

PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 13

Lesson 13: God’s Law and Grace Part 2: “God's Mirror

We are continuing with God’s Law and Grace Series. This is part two of that series, “God’s Mirror.” In the previous lesson we studied the differences between God’s moral law of the Ten Commandments and the Law of Moses, sometimes referred to as the law of ordinances. God Himself spake the Ten Commandments, the Israelites actually heard the voice of God. God also wrote the Ten Commandment with His own finger. We also found that it was the Law of Moses that was “against us” and “nailed to the cross” or abolished, not God’s moral law of the Ten Commandments. If you really think about it, what could be against us about the Ten Commandments? There are only 10, unlike Moses law of ordinances that were numerous. God’s 10 commandments are for us not against us. Who would want to live in a lawless society were murders, theft, adulteries, lies, and idolatry prevail. The 10 Commandments are for our happiness. We also studied that the law of ordinances were detailed instructions from God to Moses of a sacrificial system, ceremonies, and special holy days implemented to show the awfulness of sin and to be as a symbol of what was to come, The Lamb of God, the Messiah, that would take away the sins of the world. When Jesus, our Messiah, died on the cross these laws were fulfilled and were no longer necessary and because of this, these ceremonial laws were literally nailed to the cross.

This lesson will explore the purpose of God’s law of the Ten Commandments. But, we can not talk about God’s law without discussing God’s grace. So, we will also look at grace, the reason we need grace and how it relates to the law of God, His Ten Commandments.

1. What is the purpose of God’s moral Law of the Ten Commandments for us?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 1 John 3:4; Romans 3:20; Romans 7:7; Psalms 119:142, 151, 165, 172; Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; Psalm 19:7; Proverbs 29:18; Proverbs 3:1, 2; James 2:12

Write Bible Answer:

The first purpose of God’s Ten Commandments is that they define what sin is (1 John 3:4).

Sin is defined by God’s law, His ten commandments. Now the next text will make it even clearer for us and show us without a shadow of a doubt that God’s law is His 10 commandments.

The Bible clearly reveals to us that one of the main purposes of God’s Ten Commandment law is to **define sin for us**. The purpose of God’s Ten Commandment Law is to define sin for us. God’s law of the Ten Commandments shows us the difference between right and wrong. God’s law is a like a mirror that points out the dirt that is on my face. That dirt spiritually represents sin. So if I have sin in my life, the Ten Commandments clearly reveals that sin that I have in my life. Or in other words, if I am unaware of sin in my life, I need to go to the spiritual mirror of the Ten Commandments to see if sin exists in my life. **The second purpose of God’s 10 Commandments is that it gives us the written standard of righteousness (Psalms 119:172).**

Again the Bible reveals that the law of God, His Ten Commandments, **gives us the written standard of righteousness**. And that we are going to be judged by the righteous principles of the law found in the Ten Commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14).

Now let’s look at a third purpose of God’s moral law of the Ten Commandments from the word of God. **The third purpose of God’s 10 commandments is that they are used to help convert people to Jesus Christ (Psalm 19:7)**. Immediately we see here that the law of God, His 10 commandments, is not only perfect, but it converts the soul. Now, in one of our previous studies we learned that it is the Holy Spirit that convict us of sin and point us to the sin cleaner, Jesus Christ. So the Holy Spirit uses the Law of God, His Ten Commandments as a tool to convert the lives of many in the ways of God. In other words, the Holy Spirit takes God’s 10 commandments, uses them as a mirror for us. The Holy Spirit then convicts us to look directly into God’s mirror, His 10 commandments, and then Holy Spirit points out all the dirt of sin that is on us. Then He points us to the sin cleaner Jesus Christ to cleanse from our sins. **Now this brings us to a fourth purpose of God’s law; if we allow the Holy Spirit to live within us and keep God’s law, we will have true peace (Proverbs 29:18; Proverbs 3:1, 2)**

We see here that God’s law is a guide for happy abundant living and **it provides true peace and freedom**. James 2:12 calls God’s Law the law of liberty. God created us to be happy. According to John 10:10, Jesus says: “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.”

So in summary based on our study so far today the Bible reveals that God’s law of the Ten Commandments: 1. Defines what sin is 2. It gives us the written the standards of righteousness and that each of us will be judged by these righteous principles of the law. 3. The Holy Spirit uses the Law of God as a tool to convert the lives of many. And 4. The Ten Commandments are a guide for happy abundant living that provides true peace and freedom.

2. Can God’s Law, the Ten Commandments, ever be changed or eliminated [abolished]?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Luke 16:17; Psalm 111:7, 8

Write Bible Answer:

Can God’s Law, His Ten Commandments, ever be changed or eliminated [abolished]? What did the Bible say? No. It is very clear that according to the Bible that God’s law can **never** be changed or abolished. That is very plain. Those who say or teach that God’s Law has been abolished or done away with deny the authority of the Law-giver – God. Think about it, is it true that every nation has laws that demand respect and obedience towards its government and citizens? Of course. Do you expect less from God? Of course not. God’s government is no different; He has laws that demand our respect and obedience toward Him and His divine authority. Is that clear? God’s law, His 10 commandments, is still binding and has never changed.

