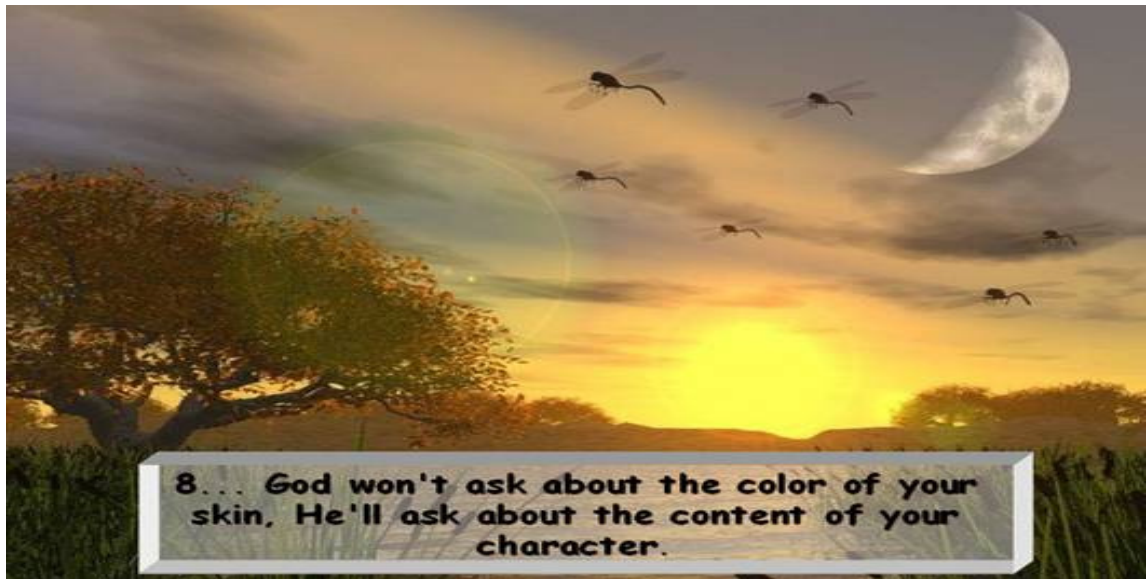


Justified & Sanctified to Obey the Law



Graham F. Watts, Sr.

VISION: To hear the midnight cry, "The bridegroom comes, go out to meet Him" (Matthew 25:6) and become like Him when I see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).

MISSION: Purify myself even as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3) to be glad, to rejoice, give honor to Christ and be ready for the marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7).

VALUES: Follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Revelation 14:4), be without fault before God (Revelation 14:5), be perfect even as my Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48), wear the Lamb's fine, clean and white linen (Revelation 19:8) do righteously (1 John 3:10) and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

OVERALL AIM: Studies presented here unveil Bible knowledge to inquiring minds to prompt the following inquiries: "Are our feet on the rock of ages? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father" (John 10:30 in Evangelism, {Ev} 199.1)? Am I crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)?

26 **PURPOSE/REASON FOR/WHY**

27
28 This study reminds believers that the law of God is important.

29
30 **OBJECTIVE/WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH**

31
32 At the end of this study, readers think about God's law as protection.

33
34 **BACKGROUND CONTEXT**

35
36 "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as
37 children of light" (Ephesians 5:8)! God's character is unchanged:
38 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).
39 "God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should
40 change his mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and
41 not fulfill" (Numbers 23:19)? "He who is the glory of Israel does not
42 lie or change his mind; for He is not a man, that He should change his
43 mind" (1 Samuel 15:29). In both Old and New Testaments, God remains
44 clear about what He wants from the Israel of God. Observe Leviticus
45 19:2—"Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy
46 because I the Lord your God am holy.'" Modern Israel (Galatians 3:26-
47 29) receives the same call to holiness: "...Be holy and without blame..."
48 (Ephesians 1:4); "...Be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27).

49
50 The Israel of God is a people of light. "You are a chosen people, a
51 royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, i.e., a people
52 belonging to God, that [you should] show forth the praises of Him who
53 called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). Soon
54 the call will go forth, "...S/He that is holy, let him [/her] be holy
55 still" (Revelation 22:11). Against this background, the minority
56 report reads, "We have not, as a people, given the law of God the
57 preeminence as we should" (Selected Messages Book 3, {3SM} 258.1). "If
58 we would have the spirit and power of the third angel's message [-
59 Revelation 14:9-10-] we must present the law and the gospel together
60 for they go hand in hand" (Gospel Workers, {GW} 161.3).

