

## God's Law - Part Two



### Day 1

**Sermon Sentence:** The Ten Commandments allows us to see God, and then realize our nature.

### Galatians 3

In studying the Law in Exodus 20 and Galatians 3, and seeing how it reflects the perfection of God's holiness, I was reminded of a scene in an Indiana Jones movie years ago. The clue to passing the trap Indie was faced with and to not get killed was "only a penitent man shall pass". Indie was fortunate enough to see a couple of others run up to this trap and set it off and witnessed what happened to them. In short the only way to pass this trap was to be on your knees and this is a perfect example relating to God's Holy law and its purpose. The law was given to show us our imperfections and make us reliant on God for the salvation that only He can offer. As with the trap in the movie above, if we attempt to "stand" before God in our own efforts and righteousness, our end will of course be death. However, if we kneel (accepting God's will) He in turn grants us His righteousness and offers us grace through our faith thus allowing us to be forgiven for our sins of breaking His law.

- Galatians chapter 3 gives a wonderful example and a warning to those seeking justification by the law. Why is there no flesh justified by the law if the law is holy, perfect and true?
- There was no complete moral law given from the time of Adam till Moses. Why was it important for God at a time of His choosing to give this standard? Would salvation have been possible without it?
- The covenant given to Abraham was much broader in scope than the one given to Moses. Can you see the complexity of God's plan in the Bible as it is revealed from Genesis to Exodus and why the "seed of promise" comes through Abraham (Faith) and not through Moses (Law)? What are your thoughts on Galatians chapter 3 comparing Faith and the Law?

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### Day 2

**Sermon Sentence:** The Ten Commandments allows us to see God, and then realize our nature.

#### **The Second Tablet (Commandments 5-10)**

##### **Exodus 20:12 vs. Matthew 15:3-7**

The Fifth Commandment is the only one of the Ten Commandments to come with a specific promise of blessing. By honoring your father and mother you would enjoy a long life in the land inherited from the Lord. Almost 1400 years after this law was given to the Israelites, Jesus addresses how man had twisted the intent into something unrecognizable from the original purpose and judges them as hypocrites! Truth be told the Israelites were doing what all mankind attempts to do when a desire of the flesh is allowed to override the importance of a law or prohibition. Through a series of human reasoning and traditions they had made void the law and rendered it useless to its intended purpose meanwhile claiming they were keeping it. Of course the purpose of this law was not so much about children honoring their parents (although this is valid too) but adults honoring their parents and taking care of them when they are elderly and in need.

##### **Exodus 20:13 vs. Matthew 5:21-22**

The Sixth Commandment is self explanatory or so we thought. No one should take life unjustly. Understand the commandment says to not "murder" it does not say "kill" as sometimes wrongly translated. There is a difference, as sometimes killing just happens by accident or self defense, so not all killing is murder. But wait, then we get to the Sermon on the Mount and Jesus expands it to include "anger"! **Uh-oh!!!**

- When you read the Sermon on the Mount, what comes to your mind reading Jesus' descriptions of the commandments and then expanding on the idea of what it means to keep them?
- Why was He doing this? Who was the audience and what were they guilty of that required this clarification of standards?
- Jesus is explaining that the requirement of keeping God's Law is both "thought and deed". Immediately who is condemned by this statement and why is this so important to the plan of salvation?

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**Exodus 20:14**

**Deuteronomy 24:1-4**

**Matthew 15:27-32**

**Mark 10:1-12**

Adultery is defined as a person having an improper relationship with another (usually sexual) outside of their marriage and truth be told is the only valid reason Jesus gives for a divorce considering that the one has abandoned the marriage through these actions. Adultery often leads to divorce and divorce is devastating to everyone involved. God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16) because of the effects that it has on families and how hardened hearts will often give opportunity to the Devil. Of course it affects the immediate couple but also children and surrounding family members as well. God's intent was that as Adam and Eve were truly one flesh, all marriage that followed would also follow this example.(Genesis 2:24) In God's eyes marriage is a type pointing to Christ and His bride the Church and Jesus would never leave His bride whose redemption He purchased with His own blood! Divorce was never part of God's original plan for marriage. (Matthew 19:8)

- What are your thoughts about the seriousness of adultery when viewed through God's eyes. Why do you think this sin is so strongly warned about? (1 Corinthians 6 and Revelations 22:15) Think about the devastating effects this sin can have on all those involved especially children which may cause generational sins to continue long into the future.
- After reading all the scriptures above and comparing the worldview of divorce, what are your thoughts? Why has marriage become so easily entered into and discarded when God considers it a matter of utmost importance?
- Lastly, if marriage is to be viewed in the light of Jesus as a husband to the Church, what confidence would you have in Jesus if He viewed marriage by the world's standard?

