

THE LAWS AND COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, THE TRUTH

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PREFACE

Innovations in science and technology over the last few decades have been unprecedented. The amount of knowledge in the world is increasing every day at an alarming rate. Man can travel great distances in just a few hours, including building a station in space. This development is not limited to travel only. In communication, organisations are now capable of staging a conference with its members around the world via live video streaming. There has also been ground-breaking development in the medical, agricultural and construction fields. Are there any limitations to man's capability?

There is another side to man. As there is a desire to increase in intelligence to improve life on earth, there is also an even greater desire to become more destructive, but why? Man has developed weapons with the capability of destroying cities in an instant, wiping out all traces of life. Most of the developed nations of the world all possess nuclear weapons in their armoury. This is just one of many ways in which the destructive nature in man has been portrayed.

When we consider life through the generations, immorality has always been in existence. Our generation is experiencing decadence at a scale greater than many of the previous generations because the meaning of the word obedience is eluding many of us. Most people on earth today are a law unto themselves. This includes the very people who have been employed to police the laws that govern the nations. Why is our moral and social standard decaying at such a rate? To some, life has no meaning.

There is something profound hidden from most of the inhabitants of the earth and some will never come to the revelation that man was created on earth by God and given a free will to make his own choices. In doing so, God gave man perimeters to safeguard life on earth because God did not want to create robots. Hence, He gave man free will to choose, which is in His likeness. Secondly, God had to provide an alternative to His ways which has a deeper meaning than any of us can ever imagine because at the end, only those who have chosen to follow the path God has set will remain on the earth. That is the choice all of us must make in this lifetime. This study will enlighten the importance of the safeguards God has set in place to govern life on earth. These guards are perpetual; they will be magnified in the generations to come.

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Chapter One

INTRODUCTION

The earth is governed by laws and commandments intrinsic to life, which carry profound consequences when ignored. However, most of the inhabitants on earth are not aware of these laws and commandments because repercussions for violating some of these laws and commandments are not punished instantaneously. These laws and commandments are not visible, but we are aware of their existence.

The manifestation of violating some of these laws and commandments in some circumstances is immediate. If we try to breach the law of gravity by jumping from a great height without any landing aid, the evidence of our action will appear instantly: we might end up with broken bones or more. What about the laws and commandments that affect us spiritually? We cannot see life, but we know we are alive, just as we cannot see spirits. This world was created by God who is a Spirit. We all have a spirit within us that gives us life. When that spirit departs from us, we die.

Why do we all have an appointment with death? Where does death come from? We should all know the answers to these questions because at some stage in life, we are all going to die. Death is spiritual because we cannot see it. The question we now need to ask is, if death is spiritual, has it any connections with the laws and commandments that govern life on earth? Secondly, has death any connection with the ability we have all been given to freely make our own choices, relating to the obedience to the laws and commandments of God? This study will expose the importance of the spiritual laws and commandments and their profound connection to life and death.

Stemming from the fact that in life, regardless of the situation we face, we only have two choices, one of which adds value to our lives and the other reduces the value of our lives and eventually ends with death, we have to ask ourselves these few questions:

- What if 99.99% of the population of the world is drowning in a wrong doctrine, ignorantly, will it automatically make that wrong doctrine right?

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- What if someone has misinterpreted a law or commandment that governs life on earth and the world has ignorantly followed this misinterpretation, would it make it change the consequences of breaking that law or commandment?
- What are the reasons why our generation has been given a very limited life span in this age? Adam and Noah and many others lived for well over five hundred years.
- What is the purpose of this age?
- What is the meaning of sin? Who is sin directed at?
- What is wickedness? Who is wickedness aimed at, but not directly?
- Is sin and wickedness related?
- What is the root cause to why the social and moral standards of the world are decaying at such an alarming rate?

These questions will be fully answered by the end of this study. We have been advised to work out our own salvation with trembling and fear because it is of paramount importance to our qualification into the Kingdom of God.

Philippians 2:12-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

If we are not in the right position, God will not automatically work in us to do His good pleasure. We have been given the free will to choose what we do with our lives which incidentally is directly connected to life and death. Hence, the reason for this age. We have all been advised to choose life because to qualify for the ages to come depends on the decisions we make during this lifetime. The consequence of not qualifying for the next age is death, which is the reward of sin.

The world is in such a sorry state today because many have chosen not to obey the laws and commandments of God. No one can say there is no God, because all His attributes are obvious for all to see, but the majority have chosen to be ignorant of what God has shown them.

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Romans 1:18-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

If any one of us should say they have not been shown the invisible attributes of God, they are in effect calling God a liar. On the contrary, these people have chosen to ignore God so that they can do their own pleasure. As a result of promoting a way of life without God, their characteristics are rapidly spreading throughout the world like wildfire. Hence, the moral and social standards of the world are rapidly decaying. The root cause of this decay is disobedience to the laws and commandments of God, not the laws of any nation on earth. In other words, sin has become prevalent amongst the inhabitants on earth.

We use the word sin flippantly without understanding its true meaning. Sin can only be directed towards God. But what is sin? There is a definition of sin in the Holy Scripture that states:

1 John 3:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

Sin is the transgression of the laws and commandments of God. When we break any of God's laws and commandments, we commit an offence which is called sin. The practice of a sinful way of life is lawlessness (disobeying God's commandments) and the consequence of lawlessness is death. The safeguard that God gave His creation because He created them with a free will is His laws and commandments which portrays His character. We do not know how best to behave towards God and one another. This is because we have not been programmed like the animals and birds to have certain behaviours from birth. We come into the world with a clear mind. We must be taught to differentiate what is right from what is wrong. In other words, the laws and commandments of God are intrinsic to life and those

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who have chosen to transgress these laws and commandments are in effect queuing for the synagogue of death.

We just cannot fathom the effect sin has on a pure God, the Father of righteousness who is without any trace of darkness. We must consider the fact that a just God foreknew what would become of man but still went ahead and created man in His image. Before He even created man, He provided atonement for mankind, His own Son to die for the sins of men.

The profound revelation of what sin actually entails is still eluding most of us today. To satisfy the legal requirements of the laws and commandments of a pure and just God, there must be a sacrifice. It is the blood of that sacrifice that provides remission for sins.

Hebrews 9:17-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. ¹⁹For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." ²¹Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. ²²And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

For that reason, atonement for the sins of mankind was provided by a pure God before He created the heavens and the earth. The effect of sin, which is death, requires the blood of the Son of God to satisfy the legal requirements before a pure God. If that is what is required, should we not consider the laws and commandments of God to be of paramount importance to life on earth? If we do not repent of our transgressions, our blood, which in effect is our lives, will be required for the remission of our sins.

This is something we must seriously contemplate. If our little gadgets all come with instructions on the do's and don'ts, if every organisation on earth has laws to govern the conduct of its employees and/or members, and if the nations of the world all have laws that govern their citizens and all those inhabiting these nations, what about the One who sets the nations in order at the beginning? Does life on earth come with no instructions on how we should live and our behaviour towards others?

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We do not know what is good for us. Even those we consider to be the most intellectual and the so-called wise men and women of the earth do not know. If you look at what mankind has set to be the laws governing life, especially in the present generation of people inhabiting the earth, you will begin to understand that mankind has no idea what is good. There is no depth to the laws mankind has set to govern life on earth.

Most importantly, there is no justice on earth because the laws and commandments God has set to govern life on earth have been systematically eroded through the generations and now what is left is what man has set. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Matthew 15:7-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ⁸'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honour Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁹And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

For emphasis, this passage of Scripture was given to us again in the gospel of Mark with more detail of what the Lord had said:

Mark 7:6-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honours Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men ¹the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."

⁹He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. ¹⁰For Moses said, 'Honour your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' ¹¹But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"-' (that is, a gift to God), ¹²then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, ¹³making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

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Tradition is the most deadly weapon that destroys lives. It is the traditions of mankind that will keep the majority of us alive today, and many before us, from seeing and eventually entering the Kingdom of God. There is a simple reason why it will be so. We have all, in one way or another, disregarded the laws and commandments of God so we can keep the traditions of men, some ignorantly. Have we not all been given the intelligence to be able to find out the truth for ourselves? Has not the Lord promised to guide us into all truth by His Spirit?

There is a prescribed path given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ on how to acquire the Spirit of God. However, the majority of professing believers have chosen not to follow that path, some ignorantly, but when they come to the knowledge of what is required, they choose to reject the path the Lord has established so they can keep the ways of men.

The Lord Jesus Christ began His ministry with a call to repentance when He said:

Mark 1:14-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Retrospectively, we now know the Lord was the Lamb of God who God sent to take away the sins of the world. We now also know that sin is the transgression of the laws and commandments of God. Why would the Lord begin His ministry with the call to repentance if the laws and commandments of God were not important? Moreover, why would the Lord, who we now know was with God and came from God, begin His ministry with the call to repentance if the laws and commandments which were already in place were the laws and commandments of Moses and not of God?

