

Law of The Lord

Using The Ten Commandments
To Witness To The Lost

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FOCAL Read Responsively Psalms 19:7-9 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. (9) The fear of the LORD [is] clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD [are] true [and] righteous altogether.**^{KJV}

Before we start today, there are a series of questions before you that I ask you to quietly answer:

- ① How many of each animal did Moses take into the ark?
- ② What is the name of the raised print that deaf people use?
- ③ Is it possible to end a sentence with the word "the?"
- ④ Spell the word "shop." What do you do when you come to a green light?
- ⑤ Spell the word "silk." What do cows drink?

We'll explore the answers to these questions¹ in just a moment.

We live in a lawless time. Not lawless in the sense that there are no laws in our land – there are all kinds of laws. There are laws that control how fast you drive, laws that fine you if you don't wear a seatbelt, traffic laws of all types. I found out just the other day that hidden traffic cameras take pictures of drivers as they break traffic laws. If you disobey and are caught on film you might

KJV All texts are King James Version (authorized), unless otherwise noted

¹ These questions are from Evangelist **Ray Comfort**, and can be found at his website <http://www.livingwaters.com>

open your mail one day and find a picture – along with a traffic ticket – with a fine that you'll have to pay.

There are many laws in America – and some laws that are, in fact, *lawless* in the eyes of God. Abortion is rampant. When abortions were first made legal in 1972 there were 586,760 abortions. Though abortions have slightly decreased since 1995, 1,210,883 to 1,429,577 children have been aborted every year since 1980. Children are no longer children, but are stray bits of tissue that need to be removed for convenience sake. When I say that we live in a time of lawlessness, what I mean is that we have divorced our civil laws from the Source of all Law. Our courts no longer base their rulings on God's standard of right or wrong, but on an ever shifting concept of tolerance regardless of consequence. The average American no longer considers a thing from the foundation of what the Scripture – and God – teaches as right or wrong. Truths are based upon *tolerance* and *convenience*. In the post-modern world truth is relative to what satisfies each person. Every question is proceeded not with “What does God think of this?”, but with “What do YOU think of this?” We are quickly becoming what Israel was when God lamented:

Isaiah 5:20-21 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (21) Woe unto [them that are] wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

Television in particular reinforces wrong perceptions of good and evil. What does this have to do with our message tonight? Very much! You see, if the conscience has been warped, it is impossible for the Gospel of salvation to be applied. The heart of the Gospel is that :

1 Timothy 1:15 ... Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He did not come into the world to *heal* people. He did not come into the world to *start a lonely hearts club* for people. He did not come into the world to *abolish poverty and racism*. He did not come into the world to *give us trial free lives*. Certainly, dear Ones, where Jesus has been lives have been changed for the better. Lives are healed, the lonely are given peace. God demands that His Church ...

James 1:27 ... visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world.

That we help those in poverty – but NEVER support the lazy and shiftless element of society. **If a man will not work, he shall not eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10)**. Single Christians find good believing mates at their local Church. Racism and bigotry is discouraged and condemned in the assembly of the Saints. Yes, Christ makes all things better. But the one reason He came into

the world was **to save sinners**. And here's the problem.

There is absolutely NO SIN in America (unless the audiences of Oprah Winfrey, Jerry Springer or Rosie O'Donnel have declared it so). Abortion is not sinful. Homosexuality is not sinful. Sexual activity outside of Biblical Marriage is not sinful. Nothing is sinful as long as it pleases the doer. **So what is Jesus saving people from if there are no sinful people?** As our Lord said to the Pharisees:

Luke 5:31-32 ... They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. (32) I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Before you can get well, you must admit you are sick. The Pharisees would never be saved because they did not see themselves as sinners. In the same way, the average American does not see themselves as sinners. They are all “good people” who “make mistakes”. They do not see themselves as sinners. When the Gospel states:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

They hear the words, they assent to the words – but they do not apply the words. Why? Because they *compare their lives to the lives of their neighbors and see nothing wrong in what they are doing*. They look in the mirror of public opinion and find justification for their lives. They are not sinners in their own eyes, therefore they are good

enough to go to Heaven.

And they are going by droves into hell!

If you are a Christian, saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, then this matters to you. What can we do to open the hearts of the lost to the Gospel of Christ? How can we share our faith with a lost and dying world that is trapped in darkness? We can use the resource that God has given to us. We can use the **Law of the Lord**.

FOCAL Psalms 19:7 **The law of the LORD [is] perfect, converting the soul:...**

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, but God gave the **Law to convict of sin. The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.** The God Who loves us has given us a tool, a *mirror that the unbeliever can look into and see his true state before the Lord*.

