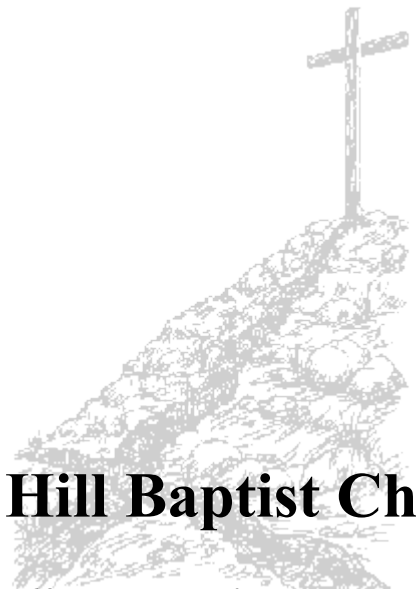


These Are The Commandments

Deuteronomy 6:1-3



Rock Hill Baptist Church

605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Brother David Buffaloe
731-845-6104

online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Deuteronomy 6:1-3 (KJV) "Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: {2} That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. {3} Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey."

Apart From The Law

As we discussed last week, Israel continued to reject salvation by faith in God. God fought for Israel and saved them *apart from the Law*:

Exodus 14:13-14 (KJV) "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, **stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD**, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. {14} The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."

at the Red Sea. God saved Israel time and time again. In the *wilderness of Shur* at a place called *Marah* God provided sweet water in the place of bitter:

Exodus 15:25-26 (KJV) "And he cried unto the LORD; and the **LORD showed him a tree, which**

when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, {26} And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."

Over and over again our Father blessed that nation, and over and over again Israel rejected His blessing. His Chosen Nation rejected His love and, even at Rephidim¹ bitterly rejected His advances. Finally the Lord established the Law to govern that people, a Law whose only purpose served was to draw them to a saving faith in Christ:

Galatians 3:22-26 (KJV) "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. {23} But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. {24} Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. {25} But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. {26} For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

You must understand this, lest you fall into the same error that Israel fell into. Our God is a Person, a Person Who wants your love. He wants you to trust Him, to

believe in Him, to develop a relationship with Him. Webster's dictionary defines *relationship* as:

RELA'TIONSHIP, n. The state of being related by kindred, affinity or other alliance.

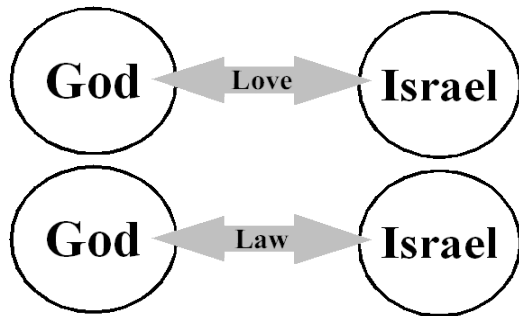
In other words, for two people to have a *relationship* they must have something in common. Believe it or not, God wants to have a *relationship* with us. He wants that so much that He was willing to lay down His life for us.

John 10:15-18 (KJV) "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. {16} And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. {17} Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. {18} No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

1 John 3:16 (KJV) "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."

God wants a relationship with man, but Beloved, you have to at least meet Him half way! Israel wouldn't meet God half way, nor would they *cease selfishly loving themselves* long enough to *love Him* - hence came the Law. God *chose* Israel, and chose to love them. Israel rejected God's love, so God offered them a second lesser choice of the Mosaic Law. This is not a choice I would

¹ see Exodus 17.1-7



have made, but it was one they made - and would live to regret.

FOCAL
Deuteronomy 6:1 (KJV) "Now these

are the commandments², the statutes³, and the judgments⁴, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it .."

Three words are used to describe the Law to show it's *precision* and *perfection*. The best way to describe these words is to find their use elsewhere in Scripture. The word we translate **commandments** is the Hebrew mitsvah {pronounced mits-vaw'}. This word occurs 177 times in the Scriptures, and is found in places like:

Leviticus 5:17 (KJV) "And if a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the **commandments** of the LORD; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity."

Exodus 24:12 (KJV) "And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and **commandments** which I have written; that thou mayest teach them."

2 mitsvah {pronounced mits-vaw'}, commandments, precepts, ordinances

3 choq {pronounced khome}, prescribed tasks, decrees, customs

4 mishpat {pronounced mish-pawt'}, courtroom decisions, judgments

These **commandments** are the **moral precepts** of the Law. The second word, **statutes**, is the Hebrew choq {pronounced khome}. This word is found 124 times in the Scripture in places like:

Leviticus 7:34 (KJV) "For the wave breast and the heave shoulder have I taken of the children of Israel from off the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and have given them unto Aaron the priest and unto his sons by a **statute** for ever from among the children of Israel."

Leviticus 10:13 (KJV) "And ye shall eat it in the holy place, because it is thy **due**, and thy sons' **due**, of the sacrifices of the LORD made by fire: for so I am commanded."