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Chapter Two

MISCONCEPTIONS

Our ears have become very selective as to how we hear and what we choose to believe, even though the truth is staring right at us. There are many passages of Scripture that cannot be misinterpreted because the meaning is in the passage, but amazingly, it is these passages of Scripture that have been taken out of context to mean something completely different. There is one underlining reason why: to give man the licence to keep his own tradition while disregarding the word of God. Here are some of the pitfalls in which interpretation of the word of God has been disregarded, while forgetting the fact that the Bible interprets itself:

I HAVE NOT COME TO DESTROY THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS BUT TO FULFILL

It will be appropriate to first define the key words in this passage of Scripture before seeking the true meaning of what the Lord said in this passage of Scripture. One of the key words in this passage is 'destroy'. The meaning of destroy is to bring an end to the existence of something. But the Lord said He has not come to destroy. The second word, or rather phrase, we must consider is, 'the law and the prophets.' The Lord did not say the law and commandments of God. The Lord said the Law and the Prophets which means He was referring to the books of Moses and the books of the prophets of the Old Testament, which therefore means, these books still form an integral part of the Holy Scriptures. The final word is 'fulfill'. The word fulfill means to make perfect, to carry out, to satisfy. Now consider the passage of Scripture in question:

Matthew 5:17-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."

Twice in less than twenty-one words, the Lord said He has not come to destroy. The Lord did not come to bring to an end what is written in the books of Moses, (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), and the books of the prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah,

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Daniel, Malachi, Micah, Amos and the others.) The Lord came to satisfy, to make perfect, to carry out, what has been written in these books. That is the reason why He added that heaven and earth will pass away, but all the words of these books will remain until all has been made perfect. Regarding the laws and commandments of God, the Lord has said:

Matthew 5:19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

This is the verse that underpins what the Lord meant when He said he had not come to destroy the law and the prophets. If anyone should break any of the laws and commandments of God, they will be called least in the Kingdom of God. Those who keep and teach others to keep the laws and commandments of God will be called great in the Kingdom of God. Why is this verse conveniently missed by many? From the above passages of Scripture, it is crystal clear that the laws and commandments of God are still alive and must be kept. The Lord Jesus Christ came to magnify the laws and commandments of God, making them more binding.

Isaiah 42:21 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will exalt the law and make it honourable.

We must understand that everything we do on earth originates in the imaginations of our heart. We have to first conceive it in our hearts before it is translated into action. Our works are the fruits of what we have brewing in our hearts. The Lord made us aware of this fact when He said:

Matthew 15:17-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ "Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? ¹⁸ But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. ¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. ²⁰ These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

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Here is the connection. The Lord perfected the laws and commandments of God in such a way that contemplating a sinful act in our minds, to conceive it, before going forth to perform this act, is transgressing the law or the commandment relating to that act. That is why the Lord went on to elaborate what He meant by magnifying the laws and commandments of God.

Matthew 5:21-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. ²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Being angry with a brother or sister without a cause is the beginning of hatred which stems from the heart; before it was not considered as transgressing the commandments of God. But when the Lord magnified the law, it became a transgression, just as looking at someone to lust after them.

Matthew 5:27-28 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

If you believed the Lord has fulfilled the law, will you still hold that opinion after this explanation? Is it not crystal clear now that the Lord Jesus Christ intensely amplified the laws and commandments of God in such a way that it is virtually impossible for anyone to keep them? We have to understand that God the Father is a Spirit and He seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and truth.

John 4:23-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²³ "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

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To empower those who believe to be able to worship God the Father in spirit and truth, the Lord Jesus Christ was sacrificed for our sins, in return God the Father made available His Spirit to empower those who believe. This is the grace of God; being empowered by the Spirit of God.

Luke 24:49 New King James Version (NKJV)

49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

We now understand that the power from on high was the Spirit of God which was given to man on the day of Pentecost. And here is the confirmation of the reason God the Father gave us His Spirit:

Acts 5:29-32 New King James Version (NKJV)

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

The primary purpose of the Spirit of God is to empower those who seek to worship God the Father in spirit and truth to be able to keep His laws and commandments.

THE CARNAL MIND

What is the carnal mind? The majority of professing believers have no idea what the carnal mind really is. We know the carnal mind is enmity against God, but what else has the Lord said in the Holy Scripture said about the carnal mind?

Romans 8:6-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

The carnal mind is not subject to the laws and commandments of God and never can be. This therefore means that if you are not subjected to the laws and commandments of God,

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you are carnal. This group of people includes all those who profess to believe in God but do not do His commandments, citing that the law has been fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ and all we have to do now is just love. Do they actually know the meaning of love? What did the Lord Jesus Christ say? He said:

John 14:15-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

What commandments was the Lord referring to? Here, we can understand that the Lord is saying He will give us a Helper to empower us to keep His commandments. And that Helper is the Lord who said He will come to us in Spirit. Without the Spirit of God dwelling in us, we are carnal and will never be able to obey the laws and commandments of God. This reflects in what we do:

Mark 7:6-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honours Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷ And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men -the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."

⁹ He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandments of God, that you may keep your tradition. ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honour your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' ¹¹ But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"- ' (that is, a gift to God), ¹² then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, ¹³ making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

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The carnal mind has conveniently replaced the laws and commandments of God with the traditions of men because it cannot be subject to what God has commanded. The apostle James was inspired to write:

James 2:14-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe -and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Just believing in the Lord is not good enough. Our belief must be followed by action, which is obedience to the laws and commandments of God, without which our belief is dead. This therefore means that the faith of all those who do not do the laws and commandments is dead. Hence, they are worshipping in vain. Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ must be followed by obedience to the laws and commandments of God.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO REPENT?

The Lord Jesus Christ started His ministry with the call to repentance. He gave the apostle Peter the inspiration to expound on what He meant when He said we have to repent and believe the gospel. On that day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter was speaking to devout Jews from every nation of the world, who went to Jerusalem to keep the feast of Pentecost according to the commandments of God. These Jews, including the apostles, had to be converted into the church that the Lord was building, which is also the spiritual house of Israel.

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Acts 2:38-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

If there was no law and commandments in place, why was there a need for these people and us today to repent? Remember that this was after the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we repent because we have been transgressing God's laws and commandments, the Lord will give us His Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. But if there were no laws and commandments, then there would be no need to repent. You can be the judge. It is obvious for all to see that the laws and commandments of God are still a requirement for life on earth and we must, with wisdom and understanding, keep them at all cost.

To just believe is not good enough and never will be. We have to first repent to enter the prescribed path the Lord has set. Moreover, no amount of keeping laws and commandments can render us just in the sight of God. There has to be a cut-off point when we repent for the remission of our past sins, as it was in the day of Pentecost with the Jews. Only after then would the keeping of the laws and commandments of God be pleasing to God.

Should we then continue to transgress the laws and commandments of God after we have been through the process of repentance? God forbid! If we had to repent because of transgressing the laws and commandments of God, should we then continue in sin? Would you not say that is folly? Yes, we cannot completely eradicate sin in our lives instantly after repentance, but as we are being sanctified by the word of God and as we grow in the knowledge of the truth, we must start eliminating sin from our lives as we are being empowered by the Spirit of God.

Romans 6:15-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! ¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to

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righteousness? ¹⁷But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

We cannot continue to transgress the laws and commandments of God after repentance. We cannot serve two masters. We all have an appointment with death in this age, but if we become slaves of righteousness and holiness, then at the appointed time in the future, the Spirit that raised the Lord Jesus Christ from death will also raise us up from death. That is a promise the Lord has given to those who repent and believe the gospel.

DID THE LORD AND HIS APOSTLES CHANGE THE SABBATHS?

The Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles did not change the Sabbath day from Saturday, which is the last day of the week, to Sunday, the first day of the week. It was the Lord's custom to preach in the synagogue on the Sabbath days.

Luke 4:16-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

Throughout the gospels, we find that the Lord went to the synagogues and the temple of God to teach during the Sabbath days. The Lord healed many in the synagogues and the temple of God during the Sabbath days to the displeasure of the Pharisees:

Matthew 12:10-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"- that they might accuse Him.

¹¹Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? ¹²Of how much more value

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then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”¹³ Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.¹⁴ Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

If the Sabbath were not important, as some are led to believe, would not the Lord have declared it to us then? But the Lord instructed us on what to do on the Sabbath day and of the fact that He, the Lord, is Lord also of the Sabbath.

Luke 6:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now it happened on the second Sabbath after the first that He went through the grain fields. And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them, rubbing them in their hands.² And some of the Pharisees said to them, “Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?”

³But Jesus answering them said, “Have you not even read this, what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴how he went into the house of God, took and ate the showbread, and also gave some to those with him, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat?”⁵ And He said to them, “The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”

The apostle Paul preached in the synagogues on the Sabbath days and not the first day of the week:

Acts 13:42-44 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴²So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.⁴³ Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.

There is no mention of the first day of the week in this passage of Scripture. Teaching the word of God was done on the Sabbath day. So why do many congregate on the first day of the week claiming that the Sabbath has been changed to the first day of the week? There is no passage of Scripture that stipulates that change. The disciples of the early church in Jerusalem and Judea met on the first day of the week to break bread.