The Law Given To Israel

When God's people Israel came out of Egypt the Lord did not initially give them the Law. The Lord led Israel through the desert and tested them several times, showing them that He loved them each time. God tested Israel at the **Red Sea (Exodus 14:10-12)** when He led them to a place where there was *too much water and too many enemies*. God delivered Israel at the Red Sea with a mighty hand, and destroyed the unbelieving armies of Egypt at the same time. God tested Israel at a place called **Marah (Exodus 15:22-26)** when that thirsty nation was given *bitter water*. The Israelites watched the

Lord turn the water from *bitter to sweet* and yet still refused to trust the love of God. The Lord tested Israel at **Rephidim, later called Meribah (Exodus 17:1-7)**. The Lord had blessed Israel when they had *too much water*, and again when Israel had *the wrong kind of water*. Now the Lord gives Israel *no water at all*, and asks them to trust Him. Once more that nation rejected God's love. They refused to look at themselves as God's Loved, but instead continued to rebel by complaining to God and to Moses:

Exodus 17:3 ... Wherefore [is] this [that] thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

God led this complaining bunch to Mount Sinai, a mountain in the Arabian Desert – *not in the Promised Land*. When Israel reached the base of the Mountain God told Moses:

Exodus 19:11-13 ... the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. (12) And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, [that ye] go [not] up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: (13) There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be

stoned, or shot through; whether [it be] beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

FOCAL Psalms 19:9 The fear of the LORD [is] clean, enduring for ever:

Israel had been trapped in the midst of Egypt, a nation filled with *many gods and goddesses*. They had no fear of the One True God. The only mirror they had looked into for so long was the pleasures of Egypt and the gods of Egypt. Now the Lord was going to give them *a better mirror*. God was going to give Israel the Ten Commandments.

What Are The Ten Commandments?

FOCAL Psalms 19:7-8 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.

Some people have mistaken the Ten Commandments found in **Exodus 20** as a *method unto salvation*. The Ten Commandments were never meant to be a method of salvation, a *thing to do* if you want to get into God's Heaven. The **commandment of the Lord is pure,**

enlightening the eyes. The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. God gave the Ten Commandments as a *mirror to look into so you can see that you are a sinner*. The Ten Commandments cannot save you. You can keep the Commandments all you want and *still go to hell*. The Ten Commandments are given to *convict of sin* and to *lead people to accept Jesus*. This is what the Scripture clearly teaches in:

Galatians 3:24-26 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.**

The Law – God's Ten Commandments – exist to lead us to Christ. How does it do that? The mirror of the Law shows each person that we are sinners, lost and without hope. The Law shows how dark our sins are in the eyes of God. The Law works in conjunction with our conscience and the Holy Spirit of God to *focus our attention on our failures – and to focus us on the fact that Christ alone is our cure*.

Remember the test I gave you at the beginning? **Ray Comfort** uses the following test to show how easily we can be misled. How did you answer these questions:

- ① How many of each animal did Moses take into the ark?
- ② What is the name of the raised print that deaf people use?
- ③ Is it possible to end a sentence with the word "the?"
- ④ Spell the word "shop." What do you do when you come to a green light?
- ⑤ Spell the word "silk." What do cows drink?

Here are the answers:

1. **Moses** took no animals in the Ark. That was **Noah**.
2. **Deaf people** do not use Braille. **Blind people** use Braille.
3. Yes, it is possible to end a sentence with “the”. You just read it.
4. No matter how you spell the word “shop”, you always **go at a green light**.
5. No matter how you spell the word “silk” cows still drink **water – unless you're a baby cow!**

It is easy to confuse humans. The Ten Commandments were given to *unconfuse us*, to remind us that we are all sinners in need of the Savior. For, you see, **Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief**.

Using The Ten Commandments Begins With Knowing Them

One by one godless groups like **The American Civil Liberties Union** and Barry Lynn's **Americans For The Separation of Church and State** have pulled down and

destroyed public displays of the Ten Commandments. While people are judging themselves *by themselves and by their neighbors* there is no conviction of sin. The devil and his agents *do not want the Ten Commandments* on public display. On November 14, 2003 it was reported:

“Alabama's judicial ethics panel removed Chief Justice Roy Moore from office Thursday for defying a federal judge's order to move a Ten Commandments monument from the state Supreme Court building. The nine-member Court of the Judiciary issued its unanimous decision after a one-day trial ... The panel, which includes judges, lawyers and non-lawyers, could have reprimanded Moore, continued his suspension or cleared him. The ethics panel said Moore put himself above the law by "willfully and publicly" flouting the order to remove the 2.6-ton monument from the state judicial building's rotunda in August. U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson ruled the granite carving was an unconstitutional endorsement of religion. Moore refused to obey the order but was overruled by his eight colleagues on the state Supreme Court. On November 3 (2003), the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear Moore's appeal of Thompson's ruling.”