The **statutes** are the **ceremonial customs** of the Law, and are every bit as binding as the moral precepts. The third word is the **judgments** or mishpat {pronounced mish-pawt'}. This word is found 406 times in the Scripture in places like:

Exodus 28:15 (KJV) "And thou shalt make the breastplate of **judgment** with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, shalt thou make it."

Leviticus 18:5 (KJV) "Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my **judgments**: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD."

The **judgments** are judicial decrees from the courtroom of God. All three words together emphasized that every aspect of Jewish life, be it dress, or food, moral code, religion, or even sanitary and medical laws, was *strictly regulated* by the taskmaster called *the Law*. The Gentile mind can only lightly grasp the terror the Law inflicted on its servants. Most confused Judaizers in the Gentile Church often establish certain laws to regulate religion. They establish legal ideologies such as:

women may not wear pants or makeup
men may not wear short pants
chewing gum is forbidden
certain foods are forbidden
certain music or instruments are forbidden
or
water baptism or other rituals are required for salvation

Yet rarely do the confused in the Judaizer camps establish the Mosaic Law to the extent that it was originally established. Our mind cannot fathom its strictness, and only a mind as drawn away from God as the first generation of Israel would look on such a thing and be pleased with it. The Law was designed to do one thing. We see this in our next verse:

FOCAL Deuteronomy 6:2 (KJV) "That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged."

The Law was given to cause Israel to *fear God*. If the Law was kept then the Israelite's "**days may be prolonged**". If the Law was *not* kept, then the obvious implication was that life would be forfeited or shortened. Israel would not follow God by faith, so they were given the alternate option of following Him by *fear*.

Does God Want Your Fear, Or Your Love?



Does God want our *fear* or our *love*? John Maxwell says:

"Though they at first seem contradictory, these two emotions are closely related. Fear must stem from respect and reverence for the Creator God; it must produce within us total awe of His sovereign

Lordship. ... God has a right to command our love, and He does. Unfortunately that is not always enough. Fear that arises from a sense of awe can be the motivation for love .."⁵

The Psalmist tells us:

Psalms 111:10 (KJV) "The **fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom**: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth

for ever."⁶

Fear is the *beginning* of wisdom, and in that sense the Lord will have fearful obedience rather than no relationship at all with His people. But this is not God's desire that we serve Him out of fear. When our Lord Jesus Christ took on Himself human form He came to bring us to a *loving relationship* with God, not a *fearful relationship*. It is significant that the first time the word **fear** is used in the New Testament it is used when the angel came to Joseph:

Matthew 1:20 (KJV) "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, **fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.**"

The angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary:

Luke 1:30 (KJV) "And the angel said unto her, **Fear not, Mary:** for thou hast found favor with God."

After Jesus rose from the grave a similar angel used the same phrase:

Matthew 28:5 (KJV) "And the angel answered and said unto the women, **Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.**"

Jesus Christ endorsed fear for those who were subject to hell when He said:

Luke 12:4-5 (KJV) "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. {5} But I will **forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell;** yea, I say unto you, Fear him."

If you don't love God you'd better fear Him - if you don't believe in Him you'd better start. He has the power to kill and to cast into hell the unbeliever. But if you love Jesus, if you love the Lord then you need not fear, but be at peace. If you are in Christ, saved by Grace, then you have not received that spirit of bondage, that Law in three parts that stands over your head to crush your spirit and your joy. As the Scripture says:

Romans 8:15-17 (KJV) "For ye have **not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption,** whereby we cry, Abba, Father. {16} The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: {17} And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

the believer in Christ, saved by Grace, is *not under the yoke of the Law* but is adopted into the Family of God, indwelt by His very Holy Spirit. Those in the Family of God exercise fear toward God because they recognize His power and majesty, but our motivation to serve is love *because the love of God is shed abroad in his heart (Romans 5:5)*. We submit to one another because

⁶ also see Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 15:33

Yahweh, the Sovereign God directs us,

Ephesians 5:21 (KJV) "Submitting yourselves one to another **in the fear of God.**"

1 Peter 2:17 (KJV) "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. **Fear God.** Honor the king."

But the motivator of the Christian is *familial love* toward the One Who saved us. :

2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV) "For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**"

1 John 4:18-19 (KJV) "There is **no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment.** He that feareth is not made perfect in love. {19} **We love him, because he first loved us.**"

I believe God expects of His Church that we *love Him* and, because of this love, we are to serve Him. If we will not love Him then, if we have any sense at all, we will *fear Him*, for He controls our every living moment.

Doctrine of Believer Discipline

FOCAL Deuteronomy 6:1-3 (KJV) "Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: {2} That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments,

which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and **that thy days may be prolonged.** {3} Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and **that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee,** in the land that floweth with milk and honey."

