

## Bible Study: Sept. 6, 2022

# “What about the Ten Commandments?”

### I. Introduction:

A. “Dave, ‘freedom’ can be a very dangerous word.”

B. John 8:30-36 — “As He said these things, many came to believe in Him. 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ 33 They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 Now the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.”

PICTURE: Tonight I want to begin our discussion by calling up a vision from a past lesson. Several months ago, I pointed out to you that the most disconcerting, the most uncomfortable, the most fearful truth that Jesus ever taught was this: in the end, there are only two road. There is the wide road that leads to destruction and the narrow road that leads to life. All of us are on one of those two roads. In the same way, Jesus talks about sheep and goats, wheat and tares, saints and sinners, children of the Kingdom or children of God. There are only two choices.

If we try to compose a picture of those two roads, the wide road and the narrow road, and we apply it to the world around us, we can see that these two roads are separated by a wide canyon. The more distance you cover, the wider that canyon seems to become, and you find, as you travel down the narrow road, that your values and your behavior become more and more different from the people who travel that other wide road.

### II. **The Destruction that Awaits Those on the Wide Road Begins with the Law. The Wide Road Is Governed by Law, but the Law Inevitably Brings about Destruction through a Five-Step Process.**

A. Law both defines and provokes sin.

1. 1 John 3:4 — “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

2. 1 Cor. 15:56 — The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law  
Rom. 7:7-8 — What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? Far from it! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.” 8 But sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.
- B. Sin always results in death.
1. Rom. 6:23 — For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C. Death leads to judgment.
1. Heb. 9:27 — It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.
- D. Judgment results in condemnation.
1. Rom. 3:20 — “No one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.
- E. Condemnation means eternity in Hell.
1. Rev. 20:11 — Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them; and they were judged, each one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
  2. Rev. 21:7-8 — He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.
- F. Conclusion: in order to set us free from sin, death, judgment and condemna-

tion, God had to set us free from the Law. The Law was the first building block, the first domino in the domino chain, the foundation of judgment. The Law is still in effect for those who do not receive the life of Christ by faith.

**III. God Rescued Us from the Wide Road by Picking Us Up and Carrying Us in His Body through Death & Hell to Newness of Life. God set us free from the Law NOT by killing the Law but by killing us — carrying us into death in His body on the cross and raising us up as new creations in His resurrection.**

Gal. 2:20 — I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**IV. Carrie's question:**

When we say that God has set us free from the Law, that upsets religious people who define their own righteousness by their obedience to the Ten Commandments. Not knowing the fullness of the Gospel, they cherry-pick two verses out of the Scripture and try to hold those against us. How do we explain these verses?

1. Rom. 3:31 (NASB) — “Do we then nullify the Law through faith? Far from it! On the contrary, we establish the Law.”

Rom. 3:31 (EXB) — “So do we ·destroy [nullify; annul] the law by following the way of faith? ·No [Absolutely not; May it never be; v. 6]! · Faith causes us to be what the law truly wants [L We uphold/establish/support the law; C living by faith captures the true spirit and purpose of the law; the law pointed out sin and the need for grace, thereby pointing to Christ].

2. Matt. 5:18 — For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

The answer to Carrie's questions become clear when we look at these verses in the reflection of the truths about the two roads, the wide road and the narrow road. The Law which is sacred and holy is also, as Paul says, an instrument of condemnation and death for all of those who believe they can earn God's favor by their imperfect obedience. For those people, the Law is still very much in force. Not one jot or tittle will pass from the Law for them until all is fulfilled. And, addressing, Rom. 3:31, we do not nullify the Law by our faith. We fulfill the Law by trusting in the perfect, sinless, faultless lamb who served (under the Law) and has become our salvation.