

## PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 12

### **Lesson 12: God’s Law and Grace Part 1: “What Was Nailed?”**

What is the role of God’s law even though we are under His amazing grace? Romans 6:14 says “for ye are not under the law, but under grace.” But in the next verse, 15, it says “What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.” Looking further down at verse 23, Romans 6:23 says that “the wages of sin is what? Death ***So we see here that God’s grace by no means does away with God’s law.*** In Romans 3:20 it says that “By the law is the knowledge of sin.” 1 John 3:4 says, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” You see friends, if there is no law, there could be no sin, and if there was no sin we would not need a Saviour so there would be no need for grace. Think about that, if there is no law, there is no sin, and if there is no sin we would not need a Saviour to forgive us for our sins and so there would be no need for grace. So, God’s law still exist and is effective today. God never trashed or got rid of His law. And why would He do that anyway? There are many who teach or preach that the law was “nailed to the cross” or done away with. **A law** was “nailed to the cross” or done away with, but the key question here today is which law is the Bible talking about. From our series on God’s Law and Grace we will see that by no means does the Bible say that the law of God, His ten commandments were done away with. We are going to let the Bible clear up any confusion about “God’s Law and Grace” and we will clearly see why God’s law is essential in living a Christian life. You will see that you can only truly keep God’s law through accepting Christ and allowing the Holy Spirit to live in your life. We will also see the importance of God’s grace and its purpose.

In the first part of today’s study, we will allow the Bible to clear up much confusion in the belief that God’s moral law of the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20:1-17 has been done away with or “nailed to the cross.” The Bible will show that that is far from the truth.

#### **1. What Bible texts gives us proof that God’s moral law of the Ten Commandments is clearly established and never has been or will be abolished?**

**Read ALL the following Bible texts:** James 2:10, 11; 1 John 3:4; Exodus 20:1-17

**Write Bible Answer:**

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Now notice class in James 2:10,11 that James quotes some of the same laws that comes directly from God’s Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20:1-17. There is no mistake about. Why would James, way after the death of Jesus Christ, still make a clear reference to God’s ten commandment law if it was done away with or “nailed to the cross?” James clearly defines in James 2:10,11 that we just read that if we break one of the laws of the Ten Commandments we are guilty of all; and they all hold the same penalty – DEATH.

Sin is disobedience of God’s Law Now the speed limit signs on the road not only define the limit of how fast you can drive on that road, but it defines the established traffic law. If I decided to drive over the speed limit and a police officer, the enforcer of the law, pulled me over I would be guilty because I have broken or disobeyed the law. The speed limit signs only define the law. But if I break that law I am guilty. I deserve to pay the penalty for breaking that established traffic law. The same is true with God’s law, His 10

Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. These are not the 10 suggestions, but God's 10 commandments, His Law. The speed limit law is not a suggestion, but the law. If a speed limit sign displays 55, it does not suggest you not go over 55, it says that if you go over 55 you have broken the law.