1 Every Christian, saved by faith, is in the Family of God:

Ephesians 3:14-15 (KJV) "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus **Christ,** {15} Of whom **the whole family in heaven and earth is named,**"

Matthew 12:48-50 (KJV) "But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? {49} And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, **Behold my mother and my brethren!** {50} For **whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.**"

2 The Christian is *adopted* into this Heavenly family because of the finished work of Jesus Christ our Savior on the Cross of Calvary, and because of the very real action of the Holy Spirit of God in coming to indwell the children of God:

Romans 8:15 (KJV) "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but **ye have received**

the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

Ephesians 1:5 (KJV) "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (KJV) "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; {22} Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

2 Corinthians 5:5 (KJV) "Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit."

Ephesians 1:13-14 (KJV) "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, {14} Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

That word we translate **earnest** in our King James is the Greek *arrhabon* {pronounced ar-hrab-ohn'}, which means *the down payment or monies given until the final inheritance is received*. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer as a sign of God's *assurance* that we will one day dwell with Him in Heaven because the Blood of Christ *brought us into a state of adoption*.

3 The Christian is *redeemed* or purchased out from

under the Mosaic Law. The redemption Christ made for us on the Cross made it possible for us to be adopted into God's Family.

Galatians 4:4-5 (KJV) "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, {5} To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

4 Family members are not *lawless*, but are required by the Head of the Family to follow His direction. If we love Christ, we will be obedient to His direction in righteousness:

John 14:15 (KJV) "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

John 14:21 (KJV) "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

John 15:10 (KJV) "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."

1 John 5:2-3 (KJV) "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. {3} For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

5 Members in the Family of God are chastised when they disobey the Lord. If you disobey God and refuse to repent, He chastises or punishes you to bring you back into a loving Father/Son fellowship with Him:

Hebrews 12:5-8 (KJV) "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, **My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: {6} For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.** {7} If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? {8} But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."

6 God warns or *rebukes* those Whom He loves *before* He begins to chastise them.

James 5:9 (KJV) "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, **the judge standeth before the door.**"

Revelation 3:19-20 (KJV) "**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten:** be zealous therefore, and repent. {20} Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

7 If the believer will not repent, the Lord then begins to chastise him. God chastises with the intent of bringing

His child back to fellowship with Him.

Psalms 38:1-4 (KJV) "... **O LORD, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.** {2} For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore. {3} There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. {4} For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me."

James 5:14-15 (KJV) "Is any **sick** among you? **let him call for the elders** of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: {15} And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and **if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.**"

8 The believer can fall under sickness and can move into physical death if he will not repent, and return to a right relationship in Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:9-10 (KJV) "Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. {10} Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer."

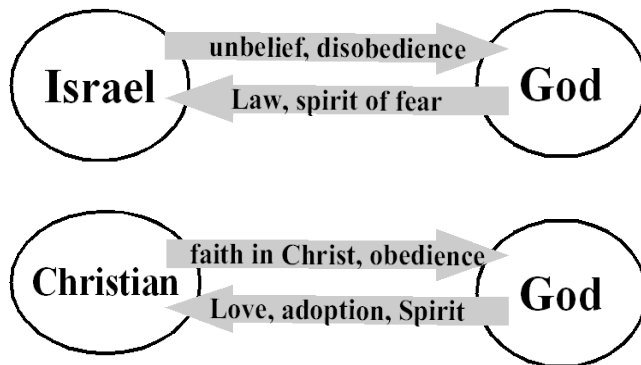
1 Corinthians 11:29-32 (KJV) "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. {30} For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. {31} For **if we would judge**

ourselves, we should not be judged. {32} But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."

Conclusion

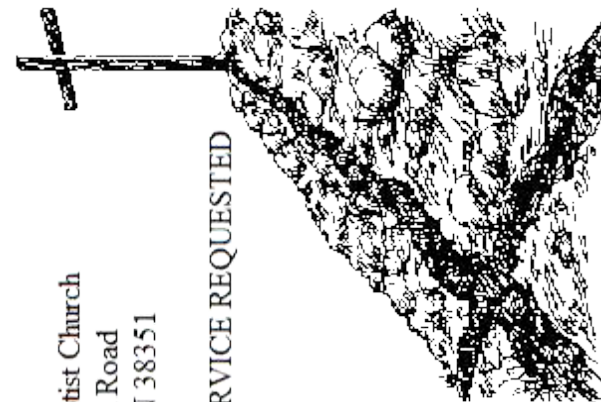
The Christian is a person saved by faith in Christ *apart from the Law*. That which saved us is that which we live in.

Romans 8:2-4 (KJV) "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. {3} For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: {4} That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."



We walk by faith in God, obeying His direction - and in so doing we may increase our lifespan. We are not

Lawless, but the Law we follow is the Spirit of God Who tells us, through God's Word, how we should live. Life in the Family of God is a *supernatural way of life* lived in the Spirit and in the Word. May God bless you as you read these words.



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED