

Rest requires Trusting in Jesus' Fulfilment of the Ten Commandments

Summer 2014

In our series on Rest, working through Exodus 15-20, we have been looking at how we can learn from the journey of the Children of Israel through the desert to be set free from feeling a sense of drivenness in our lives and be released into rest in God. This final talk of the series looks at the part the Ten Commandments play in us achieving rest.

Scripture

Main - Exodus 20:1-21

Supplementary - Romans 3:23, Matthew 5:21-30, Matthew 19:16-22, Matthew 5:17-20

Overview

In the passage God sets out the Ten Commandments, his rules to show his people how to live and how to be close to Him to enable life to work out as He intended and therefore to achieve his rest. Unfortunately the trap the Children of Israel fall into, and us, is to try and achieve them in our own strength and we inevitably fail. God's intentions were always that the law would be seen as a measure of His holiness and perfection and that we were to believe and trust in Jesus fulfilling them on our behalf. It is only then that we can begin to achieve them by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit within us, continually relying on Him and his strength rather than going back to trying to achieve them in our own strength.

Questions for Application

The main application for us is the ongoing process of evaluating ourselves in terms of is there parts of God's law we are struggling to keep and/or trying to achieve it in our own strength. We need to take into account what Jesus says about our heart and thoughts (Matthew 5:21-30) not just our actions and the extremely helpful teaching we have had on idols over the last few years recognising that they often take a non-physical form e.g. fear of man, control as well as a physical. In evaluating ourselves it is essential we do it on the foundation of grace, we are not seeking to address sin in our lives to earn our salvation and prove our 'goodness' but with a desire that we want nothing to get in the way of our relationship with God and offend his holiness.

Please be sensitive to how you do this taking into account the level of openness and honesty within the group leaving space for confession and prayer.

Tags

Ten Commandments, Law, Fulfilment, Jesus