3. Can you be saved by keeping God’s law? In other words, can God’s 10 commandments save you? And what is the purpose of God’s grace in relation to His 10 commandments, His Law?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Romans 3:20; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Acts 4:12; Titus 3:5-7; John 3:16 ; Romans 6:14

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Write Bible Answer:

Doing the works of the law, God’s Ten Commandment Law, **does not** save you or I. So how are we saved? We can not be saved by keeping God’s law. Salvation only comes by grace as a free gift from Jesus Christ. **Acts 4:12** says, referring to Jesus, that “Neither is there salvation in any other: for **there is none other name** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Amen. In addition to this what does **Titus 3:5-7** say? ⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; ⁶Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; ⁷That being justified **by his grace**, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Is that clear? **So it is by God’s grace that He has given us salvation and it is our belief or faith in Jesus Christ and His grace that saves us.** We must never forget God’s promise in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**”

What does Romans 6:14 say?

Romans 6:14 ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

That stresses the point again that we are not under the law but under what? Grace

4. If we are all under grace does that forfeit the Law of God? In other words, are we still obligated to keep the Law of God, His Ten Commandments?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Romans 6:15; Romans 6:1-2; Titus 2:11,12; James 1:23-25; John 14:15

Write Bible Answer:

Romans 6:15 answers the question, ¹⁵What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Yes, we are under grace, but that DOES NOT throw out or forfeit God’s Ten Commandment Law. Remember class, what defines sin? The transgression of the law according to 1 John

3:4]. Romans 6:1-2. What does it say? ¹“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” When we break God’s Ten Commandment law we are guilty of what? Sin Now, what is grace? Grace means, unmerited favor – this is a pardon we do not deserve. In other words, we have done nothing to deserve the salvation that God gives to us through His Son Jesus. According to Romans 3:23, we have all sinned. Because of sin we all deserve the penalty for sin, eternal death according to Romans 6:23. Pay attention class. By the grace of God, He sent His Son to save us **from** our sins, but not **in** our sins. Remember that sin is enmity with God. In other words, sin separates us from God. So, by the grace of God he forgives us of our sins though Jesus if we confess our sins. Think about this class if the governor of your state pardons a prisoner and the prisoner is released from prison, the governor expects the prisoner when he is a free man to uphold the law. Now does the pardon from the governor mean that the prisoner can freely break laws when he is free and still be covered by the governor’s pardon? No. If the free prisoner breaks another law he will be judged and sentenced under the law that was violated. Friends, God’s grace, His pardon, does not cover known sin in our life. If we accept Jesus, His blood covers our sins, only if we confess our sins to Him, coming to Him in faith asking Him to forgive us and cleanse us so we don’t have to continue to do it. We can not receive this free gift of salvation by works. Never forget that God’s law serves as a mirror or reflecting glass to reveal sin in your life, in order to convict you and lead you to repent and be cleansed so that you can reflect the image of Christ.

James 1:23-25 says ²³For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in **a glass**: ²⁴For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. ²⁵But 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.] Again God’s Law is like a mirror. Listen. **A mirror can show you the dirt on your face, but the mirror can not clean your face.** After you see the dirt, you need to get a wash cloth, soap and water to wash the dirt off your face in order for it to be clean. Like a mirror, God’s Ten Commandments shows you the dirt of sin in your life, but it can not clean the sin from your life. And Jesus Christ is the only cleaning agent that can clean the dirt of sin from your life. Amen. You can only be made clean from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. Remember we must obey God’s 10 commandments because we are saved through Jesus Christ, not because they will save us. And when we allow the Holy Spirit to take control of our lives, Philippians 2:13 say that ¹³For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. It is God that gives us His will to obey His 10 commandments. We can only truly obey God’s commandments through His strength and not our own.] God’s strength is perfect. Jesus says in John 14:15, ¹⁵“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” Class, Jesus makes it very clear and practical here. In other words, the fruit or the expression of your love toward God is to obey ALL of His 10 commandments. Not just some, but ALL of God’s commandments. So if you or I are truly converted and God’s Spirit lives in us, obeying **God’s Law will be the fruit** of our Christian existence. Let’s put it this way, an apple tree is not an apple tree if it does not produce apples. When it produces apples you see that it is what? An apple tree. An apple tree does not have to prove that it is an apple tree. So it is with a true Christian, who obeys God’s Law. A Christian should not have to prove he or she is a true Christian, the life that he or she lives that is in line with God’s law will show that he or she is a true Christian. Amen. Remember class that God’s law and His amazing grace go hand in hand. They are both important for our lives and the salvation of Jesus Christ