**2. What does Jesus say about the permanence or establishment of God's law, His 10 Commandments?**

**Read ALL the following Bible texts:** Matthew 5:17-19; Matthew 5:22-30; John 14:15

**Write Bible Answer:**

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Jesus Christ did not come to destroy God's law or have it changed. Jesus came to fulfill it. In other words Jesus established the law and He clearly taught the meaning of each principle of God's Ten Commandment law. Now the word "fulfill" at the end of verses 17 and 18 does not mean to end or get rid of in this passage of scripture. Would it make sense for Jesus to say I did NOT come to destroy the law, but to destroy it or get rid of it? That does not make any sense. In the next verse, verse 19 of Matthew chapter 5, Jesus not only makes it clear that He is referring to God's Ten commandments as the law here, but He says that <sup>19</sup>Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall **teach** men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. So those who teach and preach that God's Ten Commandments has been done away or doesn't matter will not be saved. But those who teach and do them will be saved. Jesus is serious here and we can not take His words lightly about God's commandments. It is very clear from the Bible that Jesus came to give us a complete understanding of God's law. Amen. In **Matthew 5:22-26** Jesus gives us a clearer understanding and explanation of the law thou shalt not kill, God's sixth commandment in Exodus 20:13. Jesus explains that murdering someone is more than the physical act killing, but makes it clear that anyone who hates anyone is already guilty of murder. In Matthew 5:27-30, Jesus teaches that adultery, God's seventh commandment, can also be more than a physical act, but explains that if a person lusts in his or her mind after another woman or man is guilty of adultery. And there are many other references in the Bible in which Jesus clearly explained the principles of the God's Ten Commandments. We will have an opportunity to explore some of these principles Jesus taught in a later Bible study. Also Jesus says with His own lips in **John 14:15**, <sup>15</sup>If ye love me, keep **my commandments**. In other words if you truly love Jesus you will obey all of His commandments.

**3. What Bible texts are often used to show that God's law of the Ten Commandments has been done away with? Are these scripture really talking about God's Ten Commandments?**

**Read ALL the following Bible texts:** Colossians 2:14,16, 17; Ephesians 2:15; 1 John 3:4; Romans 4:15; Exodus 20:1; Exodus 31:18; Deuteronomy 10:1,2; James 1:25; Mark 15:37,38

**Write Bible Answer:**

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It appears at first glance of Colossians 2:14 and Ephesians 2:15 that these texts contradict with the first part of today's study, but we know that the thoughts and ideas of the Bible do not contradict each other. The Bible will not have two opposing doctrines. Let's study this very closely. According to **1 John 3:4** "sin is the transgression or disobedience of God's law. In other words, God's law defines sin. **Romans 4:15** says "Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. As a matter of fact, if God's law was flexible to change with any given situation, He would not have had to send His Son to die for our sins, right? And what would be the reason for the plan of salvation. Why would we even need grace?"

So what is **Colossians 2:14-16** and **Ephesians 2:15** talking about? The answer is very simple. The Bible speaks of two laws – God's law of the Ten Commandments, and ceremonial laws of Moses which is also known as "law of ordinances". In order to clearly distinguish God's Law and Moses' ceremonial laws or law of ordinances, let us first look at a few facts about God's law:

1. **God's Law** was spoken by God Himself. : In Exodus 20 where God's ten commandment law is found it begins by saying, "And God spake all these words, saying,".
2. **God's Law** was written by God on a table of stone with **His own finger**. **Exodus 31:18** says "And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God."
3. **God's Law, the Ten Commandments** deals with moral principles found in Exodus 20: 3-17.
4. **God's Law, Ten Commandments written on the table of stone**, was placed **inside** the Ark of the Covenant. Deuteronomy 10:1,2 says, "At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood. And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark."

**Colossians 2:14** says, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us." **Do you think God's Ten Commandments are against us?**

1 John 5:2, 3

2 "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."

God's Ten Commandments are not against us, they are for us. Remember they teach us how to practically love God and others. What is truly "against us" is sin! The payment for sin is eternal death! **What were the "handwriting of ordinances that was against us"?** Referring to the "handwriting of ordinances," Colossians 2:17 says, "Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." "Ordinances" in Greek is "dogma" which means a civil, ceremonial, or ecclesiastical laws or degrees according to Strong's Greek Dictionary. The "handwriting of ordinances" in Colossians 2:17 is referring to the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament that pointed to the ministry of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

In Exodus 25:8, God instructed Moses to build a sanctuary in the wilderness for the Israelites on their way to the Canaan land. God gave Moses specific instructions on how to build the sanctuary and what specific services and feast days that were to be associated with the sanctuary which is found in Exodus chapters 25-30 and the book of Leviticus. Because these instructions were written by the hand of Moses they were known as the law of Moses. They were also known as the ceremonial laws, or the law of ordinances.