61 The light, which God requires, is obedience and holiness to His laws.
62 Some Christians focus exclusively on the love of God. The love of God
63 is a great theme, always worthy of earnest contemplation; however,
64 Jesus' sacrifice for fallen humanity to satisfy the law (Romans 6:23)
65 had specific aims. Eve "...was deceived and became a sinner" (1 Timothy
66 2:14) and offered the fruit to Adam and he ate (Genesis 3:6) and he
67 became a transgressor; therefore, the legacy of sin with its awful
68 consequences passed to the human family (*read Genesis 4:8, Romans 5:12;*
69 *6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:22*). To assuage sin, i.e., provide relief from
70 its lethal consequences, Christ was the lamb slain from the foundation
71 of the world (Revelation 13:8). He took wounds for our transgressions
72 [and] bruises for our iniquities... (Isaiah 53:5). "...The Lord bruised
73 [Christ to] ...make His soul an offering for [our] sin..." (Isaiah 53:10).
74 "[Christ] who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the
75 righteousness of God in [Christ]" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

76
77 Some parts of the Christian community misrepresent God's claims. They
78 take cognizance of Colossians 2:14—"Blotting out the handwriting of
79 ordinances that was against us..., nailing it to the cross" and uses it
80 to eliminate 1 John 3:4—"Whosoever commits sin transgresses the law for
81 sin is the transgression of the law." In doing so, they forget that
82 "It is our duty to preach faith and to present the love of Christ in
83 connection with the claims of the law; for neither can be rightly
84 understood without the other" (Evangelism, {Ev} 599.2). The pivotal
85 role of the law in the lives of all believers provided the impetus for
86 the study question.

87
88

89 **STUDY QUESTION**

90

91 What is the purpose of God's law in salvation?

ANSWER SOURCE: HOLY BIBLE

1. "...If [you listen and obey] ...the voice of the Lord [Your] God, to observe and do all His commandments..., the Lord... will set [you] high above all nations of the earth... and all people of the earth shall see that [you are] called by the name of the Lord and they shall be afraid of [you] (Deuteronomy 28:1 & 10).
2. "...The law is spiritual..." (Romans 7:14). By the law, we identify sin (Romans 7:7).
3. "...Sin is not taken into account where there is no law" (Romans 5:13; read also Romans 5:20).
4. "...No one will be declared righteous... by observing the Law. **Through the law we become conscious of sin**" (Romans 3:20, NIV) so that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just [to] forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
5. David and Isaiah spoke prophetically of Christ, saying, "I delight to do thy will, O my God, Your law is within my heart" (Psalms 40:8) and He will "...magnify the law and make it honorable" (Isaiah 42:1 & 21). Not surprisingly, Matthew recorded Jesus words: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" (Matthew 5:17, NIV). Because the Law is important, "...God sent **His son to die to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law** that those who walk after the Holy Spirit will be in compliance with the righteous demands of the law" (Romans 8:1-4). Not surprisingly, Jesus said, "...Until heaven and earth disappears, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will ...disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished" (Matthew 5:18, NIV).
6. With the rich background of information about the law of God provided by David, Isaiah, Matthew and Paul, "Do we make void the law [of God] through faith?" "God forbid..." (Romans 3:31). Let us understand why we do not nullify, i.e., do away with, the law! "...The law has authority over someone ...as long as that person lives" (Romans 7:1), but "the sinful [i.e., unrenewed] mind is hostile to God, does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so" (Romans 8:7). God does not want "...sin [to] reign in our mortal body so that [we] obey its evil desires" (Romans 6:12). **God is determined that "...sin shall not have dominion over [us]..." (Romans 6:14); therefore, He places His law within our minds** (Hebrews 8:10 & 10:16). And "as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the Law in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ" (Romans 2:12). **Even the prayers**

141 **of anyone who turns away from hearing the law are an abomination**
 142 (Proverbs 28:9). **What purpose then does the law serve in our**
 143 **salvation seeing that "[we] are not under law but under grace"**
 144 (Romans 6:14)? **The law is a schoolmaster to lead us to Christ**
 145 **that we might be justified by faith** (Galatians 3:24 & Acts 13:39).
 146 "[Christ] ...who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become
 147 the righteousness of God in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:21), "but
 148 if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are
 149 found sinners, is ...Christ the minister of sin? God forbid
 150 (Galatians 2:17)! "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we
 151 have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is
 152 left" (Hebrews 10:26).