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Acts 20:7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

And

Acts 2:42-47 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

There is no mention of the fact that the Sabbath day had been moved to the first day of the week. It remained the seventh day. Why are so many being deceived to believe that the Lord's Sabbath day is now the first day of the week? The early church observed the Sabbath day, which begins at sundown on Friday through to sundown on Saturday, the last day of the week. These people met on the first day of the week to eat and fellowship together. In some areas, they could not freely attend the synagogues because of persecution. These meetings were not in replacement of the command to rest on the Sabbath day, but to fellowship with like-minded believers sharing the word of God in order to grow, because the Bible was not freely available as it is today.

You will realise if you are not one of them, that the majority of all those who believe the Sabbath is the first day of the week, which we know is Sunday, also observe Easter and Christmas. But when you carry out a diligent search of the Holy Scriptures, you will not come across the observance of Easter and Christmas because these days have nothing to do with the God who created the heavens and the earth.

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Leviticus 23:1-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.

³Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

⁴‘These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. ⁵On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD’s Passover. ⁶And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. ⁷On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. ⁸But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.’ ”

The book of Leviticus chapter twenty three outlines in detail the Lord’s Sabbaths. These are the feast days the Lord has ordained, and we have been commanded to keep them. As you can see clearly, the feast days that are observed in the world today, are not included in this chapter. These Sabbath days underpin the different stages of the salvation plan of God which are also a sign between God and His people. Observing any other feast day will keep you from understanding the truth.

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Chapter Three

WHEN DID GOD GIVE HIS LAWS AND COMMANDMENTS?

We are the inhabitants of a world created by a God who has chosen to remain invisible to us during this age. It is critical for us to collectively and personally understand that God is a Spirit and He seeks those who must worship Him in spirit and truth. We must first acquire the Spirit of God, which will empower us to be able to worship in spirit and truth. The laws and commandments of God are all spiritual. We cannot see these laws and commandments, just as we cannot see God, but we know they exist. Faith, for example, is totally spiritual. We cannot see faith, but when we believe, we begin to see the effects of faith in our lives openly. What we hope for begins to manifest physically, such as answered prayers. A very simple example of how we exercise faith daily is this: if we do not believe a chair can carry our weight, we will surely not use it. Many will not acknowledge it, but that is faith in its simplest form in action. Do we see it? No, but we employ it.

When God created mankind on earth, both male and female, He gave them a command to multiply and subdue the earth. That is the first recorded commandment of God:

Genesis 1:26-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

²⁹ And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰ Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. ³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

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Everything that God created during the first five days was good, but when He created man on the earth on the sixth day, it was very good and that was the pinnacle of God's creation. We have to notice the fact that God gave man a command from the very first day He created man. This was the commandment, to be fruitful, and multiply. Man was also given the task to subdue the earth and to have dominion over the rest of what God had created on earth. These commandments were not given to just Adam and Eve, but to the rest of those who God had created. If you are of the opinion that God created just Adam and Eve at the beginning, you have to reconsider the above passage of Scripture because it was through searching amongst the other females that God had created, but could not find a suitable companion for Adam, not from amongst the animals and birds.

When we consider Adam, we will realise that Adam was given a special duty. God had created Adam to be the ruler over the rest of the people He had created, both male and female. Adam was given the knowledge and authority to rule over the entire earth. If Adam was not custodian of the earth, why would his fall affect every living thing on earth?

It is of utmost importance that we realise the Bible does not give us every single detail of what happened at the beginning. However, it gives hints of what took place. As our understanding is being opened to the truth, we begin to clearly see what is hidden behind these hints. What is profound, but yet simplistic, is the fact that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. What happened in the beginning is what God commanded the children of Israel to do, and the same instructions will go forth throughout the entire earth from Mount Zion in the generations to come. Here is proof.

When God created Adam, He made him ruler over His creation and gave him the Garden of Eden from which he was to rule over the entire earth.

Genesis 2:8-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

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We have seen in Genesis chapter one that God created mankind, both male and female. Here, after God had planted a garden in Eden, He put a man that He had created in the garden. In this garden, the man had two options presented to him: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We have to understand that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is not all evil; there is some good attached to it, but it is predominantly evil. This mixture is very subtle, this is the reason why it is so difficult to differentiate between the two today, if your eyes have not been opened to the ways of the Lord. The outcome of our lives depends on the choices we make.

Moreover, when God put the man He had created in the garden, He gave him power, authority, wisdom, understanding and knowledge to rule over the earth from the Garden of Eden; God also presented him with an alternative. There was no need to present the tree of life to Adam because He was fully aware and was walking according to the laws and commandments of God because he already knew what was right by the Spirit of God that dwelled in him.

Genesis 2:15-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

The Lord God commanded Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, warning him that, in that day he shall surely die. It is clear Adam had the power to protect the rest of the people God had created. That command was not extended to them but through Adam they would live or die because their lives were spiritually attached to Adam as in a marriage; two people, a male and a female become one before God. What is the cause of death to us today? We now know the wages of sin is death.

Romans 6:21-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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From the above passage of Scripture, you can see the striking similarity in the role Adam played during that period of time to that of the Lord Jesus Christ today.

Eternal life for everyone alive today is totally fastened in the Lord Jesus Christ. What is sin? Sin is the transgression of the laws and commandments of God.

1 John 3:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

In effect, the laws and commandments of God are locked in the tree of life and the practice of lawlessness is locked in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan enticed Adam through Eve to disobey the commandments of God. Adam himself wanted to eat of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. God already knew of this. That is why God had provided atonement for sin before He even created the heavens and the earth.

God gave Adam and Eve and everyone He had created from the beginning the will to freely choose between His way of life, which is in righteousness, and an alternative to His way, which is in disobedience to His laws and commandments. But why? One of the many reasons is because God wanted to create man in His likeness, which includes the free will to make his own choices and to make judgements. Most importantly, God wanted to have a deeper relationship with a man who could interact at a deeper level, not with robots.

So, when did God give humans His laws and commandments? Previously in this chapter we saw that the wages of sin is death. When God warned Adam of the fruits of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God said that if he ate of the fruits of that tree, on that day he shall surely die. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they did not die instantly, but their spiritual death was instant. Physically, death was a gradual process that lasted, in the case of Adam, more than nine hundred years.

Death is the outcome, the fruits of transgression. When we disobey God's laws and commandments, the consequence for our actions is death. When we seriously consider the cause of death, which came into the world at the very beginning, we can clearly see that God gave Adam His laws and commandments at the very beginning. The laws and commandments of God are all in righteousness. In other words, the righteousness of God is locked in His laws and commandments. Adam disobeyed the commandment that God had

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given him and on that day, he died spiritually, but not physically. Adam was created to live forever.

What commandments did God give Adam? We know of the command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There is an important passage of Scripture which has been overlooked by many and it carries profound implication to the whole of creation. We cannot even begin to imagine the importance of this passage of Scripture:

Genesis 2:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ²And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

This is the very first covenant God made with man. After completing His work on the earth on the sixth days, God rested on the seventh day. God made the seventh day holy and sanctified it, setting it apart from all the other days, and rested. We are to rest on the seventh day, just as our Creator rested. God is merciful but there is a limit to His mercy. Disobedience to His laws and commandments is that limit. Is there a penalty for the violation of the command to keep the Sabbath day? Consider this passage of Scripture:

Numbers 15:32-36 New King James Version (NKJV)

³²Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. ³³And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation. ³⁴They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him.

³⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp." ³⁶So, as the LORD commanded Moses, all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him with stones, and he died.

The children of Israel were given the command to keep the Sabbath day holy. On the first Sabbath after the Lord had issued the Sabbath commandment through His servant Moses, they went out to gather manna but found none. The Lord had instructed them not to do any work on the Sabbath day. On this particular Sabbath, a man went out to gather sticks. The Lord commanded the whole congregation to stone him to death.

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In the first three chapters of the Holy Scripture, the Lord our God has made us aware of a few of His commandments. What He expects of us:

- The command to be fruitful and fill the earth.
- The command to subdue the earth.
- The command to have dominion over the rest of His creation.
- The command to keep the Sabbath day holy.
- The command of the institution of marriage.

There is an important command that has been missed by the majority of us, that came into effect after Adam and Eve fell in the Garden of Eden: the sacrifice for the remission of sins. Remember sin is the transgression of the laws and commandments of God:

Genesis 3:20-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

We should be aware of the fact that it was God who made the very first sacrifice. The skin of the animal was to cover their shame of being naked and the blood of the animal was for the remission of their sins. This is the same command of the sacrifice for the remission of sins that Cain and Abel had to perform in subsequent years:

Genesis 4:3-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

Abel obeyed the commandment of God diligently, but Cain on the other hand did according to his own will, disobeying the commandment of God. What God said to Cain carries profound evidence that the laws and commandments, which the Lord our God gave His

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servant Moses for the children of Israel, were given to Adam at the very beginning as God's guide to life on earth.

The Lord said to Cain that if he had obeyed what he was instructed to do, then he would have been accepted. This is critical for us today, the generation of the end of age. The Lord said to Cain and to us today that if we do not obey what He has commanded, sin lies at the door, but we can overcome it. If there were no laws and commandments, there would also be no sin.