In summary, the building, furniture, and many items in the sanctuary and its ceremonial services, including the feast days, were symbolic lessons of the plan of salvation that pointed to the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth and in Heaven. According to Hebrews 8:5, this earthly sanctuary that Moses built was a miniature model of the Heavenly sanctuary. **Hebrews 10:1** refers to these ceremonial laws as “a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.” This is in perfect harmony with Colossians 2:17.

For example, the ceremonial laws instructed those who wanted forgiveness of sin to bring a sin offering to the sanctuary such as a lamb without blemish. Each time that sin offering was made on the altar in the sanctuary, it pointed to the prophecy and ministry of Jesus who would die for the sins of the world. John the Baptist revealed that Jesus is the fulfillment of the sin offering that was made in the sanctuary. He says in **John 1:29**, “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God**, which taketh away the sin of the world.” Also, **1 Peter 1:18, 19** says, 18 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” Hebrews chapter 9 confirms that all the animal sacrifices that were associated with the earthly sanctuary were fulfilled through Jesus when he spilled His blood on the cross of Calvary. This is why we don’t have to do animal sacrifices today. They were fulfilled, or “nailed to the cross.”

**But why were the handwriting of ordinances “against us”?** Think about it. Every time an animal sin offering was killed it was a witness or evidence against the offender that it was his or her sins that killed an innocent animal. This was the “handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us” according to Colossians 2:14. But praise God, these sacrificial ordinances were blotted out and “nailed to the cross” of Jesus Christ. Hebrews chapters 9 and 10 make it clear that it was not the animal sacrifices associated with the sanctuary that cleansed man from sin. **Hebrews 10:4** says, “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.” Think about it. If Jesus Christ did not die for our sins, the killing of lambs in the sanctuary service would have been worthless. The innocent blood of the animals would still be a witness against the offender. They would still be in sin and would suffer the penalty of eternal death as a result.

As we already mentioned, the Bible speaks of another set of laws known as the Law of Moses also known as the law of ordinances.

**Now, as a sign that the law of ordinances of animal sacrifices and other temple ceremonies that pointed to the Messiah was no longer needed after Jesus was sacrificed what happened in the Israelites temple Jerusalem according to Mark 15:37, 38?** “And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.”] It is important to note that this veil was ripped from the top to the bottom instead of from bottom to top, because no human hand did it. The curtain that separated the Holy place from the Holy of Holies or the Most Holy place in the temple ripped from top to bottom as a sign to end all ceremonial sacrifices. Remember, since Jesus Christ, our Sacrifice is the focal point and fulfillment of the law of ordinances there is no longer a need to sacrifice a lamb and perform the Israelite sanctuary ceremony services written in the law of ordinances or the Law of Moses. Since there was no longer a need for those ceremonial laws they were in fact “nailed to the cross.” Read **Hebrews chapter 9 and 10.**

When we understand that the Bible talks about two laws and when we keep them separate, there is no confusion. God’s Ten Commandment Law is eternal, unwavering, loving, and unchangeable. **1 John 5:3** says, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” God Ten Commandment Law was written with His finger in stone, symbolizing its permanence.

The permanence of God's Ten Commandment moral law is so plain throughout the Bible. So clear, that if anyone tries to say that God's Ten Commandments are done away with that person is exhibiting the same rebellious spirit of the prodigal son in the parable that Jesus gave. The prodigal son thought that the father's laws were too restrictive so he went away to a far country only to realize that his father's law brought true liberty and true peace. In fact, those who void God's law are showing the same rebellious spirit of Satan himself when he rebelled in heaven and convinced others that God's law was not fair and too restrictive, when the Bible in James 1:25 calls the law the law of liberty. ***James 1:25*** says "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth [therein], he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." This brings us to our final question for today.

**4. What does the Bible says about those who do not keep God's commandments?**

**Read ALL the following Bible texts: 1 John 2:3, 4**

**Write Bible Answer:**

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