Though the devil's disciples can remove the Ten Commandments from public display, he cannot control the individual Christian. You can use the Ten Commandments as a witnessing tool to lead the lost to *realize that they are lost*. Before you can do this, you need to learn the Commandments. THEN you need to

learn how to use them – which will be our subject next Wednesday night.

Memorizing The Commandments Is Easy

This system to memorize the Ten Commandments is not mine, but was thought up by Evangelist **Ray Comfort**. He uses a method I'm going to show you to teach the Commandments called *mnemonics* – using a combination of pictures and numbers to help you remember this Divine Tool. Let's start:

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.



1. “You shall have no other gods before Me”

(God should always be Number One)

Memorizing the large *first place ribbon* should help you remember the First Commandment. God **must always be first in our lives**.

Exodus 20:4-5 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the

earth: (5) **Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God,** visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me;



2. “You shall not make for yourself any idols”

(Don't bow to anything but God)

Our God despises idolatry in any form. We may not worship and bow down to anything or anyone, be it apostles, Church Age saints, the Virgin Mary, gods and goddesses, or even our own family. Jesus emphasized that God alone must be worshiped – period.

Mark 12:30-31 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment. (31) And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

God's order has always been love **God** *then* love others.

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.



3. “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain”

(Don't use your lips to dishonor God)

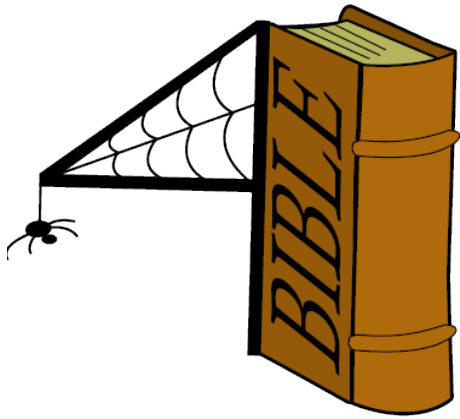
In this picture we see a set of lips pursed as if they are kissing or speaking, and in it the number 3. The Third Commandment forbids the taking of God's Name in vain.

Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.



4. “Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy”

(Don't neglect the things of God)



This image is nice, but I believe I prefer another image, a spider on a dusty Bible. God hates when we neglect the things He has commanded. I can't count the number of times I've seen farmers pass the Church house on Sunday morning in a tractor or a

harvester – or consider the large crowds at Wal-Mart on Sunday but not in God's House. The Lord gives us six days to work – we can worship Him on one day! The Lord says “Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: (10) But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: (11) For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it”. (Exodus 20:9-11)

Exodus 20:12 Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.



The **Fifth Commandment** reminds us that we are to honor our parents. The Apostle also wrote:

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. (2) Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) (3) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.



6. “You shall not murder”

(It's a bomb shaped like a “6”)

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

The **Sixth Commandment** looks like a bomb – you shall not do murder. Our Lord Jesus Christ expanded this Commandment when He said in **Matthew 5:21-22** “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: (22) But **I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.**

committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

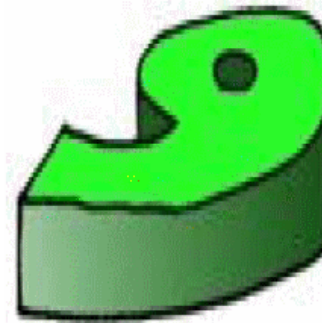


8. “You shall not steal”

(The thief’s mask looks like an “8”)

Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Stealing is actually a form of idolatry based on loving money more than you love God. We are commanded to “seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, then all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).



9. “You shall not lie”

(This number “9” is “lying” down)



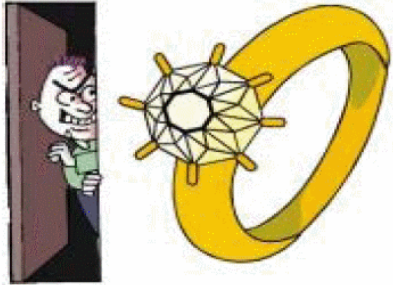
The **Seventh Commandment** reminds us that:

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Adultery breaks the heart of someone – either you or your

loved one – so it is forbidden by God. Jesus took this Commandment even farther when He said in **Matthew 5:27-28** “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, **Thou shalt not commit adultery: (28) But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath**

Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor



10. "You shall not covet"

(The door and ring together look like a "10")

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that [is] thy neighbor's

Next Wednesday we'll talk about methods of weaving the Ten Commandments you learned into a conversation with the lost people you know, be it family, friends, co-workers, or people you meet in the marketplace.

May God Bless you all!



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