

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (SOME MISCONCEPTIONS)

TEXT: Deut. 5:1-21.

Exodus 34:28 So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

INTRODUCTION:

- A. There are many misconceptions about the Ten Commandments.
- B. Many of these have led to false doctrines.
- C. We are not under the 10 commandments today.
 - 1. They are not binding on us.
 - 2. But the principles are still true, always have been, always will be.
- D. Why have a study on the 10 Commandments? Rom. 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
- E. We want to notice today some misconceptions about the Ten Commandments.

BODY:

I. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WERE NOT NEW!

- A. The exception was to observe the Sabbath Day. The other nine were old.
- B. There has always been a moral universal code of ethics.
 - 1. It has always been wrong to kill- Gen. 4:8-12 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."
 - 2. Adultery has always been wrong- Gen. 39:7-9 And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what

is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

3. Sin was in the world before the ten commandments- Gal. 3:19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

II. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WERE NOT GIVEN TO ALL NATIONS.

A. Notice Deut. 5:2-3. **"The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive.**

B. The Old Testament was a covenant or agreement between God and the Jews ONLY.

C. Non Jews lived by the law of conscience- Rom. 2:12-16 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

D. Even if they were in affect today we are non-Jews and would not be under them.

III. IT IS A MISCONCEPTION TO BELIEVE THAT THE LAW OF MOSES IS DIVIDED INTO SECTIONS (MORAL AND CEREMONIAL LAWS).

A. There is not one verse that makes any distinction between the Ten Commandments (As being better or more important) than any other law given by God through Moses.

B. We are told by (Some) the 7th Day Adventists and the World Wide Church of God that the ceremonial laws were done away with but the moral law (Ten Commandments) are still in effect.

C. The words "Moral Law" are not even found in the Bible.

D. All of the Law was taken out of the way.

1. Col. 2:14-17 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

2. Eph. 2:14-15 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

E. How much plainer could God have been?

IV. THE FOURTH MISCONCEPTION IS THAT WE CAN BE SAVED BY THE OLD TESTAMENT IN GENERAL AND IN PARTICULARLY BY KEEPING THE 10 COMMANDMENTS.

A. If that were so, then Christ died in vain- Gal. 2:21 "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

B. 2 Cor. 3:6-12 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious. Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech--

C. The Ten Commandments were not designed to save us- Gal. 3:23-25 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

D. All Christians are moral people, but not all moral people are Christians.

1. Many Atheists are moral-not Christians.
2. A Hindu might be moral but is he a Christian?
3. Muslims and Buddhists might live good moral lives.
4. You can keep all Ten of the Commandments and not be a Christian.

E. A Christian is one who has obeyed the gospel.

1. He has believed in Jesus- Jn. 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

2. He has repented of sin- Acts 17:30-31 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

3. He has confessed his faith in Christ.

a. Acts 8:37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

b. Rom. 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

4. He has been baptized (Immersed in water).

a. Mk. 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

b. Acts 8:35-39 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

F. A Christian is one who has been added to the church- Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

G. A Christian is one who worships God in Spirit and in truth. Jn. 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

H. A Christian is one who lives by the Laws of Christ found in the New Testament. (NOT THE 10 COMMANDMENTS)

1. Heb. 7:11-12 Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.

2. Heb. 8:6-13 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more. In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

3. Heb. 9:15-17 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

V. THE FIFTH MISCONCEPTION ABOUT THE 10 COMMANDMENTS IS THAT THEY WOULD CONTROL THE SOCIAL AND MORAL EVILS OF OUR DAY BY THEMSELVES.

- A. They say, "If everyone would keep the 10 commandments the world would be heaven on earth."
- B. The 10 Commandments are not enough by themselves.
- C. Jesus went beyond the letter of the Law.

1. Matt. 5:21-22 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

2. Matt. 5:27-28 You have heard that it was said to those of old, '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.

3. Matt. 5:33-37 Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

VI. THE MISCONCEPTION THAT JESUS CAME TO DESTROY THE OLD TESTAMENT.

A. Jesus did not come to destroy the Law- Matt. 5:17-18 Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

B. KATALUO-destroy-means to utterly destroy, to overthrow completely.

C. Jesus was saying that he fulfilled the Law.

D. He was the exact meaning of all that God intended to say in the Law.

1. Jesus fulfilled the Law's purpose in demonstrating the standard of righteousness.

a. Heb. 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

b. 1 Pet. 2:22 "Who committed no sin. . ."

2. Jesus fulfilled the Law's righteous sentence by receiving in His own body the penalty for sin.

a. 1 Pet. 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

b. Gal. 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")

3. Jesus fulfilled all the types and prophecies in the O.T.

a. Lk. 24:25-27 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow

of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

b. Lk. 24:44-47 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

E. Jesus fulfilled the Law and then set it aside.

CONCLUSION:

A. There are many misconceptions about the Old Testament and the Ten Commandments.

B. Let's study what the Bible has to say about them.

C. Jn. 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

D. Accept God's offer of Grace by becoming a Christian and live according to the New Testament.