

The New Testament Christian has the Law written in their hearts according to **Hebrews 8:19**, *“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:”* To love the law is the language of a saved man (**Psalms 119:11,35,53,72,97,113,127,140,165**). The following verses admonish the believer to keep God’s commandments: **John 14:15, 15:12,14, I John 2:3-4, I John 5:3, Revelation 12:17, and 22:14**. Those who reject the commandments also reject the Messiah, Amen.

Matthew 22:44-46

“We have staked the whole future of American Civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capability of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each and every one of us to govern ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

-James Madison

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”

Psalms 19:7



Victory Baptist Church
Pastor Robert W. Reed
14473 Bellingrath Road
P.O. Box 257
Coden, Alabama 36523
(251) 873-4422

*“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”*
Acts 16:31

The **RICHES** OF GRACE

Robert W. Reed
September 2004

The Ten Commandments

*“Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy,
and just, and good.”*

Romans 7:12

+ **God’s Moral Law** +

The Ten Commandments are God’s moral law written with the finger of God on tablets of stone and placed inside the Holy Ark for safekeeping. These are not Ten Suggestions, which can be amended at will. The Ten Commandments are God’s eternal Word, holy and unchangeable. These commandments are God’s standard of righteousness and code of conduct for his people. They perfectly express the holiness of God as well as represent His character. Obedience to the law of God is man’s first duty. The first thing God gave to his people was the Ten Commandments. The first discourse of Christ (**Matthew 5-7**) was pertaining to the moral laws of God, *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.”* **Matthew 5:17**

“The Ten Commandments are the divinely revealed Law. It’s time for Christians to take a stand.”

- Judge Roy Moore

This article will present a three-fold purpose for the Ten Commandments, God's Holy Law. May we forever love and cherish them.

“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.” Exodus 31:18

The Ten Commandments are the Basis for Government

The laws of God are the basis of earthly government. They are binding upon all people, at all times, in every nation. The Ten Commandments are the foundation upon which society exists. The Scriptures plainly state in **Proverbs 14:34**, *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”* Also, in **Psalm 9:17**, *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God,”* and **Psalm 33:12**, *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”* The Ten Commandments were incorporated into the Mosaic Law for the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. The Ten Commandments (the moral law) actually became the first part of God's Law that was given to Israel according to **Exodus 20**. It is estimated that over ninety percent of our founding fathers in America believed in God. That is why thirty-four percent of all their quotes came from the Bible. Our three branches of government came from **Isaiah 33:12**. The tax exemption for churches came from **Ezra 7:24**, which no other nation has. The book of **Deuteronomy** was the most quoted book of the Bible by our founding fathers. This book deals much with civil government. Without the Ten Commandments, no society can function properly, for total destruction will eventually come. Lawlessness abounds throughout our country now because of a disregard for God's Word. This is why we see the Ten Commandments taken off the walls of our courthouses and other public buildings.

The Ten Commandments Bring Sinners to Salvation

According to **Galatians 3:24**, the law was given to bring sinners to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”* The law is used as a mirror to reveal man's sinful condition (**James 1:22-25**). The law is a great evangelistic tool, because the ground must be

plowed before planting. We must show individuals that they have sinned against God and broken his holy Law before we point them to Jesus Christ. They must see the need of salvation before they can accept the free gift of eternal life. There is little knowledge of sin today because little law is being preached. Without the knowledge of sin, no one knows he has offended God. The following verses show that the law is holy and good, but also show that it is the law that exposes sin in our life: **Romans 3:19-23, 28, 5:20, 7:6-14**, and **I John 3:4**. The gospel will not be good news to someone who has no sense of sin. When the missionary, Jim Elliot, started translating the Scriptures to the Auca Indians, it was not **John 3:16**, but it was the Ten Commandments, and his first sermon was on the Ten Commandments. The Lord Jesus Christ used the tenth Commandment with the rich young ruler in **Matthew 19:16-26** to show him that he was guilty before a Holy God, for his real god was his possessions. The Lord also used the seventh commandment in **John 4** to show the Samaritan woman that she was a sinner and in need of a Savior. He made her face the Law of God that she had broken repeatedly. The Apostle Peter spoke of the sixth commandment in **Acts 2:14-40** when he charged the people with the murder of the Son of God. The Apostle Paul spoke of the second commandment in **Acts 17:22-31** at Athens when he accused them of breaking God's law, and told them of their need of repentance. According to **Romans 10:1-4**, Christ is the end of the law for righteousness, but only to those who believe.

The Ten Commandments are a Divine Pattern for Christians

In **Romans 13:8-10**, the Apostle Paul quotes five of the Ten Commandments. This is New Testament truth for the Christian. The Law of God becomes a means of sanctification and not a means for justification. The Lord expounded and expanded on the law in the Sermon on the Mount. In **Matthew 5-7**, the Lord says He came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it. He taught his disciples the true meaning of His commandments. In **Galatians 6:7**, the Law of God is called the Law of Christ, the Royal Law in **James 2:8**, and it is called holy and good in **Romans 7:12**. The Apostle Paul said in **I Corinthians 9:24**, that we are not without law. Please remember that the Ten Commandments were originally given to a redeemed people (**Exodus 19:4-7, 20:1,20, Deuteronomy 15:15, and Romans 9:3-4**). In the New Testament, the Commandments are given to us as Christians, not to make us Christians. According to **Romans 3:31**, we establish the Law of God.