

A little known secret about the 10 commandments?

(by George Battey)

Let us begin by reading what the 10 commandments were. In Exodus 20 we find these commandments and they are as follows:

- 1) *God said: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."*
- 2) *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.*
- 3) *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.*
- 4) *Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.*
- 5) *Honor thy father and thy mother.*
- 6) *Thou shalt not kill.*
- 7) *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
- 8) *Thou shalt not steal.*
- 9) *Thou shalt not bear false witness.*
- 10) *Thou shalt not covet.*

These are the most famous commandments in all of the Bible and although many people claim they believe in them, very few actually practice them.

The question we are asking this week is, "Are these 10 commandments ... all 10 of them ... still binding upon men today?"

GIVEN TO JEWS

First let us notice that if you are not a Jew, these 10 commandments do not apply to you. God gave these 10 commandments to the Jews and to the Jews only. He did not give them to other nations. Notice carefully Exodus chapter 20 when God gave the 10 commandments:

Exodus 20:2-3 (NKJV)

2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

Who was God speaking to? Who was He giving these 10 commandments to? He was giving them to the Israelite people whom He brought out of the land of Egypt. If you are not a descendent of those people that were brought out of Egyptian bondage, then these 10 commandments were never given to you to begin with. Again notice:

Deuteronomy 5:1-3 (NKJV)

1 And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them.

2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.

3 **The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive.**

According to this plain passage of scripture, God did not give the 10 commandments to the fathers of the Israelites. He did not give the 10 commandments to the gentile nations of the world. He gave them only to the Israelites who were brought out of Egyptian bondage and He intended that only they and their descendents should keep them.

"TILL THE SEED COMES"

These 10 commandments and the other Old Testament laws were not intended to last forever. God intended from the very beginning that these laws would come to an end. Notice carefully:

Galatians 3:19 (NKJV)

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.

According to this, how long were these Old Testament commandments to last? "Till the seed should come to whom the promise was made." According to verse 16 the "seed" was Jesus Christ. You see, God intended from the very beginning that the Old Testament laws and commandments would last only for a certain period of time and then would come to an end.

Galatians 3:24-25 (NKJV)

24 *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

25 *But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

Listen to that again: "After faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster." In other words, no one but Jews were given the 10 commandments to begin with, and those commandments would last only until Christ came.

In Colossians 2:14 the Bible says the Old Testament came to an end when Jesus died on the cross and in Hebrews 9:16-17 we learn that a New Testament came into force.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Unlike the Old Testament, which was a testament only for the Jews, the New Testament is a testament that embraces all nations; it includes both Jews and gentiles.

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, **for the Jew first and also for the Greek.***

Our obligation today is to obey the teachings of the New Testament, not the Old Testament.

Someone may ask this: "If the 10 commandments are no longer binding, does that mean we may steal, and commit adultery, and lie and so forth?"; and the answer is no, we may not do any of these things. The reason these things are wrong is not because the Old Testament said, "Thou shalt not," but because the New Testament forbids these sinful actions.

- 1) It's wrong to worship other gods today, but not because the Old Testament said, "Thou shalt have no other gods," but because the New Testament teaches this (1 Cor. 8:5-6).
- 2) It's wrong to make and bow before graven images, but not because the Old Testament forbade this, but rather because the New Testament forbids it (1 John 5:21).

- 3) It's wrong to take God's name in vain today, but not because of anything the Old Testament said. It's wrong because of what the New Testament says (James 5:12).
- 4) The New Testament teaches that we should honor our fathers and mothers (Ephesians 6:1-3) and that's why we should do it today, but not because of anything the Old Testament said -- that law was given only to the Jews and it came to an end.
- 5) It's wrong to kill because of what the New Testament teaches (1 Peter 4:15).
- 6) Adultery is wrong because the New Testament forbids it (1 Cor. 6:18).
- 7) Stealing is wrong because the New Testament says it is wrong (Ephesians 4:28).
- 8) Bearing false witness is sinful because of what the New Testament says (Colossians 3:9).
- 9) Covetousness is wrong because the New Testament forbids it (Ephesians 5:3).

THE SABBATH DAY

Of all of the 10 commandments, nine of them were brought over by the Lord and placed in the New Testament for us to keep today, but we keep them, not because they were taught in the Old Testament, but because we are living under the Lord's New Testament laws.

Acts 2:42 (NKJV)

*42 And they continued steadfastly in **the apostles' doctrine** ...*

One of the original 10 commandments was not brought over. The 4th commandment, "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy," was not given as a commandment to Christians. The Sabbath day was the 7th day of the week and we are not taught in the New Testament to keep the 7th day holy any longer. Instead, we are instructed to worship God on the 1st day of the week.

Acts 20:7 (NKJV)

*7 Now **on the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NKJV)

2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

Because the Old Testament has been taken away and nailed to the cross, we are no longer required to keep the Sabbath day.

Colossians 2:14-16 (NKJV)

*14 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.***

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,

You see, the requirement for the Sabbath day has ended.

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

Five steps in God's plan of salvation:

- 1) **Hear** the word of God (Rom 10:17).
- 2) **Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 16:16).
- 3) **Repent** of sins (change from living a sinful life) (Acts 2:38).
- 4) **Confess** your faith verbally before men (Rom 10:10).
- 5) **Be baptized** (immersed) in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Mark 16:16 (NKJV)

*16 He who **believes** and is **baptized** will be saved; ...*

Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**; ...**

After being baptized, one must continue to be faithful (Acts 2:42; Mt 28:20; Rev 2:10).