153
 154 7. The law leads us to Christ not that we might continue to violate
 155 the law, but rather that Christ might empower us to "fear God and
 156 keep his commandments; [for] this is the whole duty of man"
 157 (Ecclesiastes 12:13) and to the person who prays like David did,
 158 "Give me understanding and I shall keep the law... [to] observe it
 159 with my whole heart" (Psalms 119:34) [and who follows on to]
 160 delight and meditate in the law of the Lord.. (Psalms 1:2), s/he
 161 will be as a tree planted by the rivers of water [that bears]
 162 fruit [see Galatians 5:22-23] in season.. (Psalms 1:3).

163
 164 8. When [Jesus] ascended on high, He sat down on the right hand of
 165 God (Mark 16:19, Acts 2:33, Hebrews 10:12) and executed the terms
 166 of the new covenant, moving the law from tablets and placing them
 167 "...in our hearts [and] writing them on our minds" (Hebrews
 168 10:16). Hence, Jesus says to us, "If you keep my commandments,
 169 you shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's
 170 commandments and abode in his love (John 15:10). Therefore,
 171 anyone who says, "...I know Him and keeps not His commandments is
 172 a liar and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4). "But whoso
 173 keeps His word; in him... is the love of God perfected" (1 John
 174 2:5). "He that keeps His commandments dwells in Him and He [i.e.,
 175 Christ] in him" (1 John 3:24). If "...after you [hear] the word of
 176 truth... [AND] believe, [we are] sealed with the Holy Spirit of
 177 promise" (Ephesians 1:13; John 7:38-39), shall we set aside the
 178 law of God? God forbid!

179
 180 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS: Abundant blessings are in store for the
 181 obedient! By the law, we recognize sin, know God's standard of
 182 spirituality, have boundaries for living intelligently, receive grace
 183 to break the reign of evil in our lives, receive justification and
 184 guidance for spiritual meditation and have a productive life. Reflect
 185 on these benefits and determine whether you appropriately esteem and
 186 obey the law of God? What standard would you use to determine and meet
 187 God if abolish His law?

188 ANSWER SOURCES: SACRED WRITINGS

189

190 We are pursuing answers to the question, "What is the purpose of God's

191 Law in salvation?" More answers follow.

192

193

194 1. "The law of God in our hearts (Hebrews 8:9-11) will bring our own
 195 interests in subordination to high and eternal considerations" (SD
 196 50.6). "...The law of God is the foundation of all enduring
 197 reform..." (Conflict and Courage, {CC} 269.4). "The **law reveals**
 198 **sin to us and causes us to feel our need of Christ and to flee**
 199 **unto Him for pardon and peace** by exercising repentance toward God
 200 and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (SDA Bible Commentary,
 201 Vol. 6, {6BC} 1110.3).

202

203 2. "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we
 204 establish the law (Romans 3:31 in The Faith I Live By {FLB} 93.1).
 205 **Faith is not an opiate [a relaxing, pacifying agent], but a**
 206 **stimulant [quickening agent that increases physical activity].**
 207 **Looking to Calvary will not quiet your soul into nonperformance of**
 208 **duty, but will create faith that will work, purifying the soul**
 209 **from all selfishness** (FLB 93.2). The faith in Christ, which saves
 210 the soul, is not what [many] ...represent [it] to be.... 'Believe,
 211 believe,' is their cry..." "While **true faith trusts wholly in**
 212 **Christ for salvation [read Acts 15:11 & Ephesians 2:8], it will**
 213 **lead to perfect conformity to the law of God (read Exodus 20:6,**
 214 **Deuteronomy 5:10 & 7:9; Nehemiah 1:5, Daniel 9:4, John 14:15, 21 &**
 215 **15:10 & 14 & James 2:10 in FLB 93.3). "...The proclamation of the**
 216 **soon coming of Christ [makes] the necessity of obedience to the**
 217 **commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus" [an imperative]**
 218 **(Testimonies for the Church, Volume Six, {6T} 290.1). "When God**
 219 **no longer requires men to love Him supremely, to reverence His**
 220 **name, and to keep the holy Sabbath; when He permits them to**
 221 **disregard the rights of their fellow men, to hate and injure one**
 222 **another; then, and not till then, will the moral law lose its**
 223 **force (S.D.A. Bible Commentary, Volume Two, {2BC} 1014.2).**