Romans 5:12-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, just as through one man's sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— ¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

The only one who has not sinned like Adam since the beginning is the Lord Jesus Christ. As you can now see, where there is no law and commandments, there is no sin. But sin was in the world before the Lord gave His law to the children of Israel. If sin was in the world, as we know sin is the transgression of the law, this therefore means there was a law at the very beginning for sin to have existed, just as the Lord said sin waits at the door if we do not do well. Job, the servant of God, knew the requirements for the remission of sins and he sacrificed to the Lord to that effect:

Job 1:4-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.

Job was before Abraham, the friend of God. Job, like Abel, was a righteous man who feared and served God. He knew the commandments of God concerning sin, which is why he offered burnt offerings to God to that effect for himself and his children. Would you not be led to believe that there was a law in place that could be transgressed?

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What then should we say? It is obvious that when God created man on earth, He also gave man His laws and commandments, precepts and statutes to act as a safeguard to life on earth. Today we have been blessed with the manual of life, the Bible, which is no different to what God gave those who lived at the very beginning during the days of Adam and Eve. God is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever.

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Chapter Four

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

We live in an age in which almost everything we buy comes with a label and instructions on how to use it and what not to do with it. Our packaged food come with a use by or sell by date. All these instructions are there to protect the producers and manufacturers and, to some degree, the consumer. If we do not follow these instructions and something happens, it is certain the consumer will not be compensated.

Every organisation in the world today has a constitution and laws in place to govern its stakeholders. The nations of the world all have their constitutions and laws to govern their inhabitants. Many bodies have been established in every nation of the world to police these laws and if any one of the inhabitants or visitors should be caught transgressing any these laws, they will in some cases be incarcerated for a period of time depending on the gravity of their crime.

What about the kingdom of God from which the world was created? We have to seriously contemplate the fact that if the nations of the world have laws that govern their inhabitants, would you not say that the kingdom of God, from which everything, living or not stems, would have its own laws that govern anyone connected to it? Moreover, if the least of our gadgets come with instructions on how to work them, would you hold on to the fact that the kingdom of God which created life has no instruction on how we should live? If the kingdom of God had no laws and commandments, then how can Satan, who God has said He created perfectly, become a fallen angel? Consider this passage of Scripture:

Ezekiel 28:11-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ¹²“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD:

“You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.

¹⁴ “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy

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mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

¹⁶ “By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, and you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. ¹⁷ “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you. ¹⁸ “You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. ¹⁹ All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, and shall be no more forever.”

Satan is the seal of perfection of God’s creation. Today, the majority of professing believers are under the impression that Satan is as weak as men and can be kicked around like a ball, not realising that Satan is a very powerful angelic being, one of three who is full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. He corrupted his beauty and wisdom when he sinned against God. Sin is the transgression of the laws and commandments of God. Satan disobeyed the laws and commandments of God in heaven. This therefore means in heaven, there are laws and commandments that the angels must adhere to at all times. So, are there laws and commandments issued by God that should be kept here on earth? There are. Now consider the following.

The life we live is limited by death, but God created man to live forever. The Lord Jesus Christ came on earth and established a path of life that leads to the kingdom of God where there is everlasting life. This is the life God created for man. It is critical for us to understand that the Lord Jesus Christ will return on earth at the appointed time to establish the kingdom of God on earth and God himself will come from heaven to abide with man here on earth, not in heaven as many are being led to believe. When the Lord Jesus Christ was asked what good thing one must do to have eternal life in the kingdom of God, He said:

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Matthew 19:16-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

¹⁷ So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

¹⁸ He said to Him, "Which ones?"

Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' ¹⁹ 'Honour your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' "

²⁰ The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"

²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

The prerequisite for us to enter into the kingdom of God which has eternal life is that we keep the commandments of God. We cannot be selective on which commandments we keep. It is about the commandments. The Lord Jesus Christ went on to name the last six of the Ten Commandments.

When the Lord Jesus Christ was asked by the Pharisees which is the greatest commandment in the law, the Lord answered to this effect:

Matthew 22:36-40 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

³⁷ Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

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The Ten Commandments are divided into two parts. The first four commandments govern our behaviour towards God and the last six govern our behaviour towards our fellow men. Effectively, if we combine the greatest commandment according to the Lord Jesus Christ and what He said was the requirement to enter into eternal life, we get the Ten Commandments. The apostle James was inspired to write:

James 2:11-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

We can see here that the apostle James was addressing the Ten Commandments which he called the royal law of liberty. Keeping the royal law of liberty will keep us from the judgement to come. This is the law of God: the Ten Commandments that cover every other law and commandment that God has given; that is the reason the Lord said in the previous passage of Scripture that in the Ten Commandments hang all the books of Moses, the first five books of the Bible and those of the prophets.

This was the law that was given to Adam by the Lord to teach the rest of the people that God had created, which means it was there from the beginning. The Ten Commandments cannot be separated. It was given as a unit which includes the command to keep the Sabbath day holy. If the command to keep the Sabbath, as we have seen earlier in this study, was given at the very beginning to Adam, it therefore means the rest of the Ten Commandments were also given to Adam as the constitution of the kingdom of God. Moreover, it was the Lord who wrote with His finger on the tablets of stone on the mountain, not Moses:

Deuteronomy 9:9-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹When I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. ¹⁰Then the LORD delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly. ¹¹And it

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came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

It has always been the laws and commandments of God, not of Moses. The commandments are the instructions that govern life on earth. Today, we live in a world full of evil because the commandments that govern life are disregarded so people can keep the traditions of the fathers before them. What they fail to realise is that there are consequences for transgressing the commandments of God.

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Chapter Five

THE LAW OF FAITH

Faith is the fundamental law that governs life in both the heavens and on earth. This law can only be expressed towards God our Creator. Breaking this law carries severe consequences because faith is the vital link between life on earth and the kingdom of God, but the majority of professing believers are ignorant of the existence and profound importance of the law of faith. On earth, faith is the only foundation on which we can build the things concerning the kingdom of God. The question we must ask ourselves is, do we have the faith required to empower us to be able to see and eventually enter the kingdom of God? We could be in a position to keep every other law and commandment the Lord our God has given us perfectly, but if we do not keep the law of faith, we are surely going to miss out on the opportunity to see and eventually enter the kingdom of God. Faith is vital for life.

We have all been given a measure of faith to support life on earth. Consider this fact: if we do not have a basic belief that something is possible, we will never have the confidence to do that thing. Take flying in an aeroplane as an example; if we do not believe an aeroplane can fly through the sky, we will never attempt to use one as a means of travel. The fear of flying might be cited as a reason, but the root cause of that fear is the lack of faith, the belief that an aeroplane is able to take us to our destination without dropping out of the sky. Faith dominates our lives, but the most of us are ignorant of its power. Man has been given tremendous abilities, only if we could harness the power of faith, but we all limit ourselves by living in doubt and fear. Our lack of confidence in our own ability stems from the lack of faith, the basic belief that we can do something.

THE LAWS AND COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, THE TRUTH

MISCONCEPTIONS OF FAITH

The true meaning of the word faith has been hidden from the world since the days of Adam and Eve because the god of this present age, Satan the devil, knows the power of faith and who faith is directed at. Satan has the power to keep us, the inhabitants of the earth, from understanding the true meaning of faith by inventing a variety of different meanings to something that underpins our relationship with God, the Father of all creation. Today, some take faith to be:

THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

God made man perfect, but man has created many things to keep him from God. Religion and denominations are all man's fabrications to keep him from the truth, or rather not to do what we have been commanded to do. Some profess to be a person of faith, citing a denomination, be it Catholic, Protestant, Presbyterian, Baptist and many others. Some say they are Christians, Hindus, Muslims or many of the other religious beliefs of the world, calling themselves people of faith. Is God the author of confusion? Is it not our ignorance and laziness that keeps us from the truth because we cannot be bothered to spend our time seeking the truth? Not every religion in the world will lead us to the kingdom of heaven, but the one created by the Lord Jesus Christ and He is the head. You will find the Lord is in none of the above mentioned denominations and religions because they do not keep the laws and commandments of God. Secondly, they do not have the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ which comes from the Spirit of God.

POSITIVE THINKING

Can faith ever be positive thinking? If someone is determined to succeed in an undertaking with a positive attitude, the outcome will be as planned. Certainly, their determination will drive them to success but could that be classified as faith? The simple answer to this question is no, because positive thinking and determination is rooted in our own ability and it involves a lot of our own physical ability and input. Faith on the other hand is dealing with God's promises and involves what we do not see. We have no effect on the outcome because faith is spiritual.

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NAME AND CLAIM

There is a fraction of professing Christians who hold the tradition of naming and claiming something, which in most cases does not involve a promise of God and is not according to His will. The majority of what these people name and claim is after their own lusts because it is all based on material things. Assuredly, the God who created all things has also given us His truth, in the Holy Scriptures. He is not a name and claim God. He is a God of integrity who rewards those who diligently seek Him. Our God has a plan for us all. Naming and claiming is of the flesh but the faith that underpins life on earth, which is also required to be able to see and enter the kingdom of God, comes from the Spirit of God that dwells in and shadows the believer.

