

*God will never use force; even if we have accepted salvation before, He will not force us to stay in the path of righteousness.*

- **Ezekiel 18:24-26** – if a righteous man returns to his sinful ways, does his past righteousness cover his future sins? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Galatians 2:16-18** – if we rebuild the sinful lives of the past, we are choosing to be cut off from the Source of life – separated from God.

Grace does not make bad people good; it makes dead people alive. Grace is a free gift that brings spiritual life into our hearts while we were dead in our sins. With sin, the completeness of our death is comprehensive. No matter how well we keep the law, we cannot be just before God and before His law. That is the purpose of grace. Grace empowers us to obedience before the unchanging law.

### The Forgotten Fourth Commandment: The Sabbath

A very clear message in the Bible is that the Sabbath is to be a sign between God and His people. Keeping this specific day holy and set apart unto God is the sign that we are loyal to Yahweh, the true God of the Universe, and His way.

- **Ezekiel 20:19-20** – The Sabbath is a \_\_\_\_\_ between God and us. Instituted at the creation of this planet by God Himself, the Sabbath is a holy day where we are to every week take a break from our work and spend the day reconnecting with God, refilling our spiritual tanks, and remembering all that He has done for us. When we keep this day holy, we are marked as God's people.

- The Sabbath is to remind us of two very important things:
  - **Exodus 20:8-11** – God rested after the work of \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Deuteronomy 5:12-15** – God rested in the work of \_\_\_\_\_

### Before Sin: In The Garden

- **Genesis 2:1-3** – the Sabbath is designed as a weekly \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

### Before The Law: In The Desert

- **Exodus 16:25-30** – the Sabbath existed \_\_\_\_\_ the codification of the 10C.

### Before The Cross: In The Ministry

- **Luke 4:16** – Jesus had the habit of going to study and respecting the Sabbath.

### Before The Disciple: In the Early Church

- **Hebrews 4:9** – even after the death of Jesus, Paul makes it clear that there still \_\_\_\_\_ a *σάββατος* *sabbatismos* (Sabbath-specific rest) for the church.

### After Sin: In The New Jerusalem

- **Isaiah 66:22-23** – the Sabbath will be a continual reminder of both creation and redemption when we come to Heaven to spend time with Jesus and to worship before Him in the Heavenly Sanctuary.

The Sabbath was kept in the Garden of Eden at the beginning of the world; it was codified into the transcript of God's very character; it was kept by Jesus Christ during His life; it was kept by the Apostles; and it will be kept in Heaven at the end of the world. You can rest assured that this commandment has not been changed and it is still Saturday, the seventh day of the week, the Sabbath of God.

## Big Picture Bible Study

No. 03: The Law Applied

We are saved by grace, empowered to obey, and enlightened to know why.

### Understanding The Effects Of Sin

The law of Heaven was simpler: love. True self-sacrificing love puts the desires of self under the will of God. When Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden, he did so by using wholesome desires that lead to disobedience to God's will. God had given them a command and when the serpent questioned Eve about it, she knew exactly what she was and was not supposed to do: she knew how to obey God. In other words, **she knew the difference between right and wrong.** Now, she didn't understand or know the effects of good and evil, but she knew how to discern between the two.

- **Genesis 3:2-3** – Eve knew the law and what God had commanded.

Using this subtlety, Satan approached her to tempt her to sin; he told her that she would be able to know good and evil. When Eve sinned, she and all her descendants knew the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin more and more but could \_\_\_\_\_ between good and evil less and less. This process has led to our current world losing selflessness and focusing more and more on selfish desires

### Eve put self before God's will.

Imagine now how God must feel when He looks at our current world: so many generations have passed their sins down to the next generation. The inheritors of the tendency towards sin then practice them even more, develop some new ones, and then pass the worse state down to the succeeding generation for the process to begin all over again.

- **Genesis 6:5** – in the days of Noah, men were only evil \_\_\_\_\_
- **Matthew 24:27** – the end of times will be like it was in the days of Noah.

We are called to a higher standard: we are to look to Christ's life as our example for how to find victory over selfishness and live out a self-sacrificing love in a world that is increasing less concerned with holiness.

- **1 John 3:4** – the definition of sin is \_\_\_\_\_ of the law
- **Romans 3:20** – we are not justified by keeping the law; the law simply is the \_\_\_\_\_ of what sin is. It is the standard for judgment
- **Ephesians 2:8-10** – it is not by our own works that we obtain salvation; we are saved by \_\_\_\_\_ thru \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

### We are saved by God's grace through faith in Christ's works.

Keeping the law does not save us; we are saved by grace alone through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus. But those who have genuine faith will bear the fruit of good works in their lives. Therefore, obedience is the result of being saved, true faith will result in adherence to the same law that judged the life of Christ as perfect and acceptable to stand in our place and provide salvation through grace.

### The Blue Law of Sapphire

The story of how God translated the law of Heaven to earth is incredible. For however many years before sin came into the universe, the law had remained simple: love with self-sacrificing love. But how could such holy simplicity ever be understood by fallen humanity? It had to be detailed out so that we, in our sinful state, could understand and follow it as a guide for our lives. That is why God gave us the Ten Commandments, so that we could learn how to \_\_\_\_\_.