224

225 3. **The children of God... need to guard against two doctrinal errors.**
 226 **The first . . . is that of looking to their own works, trusting to**
 227 **anything they can do, to bring themselves into harmony with God**
 228 **([contrary to Romans 3:20 & 28 in] FLB 93.4). [The second]**
 229 **"...is the belief [that faith in] Christ releases men from keeping**
 230 **the law of God..." ([contrary to Exodus 20:6, Deuteronomy 5:10 &**
 231 **27:10, Joshua 22:5, Psalms 103:20 & 111:10, Proverbs 3:1; 4:4 &**
 232 **7:2, Ecclesiastes 12:13, John 14:15 & 15:10 AND Revelation 22:14**
 233 **in] FLB 93.5). "Instead of releasing man from obedience, ...faith**
 234 **...makes us partakers of the grace of Christ, which enables us to**
 235 **render obedience ([James 2:20 & 26 in] FLB 93.6). As the sides of**

- 236 an isosceles triangle surround the center, FAITH, GRACE and
 237 OBEDIENCE surround the law of God.
 238
- 239 4. "Where there is not only a belief in God's word, but also a
 240 submission of the will to Him; where the heart is yielded to Him,
 241 the affections fixed upon Him, there is faith—faith that works by
 242 love, purifies the soul [and renews] ...the heart... in the image
 243 of God. [Whereas] the heart ...in its unrenewed state is not
 244 subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be, [the renewed
 245 heart] ...delights in its holy precepts, exclaiming with the
 246 psalmist, 'O how love I Thy law! It is my meditation all the day'
 247 (Psalms119:97) and the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in
 248 us, 'who walk ...after the Spirit'" (Romans 8:1 in Steps to Christ
 249 {SC} 63.2).
- 250
- 251 5. "The law of Ten commandments is not to be looked upon as much from
 252 the prohibitory side as from the mercy side. Its prohibitions are
 253 the sure guarantee of happiness in obedience. As received in
 254 Christ, it works in us [for] purity of character that will bring
 255 joy to us through eternal ages. To the obedient, it [i.e., the law
 256 of Ten Commandments] is a wall of protection. We behold in it the
 257 goodness of God, who by revealing to men the immutable principles
 258 of righteousness seeks to shield them from the evils that result
 259 from transgression" (6BC 1110.4).
- 260
- 261 6. "Here in this life ...angels of God are watching the development of
 262 character and weighing moral worth. The whole question ...settles
 263 on this: '[Are we] obedient or disobedient to the commandments of
 264 God? Has the sinner been transformed in this world, through the
 265 merits of Christ, to an obedient servant ...fit to join the heavenly
 266 society?'" (SD 50.5). "The question of deepest interest to each
 267 one should be, 'Am I meeting the requirements of the law of God?
 268 Only by a close examination of self in the light of God's Word can
 269 we discover our deviations from His holy rule of right (Lift Him
 270 Up {LHU} 342.4). Therefore, what should we conclude when our
 271 heart is insubordinate to eternal considerations?
 272
- 273 7. "S/He who has the love of God shed abroad in his [/her] heart
 274 ...renders willing obedience to all [God's] commandments and this
 275 [obedience] constitutes Christianity. Love is the fulfillment
 276 [NOT THE REPLACEMENT] of the law; and it is the DUTY of every
 277 child of God to render obedience to His commandments (SD 51.2).
 278 Obedience to the expressed will of God will make [us] one with
 279 Christ... Of Him, it is written, "Lo, I come: in the volume of the
 280 book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea,
 281 thy law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8 in SD 48.4). Before
 282 Christ's first advent, the sin of refusing to conform to God's law
 283 had become widespread" (Reflecting Christ, {RC} 58.4). Here in
 284 this life is the testing, trying time. The angels of God are

285 watching the development of character and weighing moral worth.
 286 The whole question settles on this: Is [humanity] obedient or
 287 disobedient to the commandments of God? Has the sinner
 288 [experienced transformation] in this world, through the merits of
 289 Christ, to [become] an obedient servant ...fitted to join the
 290 heavenly society {SD 50.5}?

