

## Regarding Keeping God's Word

*Yes, we are saved (from judgment for sin) by grace – an unmerited gift from God – and not by performing legal works – earning righteousness and salvation by keeping the law. (The Bible says that, “Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” Romans 10:4) However, we are to obey the commandments and other words of God in the living of our eternal lives and working out of our faith. Quite simply, the claim that “we are not under the law” is a gross, erroneous overstatement, is unbiblical, is often an excuse for disobedience, sin and laziness and is causing great damage individually and corporately among Christians, leaving many stuck in error, misguidedness and immature stages of faith instead of walking in truth and progressing to spiritual maturity and becoming to fullness as we are instructed to in the Word of God.*

[Jesus speaking] “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> *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.* Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:17-19 NKJV

In terms of the law, what did Christ's sacrifice attain for born again followers: “that **the righteous requirement of the [Jewish] law might be fulfilled** in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” Romans 8:4 Again, Christ's sacrifice provided salvation/justification by faith and grace for born again believers thereby eliminating deferment of punishment for sin by righteous through legal compliance. *However, it did not eliminate God's commandments for us to live godly, holy lives accordingly to His ways expressed in His words in the Bible.* It should also be noted that only those who walk according to the Spirit, and not according to the flesh, are spared condemnation (judgment) for sin. Id.; Romans 8:1 This begs the question: Can there even be such a thing as a “carnal Christian”?

Extremely compelling on this point is God's explanation for His covenant with Isaac's son Jacob *who became Israel* and the father of the twelve tribes and God's chosen people: “because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.” Genesis 26:5. *This was hundreds of years before Moses, Mount Sinai, the Ten Commandments and law as to righteousness (and other law) that followed.* God clearly has legal requirements for His people to be obedient to and live by that existed long before there even was a pronouncement of law as to compliance and works for righteousness. In short, Christ's atonement returned righteousness to where it was with Abraham – by faith in God – and as with Abraham, we have God's *eternal* commandments, statutes and laws to abide by if we are to truly *live* faithful, godly lives.

[Jesus speaking] “*If you love Me, keep My commandments...He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.* And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”...Jesus answered and said to him, “*If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.*” John 14:15, 21, 23-24 NKJV

[Jesus speaking] “*But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.*” Matthew 19:17

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those *who keep the commandments of God* and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12

“Blessed are those *who do His commandments*, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:14

“Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! *On the contrary, we establish the law.*” Romans 3:31 NKJV

“Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: ‘I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. *And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;* that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,’ He said, ‘you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’” 1 Kings 2:1-4 NKJV

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: *Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*” Ecclesiastes 12:13 AKJV

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.* Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.” 2 Corinthians 5:9-11 NKJV

“Look at the commandment and reply, ‘Ah! commandment, Christ hath fulfilled thee already-I have no need, therefore, *to fulfill thee for my salvation, but I rejoice to yield obedience to thee because God is my Father now and He has a claim upon me, which I would not dispute.*’ May the Holy Ghost make your heart obedient to the constraining power of Christ's love, that your prayer may be, ‘Make me to go in the path of Thy commandments; for therein do I delight.’ **Grace is the mother and nurse of holiness, and not the apologist of sin.**” Charles Spurgeon

Prevalent today in Pentecostal Charismatic churches, the Word of Faith, New Apostolic Reformation, Seven Mountains and similar movements, the emerging church, prosperity doctrine churches and other churches and ministries that are creature/self-centered and teach an exaggerated grace that is not biblical is the complete omission or the watering-down of God's commandments and other words to us regarding how we are to actually, daily live a life of **true faith and holiness**, which are mandatory and not discretionary and which were not done away with by Christ's sacrifice. After all, who was Jesus before He took flesh form on Earth and was given the name Jesus? He was the Word of God. As Jesus, He was the physical embodiment of God's commandments. Hence: “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” 1 John 2:3-6

When Jesus came up out of the Jordan River after being baptized by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove from Heaven and remained. The Word (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit became One. There is an unbalanced, unbiblical focus in many churches and ministries on the Holy Spirit, personal/self-empowerment and achievement, “the presence” of God, and “experiences” with God to the great minimization and even exclusion of His commandments and other words to live by. **Strictly keeping God's Word is absolutely critical and indispensable in actually knowing Him and walking out a true life of faith.** (*Id.*) While I fully believe in the Holy Spirit and the supernatural-ness of God within us, through us, and otherwise during the time of Christ and today, we must not focus on those aspects of faith to the exclusion, limitation or reduction of the importance of strictly adhering to God's Word on a daily basis. In that connection, it is important to ALWAYS remember that the God of the Old Testament is the God of the New Testament, God is the same yesterday, today and forever, and that His Word endures forever.