TANGIBLE FEELING

Faith is not a tangible feeling, as some are being led to believe. On a daily basis, when we awake in the morning, we can tell exactly how we feel even before we get out of the bedroom. If we are upbeat because we have had a good night's sleep, we feel more positive and confident in ourselves. True faith is not that tangible feeling of being positive and confident. The personal mysterious feeling, unique to each person, that is attached to our emotions is certainly not faith. True faith is a spiritual component of the life of a true believer which empowers them daily. It comes alive in most cases at the lowest point of the life of the believer.

CONFIDENCE AND HOPE

If faith was hope or confidence, then the Bible would not have named them separately. Our confidence is critical to our lives because it gives us the ability to be able to physically perform at a certain level of life to express our abilities and talents. Hope on the other hand is a desire of things that we do not currently have in our possession. Faith on the other hand is underpins our hope and confidence.

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WHAT IS FAITH?

When the Lord Jesus Christ walked the land of Judea, the majority of His teachings were remarkably based on faith. It is astonishing that the most of those who profess to believe in the Lord have not come to the revelation of the importance and the actual meaning of faith. What then is faith and where can we get God's definition of faith? The dictionary only gives part of the true meaning of faith based on man's perception of the meaning of faith. This is God's definition of faith:

Hebrews 11:1 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

From the above definition from the Holy Scriptures, we can clearly see that faith is the substance of the things we hope for and it is also the evidence of the things we have not yet seen. If we do not yet have what we desire in our possession, it remains a hope. Faith is the substance that underpins our hope. Moreover, faith is also the evidence of the things we have not seen.

We all have a certain measure of belief, which is the first part of faith, but the part that really matters is the evidence which empowers our belief. Faith, in other words, has two facets. The first facet, which is the substance, is our belief in what we hope for concerning the promises of God. The second facet of faith, the evidence, depends on the power that works in us. These two facets must work together for our hope to manifest. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Matthew 14:28-33 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁸And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

³¹And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

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From the above passage of Scripture, you can see the apostle Peter believed that, if the Lord commanded, he would be able to walk on water. At this stage, both the substance and evidence were present. The evidence was the power that is working in the Lord, which Peter was trusting in. When there was a power shift from the Lord to doubt, because of the gravity of the situation, Peter began to sink. In the above passage of Scripture, the evidence was the presence of the Lord. Today we do not have the physical presence of the Lord to base our trust in, but we have been given the Spirit of God which is the same as the presence of the Lord.

Ephesians 3:20-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

As you can clearly see, it depends on the power, which is the evidence that is at work in us. We might believe, but if the second facet of faith, the evidence, is missing, faith will not manifest. However, both facets may be present, but the Lord will always do according to His will. We do not have to go far to learn about the power that works against faith. We saw with Peter that doubt was the power that prevented him from walking to the Lord. There is another power that is prevalent amongst the Body of Christ.

Mark 9:18-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

¹⁹ He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." ²⁰ Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

²¹ So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²² And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

²³ Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

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²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

From the above account, it is evident that the father of the child believed that the Lord and His disciples were able to cast out the spirit that was trying to destroy his child. He was also aware that there was a powerful force that was working against his belief. That force, as he said, is unbelief. We might believe, but if the force working in us, which we know is unbelief, is greater, then our faith will be non-existent. It is documented in the Holy Scriptures that even the Lord, who had the full measure of faith, could not carry out His great works in certain places due to the unbelief of the inhabitants of those places.

Without the Spirit of God dwelling in the believer, it is impossible to have the faith that is pleasing to God. There are two reasons why this is so. The first is because faith is a fruit of the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-26 New King James Version (NKJV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

The fruit of a plant is the goodness of that plant. When we have and nourish the Spirit of God that dwells in us with the correct food, which is every word of God, the evidence of the Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit, will start manifesting in our lives and faith is one of its fruit. Secondly, faith is a gift of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: ² You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the

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same Spirit,⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Every believer who has the Spirit of God has been given a measure of faith. God will give those who He has chosen for a particular office according to His will, an extra measure of faith to carry out His will. It is critical that we have the Spirit of God dwelling in us. The question we must ask ourselves is how do we acquire the Spirit of God?

Many have invented different ways by which a believer can acquire the Spirit of God, failing to realise that the Spirit of God is a gift God gives to those who have obeyed His commandment to repent. There is only one way prescribed in the Holy Scripture that directs the believer on how to acquire the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

This is the only way by which we can acquire the Holy Spirit. If we do not repent, God will not give us His Spirit. This is because we have all broken the laws and commandments of God. When we go to God and acknowledge the fact that we have broken His laws and commandments, and we are sincere in our hearts that we have fallen short of the glory of God, God will justify us and then give us His Spirit to empower us to be able to keep His laws and commandments. When we are justified, we must start living by faith as it is said in many places in the Holy Scriptures that:

Hebrews 10:38 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

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It is the Spirit of God that empowers us to be able to worship God the Father in spirit and truth. Without the Spirit of God dwelling in us, we can never live by the faith which is pleasing to God.

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Chapter Six

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST DID NOT DESTROY THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

When we come to some understanding of the New Testament, we begin to see evidence that the Lord did not come to destroy the law and the prophets, which are the books Moses wrote, and the books of the prophets. There is plenty of compelling evidence that confirms the fact that what is written in the books of Moses and the prophets is more binding to us today than to any of the previous generations, since we are the generation of people to witness the End of this Age. Many scholars have interpreted this passage of Scripture as the Lord came to fulfil the law and the prophets and we do not have to keep them anymore because we are under grace, but what is grace? The New Testament has a lot more commandments than many have realised.

Matthew 5:17-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."

Has the Lord fulfilled everything that is written in the books of the law and the prophets? The answer is no. Ironically, which also shows just how short-sighted we all are, the next few verses and the rest of that chapter points to an undisputable fact that the books of the law and the prophets are of uttermost importance to us. Immediately after the Lord said He has not come to destroy the Law or the Prophets, the Lord added that if any of us should break the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same; they will not be called into the kingdom of God.

Matthew 5:19-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

THE LAWS AND COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, THE TRUTH

Would you consider the above passage of Scripture to be interpreted that the laws and commandments of God have been fulfilled? Our righteousness must be of the kingdom of God, and not according to the commandments and precepts of men. The Lord came to magnify the laws and commandments of God. This was a prophecy that came through the prophet Isaiah when he was inspired to write:

Isaiah 42:21 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will exalt the law and make it honourable.

The law and the prophets were perfected by the Lord Jesus Christ. He made them more binding, that is why He went on to explain in the rest of the book of Matthew chapter five what He meant:

Matthew 5:21-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

We don't have to physically commit murder for it to be considered a sin. Today, if we should ponder it in our hearts for more than it is required; it is considered sin because our hearts are the womb of our actions. The Lord also explained this fact when He said:

Mark 7:17-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. ¹⁸ So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" ²⁰ And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

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This is the reason why every believer who has repented of their sins and has been justified by God is circumcised in the heart by the Lord. We have to be clear on the fact that it has nothing to do with men. It is the Lord who does His work, which is all spiritual and cannot be seen with the naked eye, but the outward physical evidence of His work will eventually manifest as the fruits of the Spirit of God.

Romans 2:28-29 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; ²⁹ but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

We must come to the understanding that God is a Spirit and He seeks those who must worship Him in spirit and truth:

John 4:23-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

It is the free gift of the Spirit of God which is given to the believer after the process of repentance that empowers the believer to be able to worship God the Father in spirit and truth. The gift of the Spirit of God is for obedience to His laws and commandments because we now know the carnal mind is enmity to God and can never be subject to His laws and commandments.

Acts 5:30-32 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹ Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

One of the reasons the Lord gives those who have repented His Spirit is to empower them to be able to keep His laws and commandments. There is something we have not yet addressed but has been misinterpreted by many scholars. What did the Lord come to fulfil if He did not come to destroy the law and the prophets? Consider these passages of Scripture:

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Psalm 22:16-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; ¹⁷I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. ¹⁸They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

The Lord gave this prophecy of the events on that famous day when the Passover Lamb was killed through His servant David for us to understand today that the will of God will be done on earth as He has desired. This was fulfilled on the day the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified for the sins of the world.

Matthew 27:33-35 New King James Version (NKJV)

³³And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, ³⁴they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

³⁵Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, the Lord gave us an outline of the duties He would perform on earth during the period of time He would walk the earth as the Messiah:

Isaiah 61:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,"

This passage of Scripture was fulfilled when the Lord read from the book of Isaiah in Nazareth declaring the duties of His ministry:

Luke 4:17-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

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¹⁸ “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

This next passage of Scripture depicts the duties of the High Priest, which Moses the servant of God gave the children of Israel to perform as a foreshadow of what was to come, and was fulfilled to perfection on that day:

Leviticus 16:17-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel. ¹⁸ And he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD, and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. ¹⁹ Then he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, cleanse it, and consecrate it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

²⁰ “And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat. ²¹ Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. ²² The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

This was the reason why Barabbas had to be set free and the Lord, who was the Lamb of God, was crucified for the sins of the children of Israel and the suitable man carrying the goat into the wilderness was Simon, a Cyrenian:

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Luke 23:13-26 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, ¹⁴ said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; ¹⁵ no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. ¹⁶ I will therefore chastise Him and release Him" ¹⁷ (for it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast).