The Ten Commandments are pretty commonly known, but the story of how they were designed and given to mankind has been mostly lost. But within this story the character of our merciful and loving God shines through as in few others.

- **Exodus 24:9-11** – Moses, Aaron, his two sons, and the elders of Israel are called up on Mount Sinai to meet with God and there they see Him standing upon a \_\_\_\_\_ that is made out of blue sapphire stone.
- **Ezekiel 1:26** – Ezekiel's vision looked directly into the Most Holy Place in the Heavenly Sanctuary; he saw God seated on His \_\_\_\_\_ throne.

### *God's throne is made out of sapphire stone.*

- **Exodus 24:12** – Moses is called to go to the top of the mountain and receive tables of \_\_\_\_\_. The only other stone was mentioned in v. 10.

God wrote the Ten Commandments on blue sapphire stone tablets that were taken from His throne in Heaven! When God detailed out self-sacrificing love into ten understandable declarations, He took stones from underneath His literal throne in Heaven so as to bring sinful man into understanding of the law. The blue law of Heaven was to be the blue law of earth. The stones from the Heavenly Sanctuary beneath the throne of God were supposed to be transferred to the earthly Sanctuary beneath the seat were the presence of God dwell.

- **Numbers 15:38-40** – they were to place strings of blue on their garments so that they would \_\_\_\_\_ the blue law that had been broken.
- **Exodus 32:19** – Moses saw the sins of Israel and \_\_\_\_\_ the blue law.

God takes these holy and precious stones from the very presence of His existence, taken from the very hardware of His throne in Heaven. He condescends to write His Law upon them in details that the degenerated race of man will understand and be able to apply to their lives that have been marred with the sins and addictions of their own freewill choices. He gives His holy law written with His holy finger upon these holy sapphire stones taken from His holy throne and He gives them to Moses the representative of God's people on Earth. And what is the first thing that Moses does with them? He breaks them.

- **Exodus 34:1** – Moses brought new stones and God still wrote His law on them.
- **Proverbs 7:1-3** – God promises to write his law upon our \_\_\_\_\_

God created each of us in His image. We received faulty genetics from our parents and were born into sin and each one of us have sinned and fallen short of the requirements of God's law. The blue stone has been broken, smashed against the mountainside. But God will still take our ugly, beat up, earthy grey lives and write His Law upon our hearts and make us holy.

### *God takes the ugly stones of our hearts and there writes His law.*

### The Ceremonial Law Versus the Moral Law

Adam and Eve transgressed the original moral law of Heaven, Self-Sacrificing Love. Because of that first transgression, additional details to the law had to be added: the Ten Commandments. The moral law will never be changed and the Ten Commandments simply describe how the moral law applies to sinners; they are forever statutes, each of which describes various attributes of that singular law of love that has existed for all of eternity past and future.

- First great commandment: love the Lord with all your \_\_\_\_\_, with all your \_\_\_\_\_, and with all your \_\_\_\_\_.
- Verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Second great commandment: love your \_\_\_\_\_ as yourself.
- Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

With the added codification of the moral law into ten applicable commandments, another law was given to humanity: the \_\_\_\_\_ law, or the "Law of Moses." This law was also added because of our sins but was specially designed to point to Jesus who would be the antitypical sacrifice for our sins.

#### TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Key verse: \_\_\_\_\_
- Written by: \_\_\_\_\_
- Written on: \_\_\_\_\_
- Placed \_\_\_\_\_ the Ark

This is the: MIRROR or SOAP      This is the: MIRROR or SOAP

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of sin
- Law of \_\_\_\_\_ duration

The moral law (10C) is like a mirror; it is unbiased and simply shows us how we are sinners. It does not tell you how to clean up, just like a mirror does not show you where the soap is – it only shows you where the dirt is. The ceremonial law, on the other hand, is like the soap; it gives the solution to the dirt of sin and shows where the soap is. Being the remedy for sin, it all points to Jesus.

#### The Law of Self-Sacrificing Love Understood

- **1 John 4:8** – God is love; it is the definition of His \_\_\_\_\_
- **Malachi 3:6** – the character of God (therefore His law) will \_\_\_\_\_ change
- **Matthew 5:17-19** – \_\_\_\_\_ will be changed in the moral law
- **1 John 2:3** – what is the evidence that we know and trust in God?
  - If we live a life of \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 3:23** tells us that each and every one of us has sinned and come up short on the standard of living a self-sacrificing life: the moral law. That is why we need grace; that is why we need a remedy for sin: the ceremonial law (Jesus).

- **James 2:10-11** – the moral law is also called the \_\_\_\_\_ law
  - There is clear evidence that this is referring to the \_\_\_\_\_
  - Whoever breaks one commandment is guilty of \_\_\_\_\_
- **Romans 3:30-31** – does grace mean that we don't need to keep the law? Not even close! We are called rather to \_\_\_\_\_ the law in our lives