

BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

“What New Law are we Under”?

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH...



## “WHAT NEW LAW ARE WE UNDER”?

Answer: The Law of Christ, which is the law of love

(Gal. 6:2/Jn 13:34). Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Before we read Matthew 5<sup>th</sup> chapter, we need to understand what Moses has to say concerning the coming Messiah, Jesus.

Deu. 18:15-19 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;  
16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.  
17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.  
18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.  
19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

The same is spoken in Acts 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

Now technically speaking, although Matthew- John are listed in the New Testament books, but at the time of Christ's speaking however, the people were still under Old Testament Law ( The testator (Christ) had not yet died).

Matthew 5 chapter: The Beatitudes are principles from the Kingdom of Gods' prospective, God's way and His promises and instructions to all that believe in Christ.

We must also distinguish between the two types of laws. First we have the Sacrificial or Shadow law, and then we have the 10 Commandments.

In verse 17 of Matthew we read: Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Law here is the 10 Commandments, and the Prophets mean the Old Testament prophets and what they spoke, because some of them spoke of the coming Messiah.

Now let's not run pass seemingly unimportant words. The word, fulfill means to carry out instructions, or an order; or in this case, the manifestation of those things spoken of Him by the Old Testament Prophets. Also fulfill means that He was and is the only pleasing and perfect sacrifice that could meet the requirements of the Father, and that He was and is the only one that could pay for our redemption (Rom. 10:4,5)

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

Now as we continue in Matthew 5<sup>th</sup> chapter and verse 18 we see another key word..."Till". The word "till" means: until, or an appointed time, but to keep it simple, let's stay with "until".

Gal. 3:19/4:21-31 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law (understand)?

22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.

23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.

24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

29 But as then he that was born after the flesh (Law) persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, (Christ) even so it is now.

30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

What did Jesus say in the 18<sup>th</sup> verse? Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Now when was this accomplished? At His death on the cross (Heb. 9:16-17) 16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

17 For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

As long as Christ (the testator) was alive and walking among the people, and had not gone to the cross to die for the sin of all mankind, the New Testament or New Covenant had no strength!

Matthew 5 verse 20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

What is the righteousness of the Scribes and the Pharisees? The letter of the law, an outward show!!

Luke 18:10-12/Matt. 23:1-8 10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

Matt.23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

5 But all their works they do for to be **seen of men**: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

In verses 21 and throughout, Christ is making the point that this is how the Father sees it; He is basically narrowing it down into two commandments.

When we tell people they must keep the commandments to be saved or to be pleasing to God to enter into the kingdom, we are really condemning them to death; see Galatians 3:10-14.

In Luke 18:18-23, (His claim was that he had kept these ever since he was a child).

18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet **lackest** thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

Jesus quoted from the last six of the 10 commandment law; the last six commandments address our relationship to one another. Jesus told him to go, sell everything that he had and give to the poor, (not give to God), and come and follow Him. If this young man was keeping the law flawlessly, he would not have had a problem with what Jesus instructed him to do, he flunked the test! Also if he indeed had kept these things perfectly, I think that Jesus would have congratulated him, if righteousness with GOD is indeed obtained through the keeping of the Law!

Let's see what Jesus is saying; in 1 John 3:16-18/4:20-21. 16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1Jn 4:20-21 20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this **commandment** have we **from him** (Jesus), That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Jesus is saying that His commandment, His law for us is that we love one another. Christ made it very simple for us, he broke it down into two simple commandments; Matthew 22:35-40; 35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Now to conclude this matter and I will keep it very simple. When Jesus said in John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. What commandments was He referring to?

Was He talking about the Ten Commandments written in stone and given to Moses by God to give unto the people, which commandments he literally broke upon seeing the sin of the people? No I do not believe so; I believe that if we earnestly examine the scripture we will find our answer.

In John 15:10-12 we have our answer. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.  
11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.  
12 **This is my commandment**, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

This is also confirmed in John 13:34-35 **A new commandment** I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.  
35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Now look at 1 John 2:4-11 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.  
5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.  
6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.  
7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.  
8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.  
9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.  
10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.  
11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

This is the apostles John, whom Jesus loved. The same one who laid his head upon Jesus at supper in John 21:20, and he was referring to John the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> chapters.

Also is 1John 3:22-24 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.  
23 **And this is his commandment**, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

So what am I saying here or trying to prove? It is simply this, that unless we understand the scripture and keep it all in context, we can mislead others as well as ourselves. Every time we see the word commandment in the New Testament we have a tendency to think that it is referring to the Ten Commandments, when that is not the case, and by constantly preaching to people that they (we) must keep the law and even the Ten Commandments to be saved we in effect are sabotaging peoples lives and spiritual growth.

The Ten Commandments were never given to us to keep, but rather to give us the knowledge of sin (Romans 7:7). The Ten Commandments are the character, the holiness of God our Father, that is why Paul stated in the same 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans the 12<sup>th</sup> verse that the law is holy and the commandment holy, and just, and good. David said in Psalms 19:7-8 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The Father is so Holy, so Pure so filled with Light that nothing unclean can come into his presence, and all of our righteousness is filthy rags before him, we are altogether become unprofitable so much so that Paul cried out “O wretched man that I am, who shall save me from the body of this death”!? And then he found the answer in Christ, just as we must come to that same conclusion.

Allow me to put it another way; let’s say that I have a car or house, and I don’t allow smoking, cursing or drinking, I have established those rules. So someone needs a ride somewhere, or you want to come to my house to visit, but you can’t do without your smoke for five minutes, do you think that you are going to ride with me or visit my house and continue to do those things that I have forbidden? Of course not, so is it with the law of God. On our own we are hopelessly lost because we could never keep it perfectly; it is in Christ, not in our good works, or boastings of our religious services or duties, but plain and simply, by faith in Jesus Christ.

I truly hope that this has been a help to you and that you have gained some understanding on this subject. The Lord bless and increase you in the knowledge of Him and His word; If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at: brokenvessel51@yahoo.com

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