¹⁸ And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas"-
¹⁹ who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder.

²⁰ Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. ²¹ But they shouted, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

²² Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go."

²³ But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested. ²⁵ And he released to them the one they requested, who for rebellion and murder had been thrown into prison; but he delivered Jesus to their will.

²⁶ Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus.

We have now examined a few prophecies from the Old Testament and have seen their fulfilment in the New Testament. Since the Bible interprets itself, this is what the Lord has said about what He meant by the phrase, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."

Luke 24:44-48 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

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⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things.

The Lord came to fulfill what was written about Him in the books of the law and the prophets. This, therefore, means that what has been written in the books of the law and the prophets is just as important to us today as what is written in the New Testament. We must seek understanding of the complete word of God.

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Chapter Seven

DO WE HAVE TO KEEP THE LAWS AND COMMANDMENTS OF GOD TODAY?

The essence of this age is to qualify us for the ages to come and the trials and tribulations of this age started at the very beginning with Adam and Eve. Adam was given a commandment including the consequences of breaking that commandment. Adam did not endure his trial and broke the commandment God had given him and as a result, death entered the world. Breaking any of God's laws and commandments is sin. With that in mind, what would you say is the answer to this question: do we have to keep God's laws and commandments today?

The majority of people in the world today do not believe in the fact that God created the heavens and the earth. Some profess to believe but their actions suggest otherwise. If we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who did not sin, should we not be following His example of living a perfect life as He did? We must remember that God has promised to give us His Spirit, the same Spirit that empowered the Lord Jesus Christ to keep all of God's laws and commandments. There is something profound, which most of us have not come to realise that, it all comes down to a matter of choice. We must choose to keep the laws and commandments of God.

Today, we live in a period of time in which the knowledge of the true God has systematically been eroded from the world and has been replaced with lies. But the reality is, the true God is very close by as He has always been, but we must diligently seek Him. The Lord Jesus Christ said:

Matthew 6:32-34 New King James Version (NKJV)

³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

This is the meaning of why we are alive in this age. Regardless of who we are and what we do, we are to seek first the kingdom of God, and most importantly His righteousness. When

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we do that, God has promised to provide for all our needs. But what is the righteousness of the kingdom of God? That is the subject of this chapter.

The righteousness of God is two-fold. Firstly, we must be justified in the sight of God, without which everything we do is in vain. To be justified in the sight of God, we must repent of our sins, be baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and be converted into the kingdom of God. This is a spiritual process which God performs but it involves our input which is the same for everyone. We must acknowledge the fact that we have broken God's laws and commandments and go before God in prayer and supplication, confessing our sins. Secondly, we have to be physically immersed under water in baptism. Thereafter, we must study the word of God to gain understanding of what God has said and apply His laws and commandments to our lives. The application of the laws and commandments of God to our lives is the works of righteousness. Consider this passage of Scripture:

James 1:22-25 New King James Version (NKJV)

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

The perfect law of liberty is the Ten Commandments and this passage of Scripture is from the New Testament. The Ten Commandments is the constitution of the kingdom of God. All those who have been converted into the kingdom of God must abide by the perfect law of liberty.

We must seriously consider why we have to repent in the first place. The reason for repentance is because we have all fallen short of the glory of God, we have transgressed or rather broken the laws and commandments of God, which is sin.

Romans 3:20-26 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in

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Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

As mentioned earlier, the only path prescribed to us to be justified in the sight of God the Father is through repentance, which is by faith. The Lord our God will then cleanse us of our past sins with the blood of Jesus Christ, who died for our sins according to the above passage of Scripture. This is the starting point of salvation for anyone on earth. So, if God the Father washes all our past sins with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ at repentance, do we then continue to break the laws and commandments of God that led us to repentance in the first place?

Romans 6:1-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of

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righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

It is the knowledge of the truth that sets us free. When we come to the understanding of the gravity of sin which is death, and sin is the disobedience of the laws and commandments of God, surely, we have to renew our minds to walk in obedience to the laws and commandments of God. For this reason, the apostle Paul was inspired to write:

Romans 3:29-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁹ Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, ³⁰ since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

God the Father is not the God of the Jews only, which means His laws and commandments are not for the Jews only, but for everyone who has been justified by faith or through faith in His sight. So, can we say the laws and commandments of God the Father are not for us today? God forbid! What should we do when we come to this understanding? We should establish the laws and commandments of God in our lives by becoming doers of the law not hearers only. In essence, we should keep the laws and commandments of our God. The Lord Jesus Christ said:

John 14:12-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

From the above passage of Scripture, we can clearly see that whatever we ask the Lord in prayer and the free gift of the Spirit of God hinges on our love for the Lord Jesus Christ and our obedience to the laws and commandments of God. If we do not set our minds to be

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obedient to the laws and commandments of God, we will not be able to love the Lord in truth because we will not do as He has asked us.

Luke 6:45-49 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

⁴⁶ "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? ⁴⁷ Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. ⁴⁹ But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

If we do not keep the laws and commandments of God, we will be building on sand which will not stand on the day of adversity. Moreover, if we do not keep the laws and commandments of God, it means we do not know the Lord and the truth is not in us.

1 John 2:3-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

It is the keeping of the laws and commandments of God that renders us perfect and it is what differentiates those who are the true believers of God from those who only profess to believe and do their own thing. It does not matter in what state we have been called into the kingdom of God. What matters is the keeping of the commandments of God after repentance:

1 Corinthians 7:17-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not

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become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised.¹⁹ Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.

The Lord Jesus Christ, our master, kept the laws and commandments of God perfectly, which qualified Him as the Lamb of God without blemish. His apostles also kept the laws and commandments of God. Today we are to follow their examples. It is our lack of understanding of the Holy Scriptures that leads us to believe otherwise. Some with little understanding of the books of Romans, Colossians and Galatians have led many to believe we do not have to keep the laws and commandments of God. These books are addressing specific issues that we all try to use as excuses to justify our disobedience to the laws and commandments of God because we want to continue in our own lusts. Justification is by faith, but thereafter we must start keeping the laws and commandments of God. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Ephesians 5:1-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ²And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

³But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Is the above passage of Scripture not describing the laws and commandments that have the power to keep us from the kingdom of God? So, would you be led to believe that we do not have to keep the laws and commandments of God? We have all been children once; some are today. Contemplate this passage of Scripture:

Ephesians 6:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honour your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³“that it may be well with you and

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you may live long on the earth.”⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Is this passage of Scripture not describing the fifth of the Ten Commandments? Have we not been commanded by the Lord to be obedient to our parents in the Lord? Moreover, if we have been told by the Lord that in the ages to come, every nation will have to go to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, would not common sense tell us it is important today?

Zechariah 14:16-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁷And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. ¹⁸If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁹This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

This is a prophecy which will be fulfilled during the thousand years reign of the Lord Jesus Christ here on earth with His Saints. The laws and commandments of God will be kept perfectly by all nations and families upon the earth. It is imperative that we keep the laws and commandments of God today.

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Chapter Eight

THE BENEFITS OF KEEPING THE LAWS AND COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

To begin this chapter, it is critical to ask ourselves a few weighty questions such as what is the most important thing in our lives? What are we willing to give for our lives? If we are presented with an opportunity to give something in our possession for our lives, what would we give? But then, if we are destined to die because the wages of sin is death, what would it benefit us if we were to gain the whole world but lose our souls at the end?

If we seriously consider life during this age, contemplating the way things have been set, we will come to the revelation that things have been set up with the aim to confuse and keep us from the truth. We have been given plenty of choices, but we must choose wisely. If we have many teachers, teaching us the same subject in different ways, styles and books, there is a possibility that we are going to be confused at the end.

God has promised to teach us His ways Himself. All we have to do is dedicate the time and effort and everything we need to know about the kingdom of God will be opened to our understanding. But it starts at a given point in time and our mindset. Our willingness to be obedient and to follow instructions is the foundation on which we can gain valuable knowledge of the kingdom of God.

Psalm 119:9-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. ¹⁰With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! ¹¹Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

¹²Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. ¹³With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. ¹⁴I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. ¹⁵I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. ¹⁶I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

The first paragraph of the above passage of Scripture gives us the prescribed way God has given to cleanse our way before Him. It cannot have been made any clearer to our understanding. We have to stop breaking God's laws and commandments. It is that simple

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and straightforward. Thereafter, we must follow the instructions that has been given in the second paragraph, which is the application of the laws, commandments, precepts, statutes and judgments of God. So, what would you say are the rewards for keeping God's laws and commandments?

Matthew 19:16-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" ¹⁷ So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

¹⁸ He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' ¹⁹ 'Honour your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'"

²⁰ The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

The fundamental foundation to enter into eternal life is to keep the commandments of God. Many will ask, what commandments? The Lord Jesus Christ outlined the Ten Commandments as the key to life by naming a few of the commandments in the above passage of Scripture. It is not impossible to keep the laws and commandments of God as some have been led to believe. When we repent of all our past sins, God has promised to give us His Spirit to empower us to be able to keep His laws and commandments.