291
 292 8. **"MAN CANNOT BE SAVED WITHOUT OBEDIENCE, BUT HIS WORKS SHOULD NOT**
 293 **BE OF HIMSELF.** [Cain illustrated works by self, also known as
 294 (a.k.a.), righteousness by works and Abel illustrated works with
 295 God, a.k.a., righteousness by faith]. **The offering of Cain**
 296 **represented the effort that man makes in his own strength to**
 297 **obtain salvation, [which is "...righteousness ...of the law..."**
 298 **(Philippians 3:9). Ancient Israel repeated Cain's experience.**
 299 **They "pursued a law of righteous [not the God of righteousness**
 300 **and] ...did not attain righteousness because they pursued it... as**
 301 **if it were by works (Romans 9:31-32)] (Faith and Works {FW} 94.1).**
 302 **[In contrast, the offering of Abel represented the UNION OF**
 303 **DIVINITY AND HUMANITY, a theme illustrated by the parable of the**
 304 **wedding garment in Matthew 22:11, where marriage represented the**
 305 **union of ...HUMANITY and DIVINITY and the wedding garment**
 306 **represented the character of Christ worn by all guests] (Christ's**
 307 **Object Lessons, {COL} 307.1). "BY FAITH IN [CHRIST] AS A PERSONAL**
 308 **SAVIOR THE UNION [i.e., THE MARRIAGE] IS FORMED.** [In the
 309 marriage], "...sinners unite [their] weakness to Christ's
 310 strength, [their] emptiness to Christ's fullness, [their] frailty
 311 to Christ's enduring might. Then [we have] the mind of Christ
 312 [and] ...through the agency of the Holy Spirit ...become a
 313 partaker of the divine nature" (The Desire of Ages, {DA} 675.3).
 314 "...THIS UNION [IS] ...THE HOPE OF OUR FALLEN RACE" (Lift Him Up,
 315 {LHU} 75.6). [And in this union, i.e., marriage], **Christ ...HAS**
 316 **PLEDGED HIMSELF TO TRAIN US TO BE HIS CO-LABORERS [and] help us**
 317 **follow His example, doing good and refusing to do evil" (Our High**
 318 **Calling {OHC} 182.4).**

319
 320 9. **"...DIVINE AID ...DOES NOT MAKE HUMAN ACTIVITY UNESSENTIAL. The**
 321 **Lord does not design that human power ...be paralyzed; but by**
 322 **cooperating with God, the power of [men and women] may be**
 323 **efficient for good. God does not design that our will ...be**
 324 **destroyed for ...through... [it] we are to accomplish the work He**
 325 **would have us do..." (Selected Messages Book 1, {1SM} 375.2). And**
 326 **if we work faithfully, to us is give the promise of Revelation**
 327 **22:12—"Behold I come quickly and my reward is with me to give**
 328 **every man according as His work shall be."**

329

330 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS: By the law, we feel our need of Christ and by
331 the faith that submits to God and fixes our affections upon Him, we run
332 to Him for pardon and grace. The grace of God is a stimulant.
333 Obedience to the law of God comes from hearts renewed in the image of
334 God. Angels keep close watch for the development of a Christ like
335 character that delights in obedience to the 10-commandment law. Our
336 fitness to join the heavenly society depends on obedience to the law
337 (Christian Service {ChS} 109). Reflect on these requirements and
338 determine whether you appropriately esteem the law of God?

339

340 **CONCLUSION: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

341

342 "The line of demarcation between those who keep the commandments of God
343 and those who do not is to be revealed with unmistakable clearness. We
344 are conscientiously to honor God, diligently using every means of
345 keeping in covenant relation with Him that we may receive His
346 blessings..." (Counsels on Health, {CH} 238.2). As long as God lives
347 and people live on earth, His law-covenant, that was housed in the ark
348 (1 Kings 8:9, 21)—the embodiment of His character will remain the
349 standard of righteousness for every believer. We are to magnify the
350 10-commandment law and make it honorable (Isaiah 42:21) and not confuse
351 it with "...the law of commandments contained in ordinances [that was
352 abolished]" (Daniel 9:27 & Ephesians 2:15, KJV) at the crucifixion of
353 Christ, which ended the killing of rams, lambs and bullocks (Leviticus
354 9:1-23; Hebrews 9:11-14 & 24-26). We must delight, [find joy,
355 pleasure] in the 10-Commandment law of God (Psalms 1:2). In
356 conversations with His disciples (Matthew 5:1), Jesus said, "Think not
357 that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets. I am not come to
358 destroy, but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). "...Till heaven and earth
359 pass, one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all is
360 fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). Almost a century later, in A.D. 95, John
361 the Revelator saw "the temple of God... in heaven and there was... in
362 the temple, the ark of His testament..." (Revelation 11:19) that served
363 as the prototype for the earthly sanctuary (Exodus 25:9 & 40; 26:34;
364 31:1-7). The ark in the earthly sanctuary housed the law/testimony

365 (Exodus 25:16 & 21) that Moses received twice (Exodus 24:12, 15, 18;
366 31:18; 32:15-16 & 19; 34:1-29).

