

POWER OF PRAISE

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“The Ten Commandments: A Tutor Unto Salvation”

The Ten Commandments, or the Law, was given by God to Moses for the benefit of lost mankind. Man, in his sinful condition, is blinded by his sin and stumbles around in the darkness, separated from His holy Creator. The Law shines the light of God's holiness upon man's darkened heart, revealing his guilt before God. When the Law of God is known, it shows us our guilt before God and stops us from justifying ourselves. It actually renders us speechless and without excuse before God, and allows the conviction and consciousness of sin to stir our hearts. “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (Romans 3:19).

It is also impossible for righteousness to be accredited to us by our attempts to keep the law; its purpose is to define sin and bring us to the knowledge that we are sinners so that we can know our need for the Savior, Jesus Christ. “Therefore, by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20). “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, ‘You shall not covet’” (Romans 7:7).

The Bible calls the Law the “tutor” that mentors us in the understanding of sin, righteousness and judgment with the sole aim of leading us to Christ: “Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24). The sinner is ignorant of the severity of breaking God's commandments and the certainty of punishment that awaits him upon Judgment Day. This is why many people are deceived in believing that Christianity is just another religion or lifestyle, an option instead of the only lifeline from destruction. Unless we

appreciate the consequences of sin, we will never appreciate the gift of salvation that Jesus provided, taking our punishment upon Himself so that we would not receive everlasting condemnation in hell. John Wesley said, "Before I can preach love, mercy and grace, I must preach sin, Law, and judgment." In other words, a person must know that he is lost before he can be found.

Let us review the Laws of God that have been so maligned and outlawed from public appearance by our Courts:

"I am the Lord your God...you shall have no other Gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, of that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them not serve them. For I, the Lord God, am a jealous God...You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house...your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, ...nor anything that is your neighbor's" (Exodus 20: 1-17).

Jesus said that He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it (Matthew 5: 17). Grace actually requires more than the Law, as was taught by Jesus in Matthew chapter 5. God judges us by the motives of our heart as well as our outward deeds: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5: 27-28).

Our inability to keep the law is irrefutable evidence of our guilt before God. To be saved from God's wrath, we have to "throw ourselves at the mercy of the court" by faith in Jesus Christ and what He accomplished on the cross of Calvary. The good news of

the gospel is that we don't have to die in our sins. Jesus made the way to everlasting life and reconciliation with God, the Father. Agree with God about your sins, and repent from them. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!

“Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 5: 20-21).

“He who believes in Him (Jesus) is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the only begotten Son of God” (John 3: 18).