Acts 2:38-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

The benefit of the Spirit of God is the key to everything that God has promised. Life, the way God has prescribed, starts with acquiring the Spirit of God. The first benefit of many is the fact that we will be counted worthy of eternal life:

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Ephesians 1:13-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

The gift of the Spirit of God is our guarantee to eternal life, if we do not turn from following the path of righteousness until the end. This stems from the fact that we have chosen to turn away from the path of children of disobedience to start walking in obedience to the laws and commandments of God, hence, the guarantee of eternal life.

Another profound importance of obeying the laws and commandments of God is that our sins will be forgiven. There is a law that stipulates that we must forgive others:

Matthew 6:14-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

If we do not forgive those who have done us wrong, our Father in heaven will not forgive our sins. His command is for us to forgive others regardless of what they have done. The benefit of forgiving others is the fact that we will be forgiven.

Peace is something aligned to the majority of us alive today. Some consider the fact that when they are in a quiet place and are not involved in their daily life, they have peace. On the contrary, those who keep the commandments of God have the peace of God that surpasses all understanding because in the midst of great trials, they will remain in the peace.

Psalms 119:164-168 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶⁴ Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous judgments. ¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble. ¹⁶⁶ LORD, I hope for Your salvation, and I do Your commandments. ¹⁶⁷ My soul keeps Your testimonies, and I love them exceedingly. ¹⁶⁸ I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, for all my ways are before You.

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The world has been set up in a way to cause us to stumble, but those who keep the laws and commandments of God will not stumble because the Lord upholds them. Moreover, the keeping of the laws and commandments of God leads to understanding:

Psalm 111:9-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome is His name. ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

There is an awesome connection between the fear of God, literally, wisdom and understanding. When we fear God, we begin to obey His commandments. That obedience is wisdom. As a result of obedience to the laws and commandments of God, we are given understanding of what God has said. Without obedience no one can gain valuable understanding of what God has said. The Lord will only open the understanding to those who are obedient to His truth.

The key to answered prayers is keeping the laws and commandments of God. If we do not walk in obedience to God, God will not answer our prayers. The Lord made this statement which has been taken out of context by many to mean we just have to ask in Jesus' name and our prayers will be answered. Consider this passage of Scripture:

John 14:12-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹²"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

¹⁵"If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

The above passage of Scripture gives us the profound connection between answered prayer, the Spirit of God and the laws and commandments of God. If we do not start keeping the commandments of God after repentance, there is a distinct possibility we will not receive

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the gift of the Spirit of God and our prayers will not be answered. We must understand that keeping the commandments of God is doing God's will:

John 9:26-34 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶ Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

³⁰ The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvellous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! ³¹ Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. ³² Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. ³³ If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

³⁴ They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

There is a confirmation of this fact that God hears those who do His will, who are walking in obedience to His laws and commandments. When the Lord sent the apostle Peter to Cornelius the centurion, he observed the fact that:

Acts 10:33-35 New King James Version (NKJV)

³³ So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

Whoever fears God and keeps His laws and commandments should rest assured that God hears their prayers. But what is the ultimate benefit of keeping the laws and commandments of God? Consider this passage of Scripture:

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Matthew 7:21 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

The above passage of Scripture is a promise from the Lord Jesus Christ which stipulates that all those who keep God’s laws and commandments in truth will enter the kingdom of God. Our duty is to diligently seek the Lord who will direct our footsteps to keep His laws and commandments.

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Chapter Nine

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT KEEPING THE LAWS AND COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

Retrospectively, since man was created on the earth, has man really evolved? Have human beings developed new character traits that have never existed from the beginning? We live in a world that is constantly changing, at a rate faster than we could ever imagine, for the comfort of life on earth. On the other hand, the social and moral standards of man are decaying at an alarming rate. This is nothing new, but the inhabitants of the earth are blind to what is happening under their very own noses because everyone is after their own vanity, which does not add any value to their lives. Yes, we may have riches, but when we die, we take nothing with us into the grave. All our riches are left for someone else to enjoy. But is that the end?

Most assuredly, it is not the end. There is a time to come when every single soul that has ever lived will be awakened from death to face their Creator. Man was created on earth by God. If you have been led to believe otherwise, then you have been deceived. There are passages of Scripture that address the fact that every soul that has ever existed will be resurrected at an appointed time to face their Creator:

Daniel 12:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

The Lord validated what He had said through the prophet Daniel when He said:

John 5:26-29 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

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The Lord has appointed two separate periods of resurrections in the future. The first will be for all those who have done well. They will be resurrected into life. But those who have done evil will be resurrected into condemnation after they have been judged, which is a consequence of not keeping God's laws and commandments.

Today, one of the many consequences of not keeping the laws and commandments of God is the fact that our prayers will not be answered by God. Whatever we ask the Lord our God it will be in vain:

Proverbs 28:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

The Lord will not hear the prayers of those who are given to wickedness. The question is, what is wickedness? By whose standards do we judge? If we judge by man's standards, we will certainly go astray. That is the reason why the world is in such a sorry state because judgement on standards is done according to the precepts of men.

Proverbs 15:8-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight. ⁹The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who follows righteousness.

As you can see, the way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord. Those who say God's love is unconditional are being deceived because, as the above passage of Scripture stipulates, God loves those who follow after righteousness or rather those who obey His laws and commandments. Moreover, if anyone should break the laws and commandments of God and teach others to do the same, they shall be called least in the kingdom of God. But those who do and teach others to obey the laws and commandments of God shall be called great in the kingdom of God:

Matthew 5:17-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of

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heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

We are the last generation of this present age which will culminate in the wrath of God. Those who have chosen not to obey the laws and commandments of God shall be partakers of the wrath of God.

Colossians 3:5-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

⁸But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

We currently live in the period of time God has appointed to give us all the chance to turn from the above named character traits. At the end of the acceptable year of the Lord, the Lord will punish all those who do not repent of their evil ways during the period of time called the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord has been described as:

Zephaniah 1:14-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. ¹⁵That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers. ¹⁷"I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse."

The reason for the day of the Lord has been given to us in the above passage of Scripture. The day of the Lord will not only come on the heads of men on earth who have sinned against the Lord, but it will fall on the angels also who have disobeyed God's laws and

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commandments. Sin is the transgression of God's laws and commandments. When we sin and do not repent of our sins, we shall surely die. God has said:

Ezekiel 18:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹The word of the LORD came to me again, saying, ²“What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?

³“As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel. ⁴“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die.

Furthermore, the Lord has said He has no pleasure in the death of anyone who sins. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Ezekiel 18:30-32 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore turn and live!”

The house of Israel is composed of the people of God and today, that includes the body of Christ, the church. The Lord our God is literally pleading with us to turn from our sinful ways because He has no pleasure in those who will die at the end. The Lord Jesus Christ reiterated the above passage of Scripture when He said:

Luke 13:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And Jesus answered and said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? ³I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

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We all know there is an appointment we have to keep at some point in our lives and that appointment is with death. Here is the good news. The Lord has promised to resurrect those who are dead at the appointed time. There is an even better promise to some that they will not taste death. But what death is the Lord addressing in the previous passages of Scripture? There is a passage of Scripture from the book of Revelation that explains the fact that the Lord has appointed a time for judgement:

Revelation 20:11-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Seriously consider this fact. It is not the sin that will be cast into the lake of fire but a brother or sister, son or daughter, mother or father, a child or relative, a friend or colleague, who did not repent of their sins:

Revelation 21:6-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

There is an appointed time when the last enemy of God, which is death, will be completely removed from existence. After that there will be no more death because death and all those who did not repent of their sins will be cast into the lake of fire. Those that remain will be able to see the lake of fire:

Isaiah 66:21-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ And I will also take some of them for priests and Levites," says the LORD.

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²² “For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the LORD, “So shall your descendants and your name remain. ²³ And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD.

²⁴ “And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”

There is absolutely no benefit in being disobedient to the laws and commandments of God today. Transgressing God's laws and commandments will lead to the wrath of God in our generation and, at the end, death; but if we should keep and teach others to keep the laws and commandments of God, we will have a place in the first resurrection. We do not want to be part of the second resurrection and the Great White Throne judgement. It may lead to the lake of fire. Take heed that no one deceives you.

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Chapter Ten

BECAUSE WE ARE UNDER GRACE, IS IT RIGHT TO.....

Our understanding of the meaning of the word sin has grave implications on how we perceive the laws and commandments of God. When we come to the knowledge that sin is the transgression of God's laws:

1 John 3:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

This should give us better perspective of what we should be doing. Furthermore, if we have a solid revelation of the true God, our ways and the intention of our hearts will be geared to obey what the Lord has commanded us to do; but our lack of understanding of the meaning of the righteousness of God leads us to believe every wind of doctrine that is being thrown at us. The truth is easy to those with understanding. God is not ambiguous in what He has said, especially with His laws and commandments, but those without understanding have made void the true meaning of the commandments of God and many are blindly following them. Moreover, we do not even need the encouragement of others to lead us astray because our own hearts will gladly do that for us:

Jeremiah 17:9-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? ¹⁰I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

There is a fact of life we all conveniently forget that God, who is able to search our hearts and minds, will at the end repay each one of us according to our works based on His laws and commandments, which is the standard He has set to govern life on earth. But we have all been caught snared by this Proverb:

Proverbs 14:12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹²There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Lack of self-restraint is the way of the world we live in today. The majority of us go about creating our own laws. Everyone believes what they are doing is right and there are those who have been given positions of authority to dismantle the very laws that were put in

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place to guide life on earth. Those with little or no understanding of the truth, because they are slightly more intelligent and wealthier than others, are promoting the disobedience of the laws and commandments of God.