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### Day 4

**Sermon Sentence:** The Ten Commandments allows us to see God, and then realize our nature.

**Exodus 20:15**

**Leviticus 19:11**

**Proverbs 10:2**

**Romans 13:9**

Stealing of course is taking something that does not rightfully belong to you. Most people would say that they don't steal and probably believe that but truth be told they probably have stolen something (such as your coworker's ink pen) and not even realized it! If we remember that perfection under the law is "thought and deed", we have to realize that we might have stolen things from others (even spiritual things) that we are not even aware.

**Exodus 20:16**

**Exodus 23:1**

**Proverbs 19:5**

**Ephesians 4:25**

The Ninth Commandment is another commandment often translated with a simple word that may not be the best fit for the idea behind the law. Often times this is simply stated as "Thou shall not lie". However, careful study shows that although bearing false witness or testimony is indeed a form of lying but it exposes a far more sinister heart condition behind it than just a plain lie. A lie can be used to cover ourselves or even to try to protect another from some truth but bearing false witness is a deliberate attempt to frame or do harm to someone for someone else's (usually our own) wrongdoings!

- What are your thoughts on the Eighth Commandment? Can you make the claim to have never stolen anything?
- What are your thoughts on the Ninth Commandment? Have you always related to this commandment to only lying or did you understand it is it's fullest intent?

## God's Law - Part Two



### Day 5

#### **Exodus 20:17**

Finally the Tenth Commandment. If you struggle with the word “covet” try replacing it with the word “desire”. Have you ever heard the saying “trying to keep up with the Joneses”? This phrase is used to describe the idea of envying your neighbor’s possessions or even desiring his or her spouse. In America we have a real problem with this sin, as we often will measure our own success by the success of another. This will often cause discontent as we think we deserve every blessing that is given to another and leave us unthankful for the blessings in our own life.

#### **Life Application:**

There are three positions relating to the Law that one can take but only one leads to life.

##### **→ Keeping the Law**

- ◆ This is the position that the Israelites were placed in by the Mosaic Covenant. Remember the law must be kept 100% perfect, every law all the time in thought and deed. One transgression and the person is guilty of breaking all of the Law. Death is the penalty for transgression of the Law. We often hear of certain religious sects that place requirements concerning the Law and the performance of the believer as securing their salvation. *This is not Biblical salvation!* (Romans 11:6)

##### **→ Freedom from the Law**

- ◆ This position basically states that Jesus freed us from the Law and its penalties leaving the believer to conduct themselves as they see fit. This viewpoint should be likened to the time between Adam and Moses and how the heart of man acts when there is no standard of law. Remember Jesus said “My sheep know me” and anyone professing lawlessness does not “know him” or love the light. *Again this view is not Biblical salvation!* (Romans 1:32)

##### **→ Repentance and Faith in Jesus Christ**

- ◆ This is the only relationship to the Law of God that will produce salvation. Repentance and a realization that we are hopelessly lost apart from God’s saving grace through Jesus! Jesus frees us from the penalty of the Law and thus we are free to do “good works” not as a means of securing or maintaining our salvation but as a result of it and the work of the Holy Spirit residing in each of us! ***This is Biblical Salvation!*** (Galatians 5:22)

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### Day 5 (cont.)

**Sermon Sentence:** The Ten Commandments allows us to see God, and then realize our nature.

- Looking at God's Law, what are your feelings as a believer concerning it? Does it have a condemning effect? (Romans 3:19)
- Have you ever run into someone that claims to be a "good person" that is doing just fine before God in their own efforts to be good? (Romans 3:10) How can you help them understand Biblical salvation? (1 John 8)
- What is the danger if one is allowed to believe that they are saved by their good works? Are they saved if this is what they truly believe? (Ephesians 2:8)
- What about people that profess all is forgiven and then live like the Devil? What does this expose about their heart? How do you know that they do not know God? (1 John 5-7)
- Ponder the truth of God's word and the balance between Law and Grace. Try to come to a greater understanding how these two things are completely separate in regards to our salvation but both important in our relationship to God and our growth as a Christian. Remember that the Law given in Exodus is truly the reflection of God's character and any attempt to grow closer to God will include us becoming more like Him! Remember the balance and that this is not a work of human will towards salvation but rather a fruit of salvation brought by the leadings of the Holy Spirit in our lives! (James 2:18)