367
368 **The Bible provides evidence for faith-based obedience to the 10-**
369 **Commandments.** The Bible provides no justification for setting aside
370 the 10-commandment law of God! Jesus cautions, "Whosoever therefore
371 shall break one of the commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be
372 called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but **whosoever shall do [the**
373 **commandments] and teach them, the same shall be called great in the**
374 **kingdom of heaven"** (Matthew 5:19). Deuteronomy outlines a plethora of
375 blessings for all who diligently listen and obey the voice of the Lord,
376 to observe and do all His commandments (Deuteronomy 28:1). The
377 blessings that accompany obedience include success in the city and in
378 the field (verse {v}. 3), in the fruit of your body, ground, cattle and
379 sheep (verses {vs}. 4 & 11), in your basket and storehouses (vs.5 & 7),
380 when you come in and go out (v. 6), success against your enemies (v.7)
381 and in all you attempt (vs.8 & 12). Moreover, God will establish you
382 as a holy people unto God (v. 9), as a lender rather than a burrower
383 (v. 12), as the head rather than the tail **IF YOU LISTEN AND OBEY THE**
384 **COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD YOUR GOD** (v.13). But understand that "The
385 dragon, who is angry with the church [and] makes war with the remnant
386 of her seed that keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of
387 Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17) is pleased with attempts to disparage
388 (i.e., criticize) God's law. He, Satan, is the author of disobedience
389 (Revelation 12:7-11) and when men and women disobey God's law, a
390 plethora of curses follows them (read Deuteronomy 28:15-68). **"Only**
391 **through ...transgressions of God's law [does Satan] obtain power over**
392 **[us]; [but] ...through the plan of salvation, Jesus is breaking Satan's**
393 **hold upon the human family and rescuing souls from his power**
394 (Testimonies for the Church, Volume Five, {5T} 470.1).

395
396 God is pleased with attempts to reverence Him and obey the 10-
397 Commandments always that it might be well with [us] and [our] children

398 (Deuteronomy 5:29). "As a power from beneath is stirring up the
399 children of disobedience to make void the law of God..., a power from
400 above is moving upon the hearts of those who are loyal, to exalt the
401 law and to lift up Jesus as a complete Savior" (Gospel Workers, {GW}
402 161.3). "By His perfect obedience, He has made it possible for every
403 human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to
404 Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His
405 will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into
406 captivity to Him; we live His life (The Faith I Live By {FLB} 113.4).

407

408 **CALL TO ACTION: WHAT SHALL WE DO?**

409

410 Modern Israel, you must possess faith that works by love, purifies the
411 soul, renews the heart in the image of God and delights in His holy
412 precepts. You can get this faith when you believe the Word of God,
413 submit your will to God, yield your heart to God and set your
414 affections on God. To help us do these things, God has established
415 methods for success. "Fear God and keep His commandments..."
416 (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Esteem the law of God for Jesus died to satisfy
417 the just requirements of that law and He gives grace and power for
418 mortals to render perfect obedience to God's immutable law. **The Bible**
419 **chronicles a rich history of obedience blended with faith.** Genesis 4:4-
420 "...Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock." Genesis 12:1 & 4-
421 "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to
422 the land I will show you [and] Abram left as the Lord had told him...."
423 Genesis 22:2, 9 & 10- "...Take your son..., go into the land of Moriah
424 and offer him for a burnt offering upon the mountain I will tell you.
425 When they reached the place God had told him, Abraham built an altar,
426 arranged the wood, bound Isaac, laid him on the altar... and reached
427 out his hand and took the knife to slay his son." Matthew 9:9-Matthew
428 left the Tax Collectors booth and immediately followed Jesus when
429 Christ said, "Follow [Me]"!

430

431 Let us honor God! "...Them that honor [God, He] will honor; they that
432 despise [Him, He will] lightly esteem" (1 Samuel 2:30). "Whoso...
433 orders his [/her] conversation aright [God] will show [His] salvation"
434 (Psalms 50:23). Let us therefore obey the 10-commandment law **AND** the
435 entire revealed will of God as Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
436 and the rest of the holy lineage who "looked for a city [that has]
437 foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). Let us
438 not cheapen the grace of God by our disobedience, rebellion and
439 idolatry for "the sum and substance of Christian grace and experience
440 is to be brought into fellowship with Christ in His self-denial and
441 humiliation" (Bible Echo, E.G. White, April 15, 1892).

442