during this time in a Christian's life that character is being built, that we are growing, overcoming, etc. All this requires a standard of conduct to be present and that standard of conduct is God's law.

This justification is further explained in James 2:10-12. Let us look.

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

For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT COMMIT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit



murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

(James 2:11 NASB)

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. (James 2:12 NASB)

I like the way one author puts it. Because we have all sinned, our own righteousness could never suffice for the purpose of justification. But after we have been justified and entered into the New Covenant, the law is still very much valid for the purpose of sanctification. We are told in James 2:12, as in other places, that we will be judged, and the standard for that judgment will be the law of God. So, if we are to be judged in the end by God's law, we had better keep them.

~Law, Grace and Love~

We have talked a lot about, law, grace and love today. Let us bring it all home with what Jesus did. You remember the saying; WWJD – “What Would



Jesus Do,” and I've always said the better example in today's culture is; WWJND – “What Would Jesus Not Do.” But the

reality is, we read what Jesus did in the Bible, maybe it should be WDJD- “What Did Jesus Do.” This is the best example and we don't have to guess the answer for the other two, we have it right here in our Bibles to read. “What did Jesus actually do?” He's the example, look it up in the Bible, see what Jesus did.

~The Rich Young Ruler~

One of the examples in the Bible of what Jesus did is recorded in Mark 10 starting with verse 17. By the way it is also recorded in Matthew 19. Let us look at this story beginning in Mark 10:17;

As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
(Mark 10:17 NASB)



And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. (Mark 10:18 NASB)

"You know the commandments, 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER. '"

(Mark 10:19 NASB)

And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up."

(Mark 10:20 NASB)

Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." (Mark 10:21 NASB)

But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. (Mark 10:22 NASB)

Here we have it, the "rich young ruler" coming to Jesus wanting to know what to do to inherit ever-lasting life. He seemed at the time to be a good person and a sincere person. He even ran up to Jesus and knelt down before Him and asked the question, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life." For him, he thought there was a price to pay, for the rich young ruler was wrapped-up into the materialism of the world. For the Bible said he was one who owned much property, in other words he was rich in material items. But, he had no relationship with his Savior; he had his priorities out of order.

What were Jesus' comments to him? He started quoting the Law, what a surprise to many co-called Christians and church members today. Jesus quoted the last six of the Ten Commandments, man's relationship with humanity. Jesus didn't tell him about God's love, didn't even sing him a song or have an altar call. He just told him to, "sell your possessions and come and follow me."

" You know the commandments, 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.' " (Mark 10:19 NASB)

The rich young ruler replied; "I have kept all these things from my youth up." He had a relationship with his fellow man, but no relationship with His Christ. In other words, he was a good person. Like many today, they are good people, but they have no relationship with their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Matthews says, actually it is in Jesus' words; **"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.** (Matthew 6:33 NASB)

This rich young ruler probably went to church every Sabbath all his life, probably in the youth group, memorized Old Scripture verses, probably got along with his fellow man and friends. Probably highly thought of? But he lacked one thing, his relationship with Jesus.

Verse 21 says and don't forget this; "Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for



him." Jesus didn't want to see him go to eternal damnation. Jesus felt a love for him, just as we have a love for our loved ones and want them to receive the free gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. We talk to them, but they don't quite seem to

understand. In other words, "they just don't get it." Maybe they are like the "rich young ruler," wrapped up in the foolish things of this world.

The main reason I bring this story to you is that Jesus, when asked by the rich young ruler, "How can I have eternal life," took him straight to the LAW, the commandments of God. Some Christians says the Law has been done away with. If we say that the commandments were nailed to the cross and we use Jesus as our example, WDJJ- "What Did Jesus Do." And we believe that Christ lived a perfect life, how can you say that something Jesus did was wrong and nailed to the cross. If Jesus did it and it's recorded in the Bible and we have our faith in Him, we have to say that what Jesus did is the "Gospel."

You see what Jesus did here, the rich young ruler asked about salvation, by His love, to which Jesus pointed him to grace by quoting the commandments of God, the Law. The Law points us to salvation, it doesn't save us, and to eternal life by our faith in Jesus Christ. We all know what happened to that sincere, good man; he turned down the Gospel. Look at verse 22 again.

But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. (Mark 10:22 NASB)

The rich young ruler had a choice; in this case, he made the wrong choice.

~Our Relationship~

You know it may be that in our daily life we have something that we are hanging onto that may be causing us not to have that blessed relationship with Jesus. Just as this rich young ruler. It may be different for each of us. Let us examine each of our lives and clean up for Jesus. Amen!



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Dewey E. (Obad) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

HERE I STAND

When Martin Luther appeared before the assembly (Diet of Worms, April 17, 1521) for examination of his heretical teachings, Johann von Eck (assistant to the Archbishop of Trier), spoke for Emperor Charles V. Eck showed Luther a table filled with copies of his writings and asked if he still agreed with what was written. Luther asked for time to think about his answer. His extension granted, Luther prayed, consulted others and came before the Diet the next day.

When asked the same question the next day, Luther apologized for the harsh tone of some writings, but could not reject the majority of them or the teachings therein. Respectfully, but forthrightly, Luther stated, "Unless I am convinced by proofs from Scriptures or by plain and clear reasons and arguments, I can and will not retract, for it is neither safe nor wise to do anything against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen"

Martin Luther, On May 25, 1521, Emperor Charles V issued his Edict of Worms that declared Martin Luther an outlaw.