There is a question we must ask ourselves before we can proceed. What is the true meaning of faith and grace as used in the Holy Scriptures? You will find many so called preachers and teachers of the word of God do not have a good understanding of the true meaning of these two words. There are many commandments in the New Testament which we must obey as believers. So, because we are under grace, is it okay not to forgive others who have trespassed against us? But God has said if we do not forgive, He, on the other hand will not forgive us:

Matthew 6:14-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The commandment here is that we forgive, regardless of what has been done. There is no qualification of how great or small the trespass is. We have to just forgive. Because we are under grace, is it okay for someone to have his father's wife, his sister or brother?

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! ²And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

Is this commandment not associated with what God has commanded in the past that sexual immorality should not be named amongst the children of Israel? Are we not the children of Israel?

Leviticus 18:6-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD. ⁷The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness. ⁸The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness. ⁹The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at

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home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover. ¹⁰The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs is your own nakedness. ¹¹The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father - she is your sister - you shall not uncover her nakedness. ¹²You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is near of kin to your father. ¹³You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is near of kin to your mother. ¹⁴You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt. ¹⁵You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law - she is your son's wife - you shall not uncover her nakedness. ¹⁶You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness. ¹⁷You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness. They are near of kin to her. It is wickedness. ¹⁸Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.

The majority of us have broken the commandment not to lie carnally with anyone and our societies today are promoting this sort of lewd behaviour. Because we are under grace, is it okay to esteem those who practice homosexuality? There is a small remnant of people in the world today whose lewd acts are being gratified and many are encouraging these vile practices ignorantly. The practice of homosexuality is something God has called an abomination:

Leviticus 18:19-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity. ²⁰Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbour's wife, to defile yourself with her. ²¹And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. ²²You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. ²³Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.

Isn't it ironic that those who condemn such vile acts are the ones who are being called evil in today's societies? So, because we are under grace, is it okay for children to be disobedient to their parents? This is a commandment which is subtle but carries grave consequences in

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our character as we grow into adulthood, but this commandment is being systematically shredded by many parents who will not teach their children how to respect their elders:

Ephesians 6:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honour your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³“that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” ⁴And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

There is a promise firmly attached to this commandment, but the majority of us are blind to it; in many families in the world today, the children are the parents. God has already said we should not spare the rod of correction if we love our children:

Proverbs 23:13-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. ¹⁴You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.

Correcting our children is pivotal, not just for us, because a well behaved child will have a godly character and will give us peace, but it is the fact that correction will spare the child from the jaws of hell. There is a difference between cruelty and correction. Some people are just evil and do not deserve to be parents. If the parents themselves do not believe in the commandments of God, how can they correct their children? We live in a world that is composed of nations of the blind trying to lead the blind.

Because we are under grace, is it okay for us to kill another human being? Some will try to justify why they should kill, but the command states:

Matthew 5:21-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.

As you can see clearly, the commandment in the Old Testament was that we should not commit the physical act of murder. Today, it has been amplified to be a spiritual entity. Hatred starts in the heart. If it goes uncontrolled, it will develop and empower us to commit

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murder. Because vileness is exalted amongst the sons of man, since the wicked are in positions of authority, this commandment has been flipped on its head to be against the righteous who try to speak against the vile acts of the wicked saying it is hate crime. We should all acknowledge the fact that these wicked acts are not directed towards those who stand up for what is right. It is an act against the One who gave us these laws and commandments, being ignorant of the fact that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Is it okay to be faithless or to be of little faith? Many hundreds of thousands of people profess to believe in a faith or religion which is based on the commandments and precepts of men. Is that what we have been commanded to do? Even those who profess to believe in the true God, who created the heavens and the earth, have little understanding of the power of faith. The command is that all those who have been justified shall live by faith, which implies faith is not a religion or denomination:

Romans 1:15-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

This misunderstanding prevails because of the fact that the majority of professing believers have not come to the revelation that:

Hebrews 11:6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

If without faith, it is impossible to please God, should we not go all out to seek the faith that is pleasing to God? Rest assured that there are just as many laws and commandments in the New Testament as there are in the Old Testament, but we have developed sophisticated ways of reading the Holy Scripture to see only what we want to see and to interpret the truth to suit our little beliefs which do not align with what God has said.

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Chapter Eleven

CONCLUSION

There are some profound concepts of life that are beyond our imagination which we have no control over them regardless of how much we have developed in certain areas. We can travel above the speed of sound and carry our life history in a hand-held terminal, but we can do nothing about the weather that affects our nations. If rain is forecasted for an area in the world, it will come to pass as per the forecast and there is nothing anyone can do about it. Moreover, we had no input on the day we came into this world and it is certain we cannot change the day we will bow out. Some have tried, but if it was not granted by the giver of life, they will not be able to bow out on that day. There is a period of time looming in which men will seek death, but death will flee from them regardless of how hard they try.

Life in this age is about the choices we make. The ability to choose freely, which is intrinsic to our life, has been freely given to each of us as we came into the world to exercise at our pleasure, but it comes with grave consequences. The choices we make will, (not could, but will) lead to life or death, and we have been advised to choose life. Life in this age is for qualification for the ages to come. God did not want to create a people who are like robots, programmed to perform a particular task. God created man in His image, to be just like Himself, creative, able to make decisions, to have emotions, so He can have an intimate relationship with man at the highest possible level.

The ability to freely choose could not be termed free will if there were no alternative, so God gave us an alternative to His way of life. The laws and commandments of God govern God's way of life and it is the guard against all evil:

Psalm 19:7-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

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Understanding the meaning of the above passage of Scripture puts us in a prime position to understand the true purpose of life. We have to understand the laws of the Lord are perfect and in keeping them, we are converted into the kingdom of God. The statutes of the Lord give us joy if we keep them. The commandments of God will enlighten our eyes to the knowledge of good and evil. We are to desire the laws and commandments of the Lord more than gold and silver because:

Psalm 119:97-105 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸ You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me. ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts. ¹⁰¹ I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word. ¹⁰² I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me. ¹⁰³ How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴ Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

If we love God's laws and commandments and keep them, we will certainly have more understanding than the ancients and those who do not keep God's commandments and laws. Moreover, by keeping the laws and commandments of God, we will become wiser than our enemies because it is the laws and commandments of God which act as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We all sing about these truths without understanding and do not apply them to our lives.

So, what do we say then? Are the laws and commandments been made void by the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ and we do not have to keep them today? God forbid! If we say we love God and we know Him, but do not keep His laws and commandments, are we not deceiving ourselves?

1 John 4:20-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

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No one has seen God at any time. So how can we say we love God whom we have not seen but hate our brother or sister whom we see? The laws and commandments of God are not grievous, but our lack of understanding of the true purpose of our lives leads us to believe we are being hard done by, by the laws and commandments of God. The Lord Jesus Christ said for us to enter into life, we should choose to keep the commandments. We have a choice in the matter. No one is forced to keep the commandments. There is a great benefit for keeping the commandments:

1 John 5:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Just as the Lord overcame the world by keeping the commandments of God, all those who keep the laws and commandments of God will also overcome the world.

1 John 2:5-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Why was Abraham called the friend of God? Many of us today say we are the friends of the Lord but the reality is we do not meet the criteria to be called friends of God. Abraham was taught the ways of God perfectly by the Lord Jesus Christ in the person of Melchizedek, king of Salem. We have to remember Abraham was before the days of Moses. Paul was inspired to write:

Hebrews 7:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ²to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” ³without father, without mother, without genealogy, having

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neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

Understanding this passage of Scripture should give us the revelation of who Melchizedek, the king of Salem, is. This therefore means that Abraham was taught the ways of God by the Lord Jesus Christ before He came into the world again to die for the sins of men. But what did the Lord say of Abraham?

Genesis 26:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.

²Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. ³Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; ⁵because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

If Abraham was before Moses and through his seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, we now know the law came through Moses, so, what laws, commandments, statutes, and charge did Abraham keep? Assuredly, Melchizedek taught Abraham the laws, statutes, charge, and commandments of God and because Abraham kept them all, God called him His friend. The prerequisite condition to be called the friend of God is to keep His laws and commandments, just as Abraham did. Moreover, the laws and commandments of God existed in the world even before Abraham because Job who was before Abraham kept them.

One of the wisest men to have ever walked the earth was compelled to experiment life with many projects but called them all vanity. Everything he did was vanity and at one stage he even hated life. But at the end of all his experiments, he came up with this conclusion:

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Ecclesiastes 12:10-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright - words of truth. ¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd. ¹² And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

This is the purpose of life in this age. We have been advised to fear God and obey His laws and commandments because the consequences of not obeying His commandments will lead to death. There is no alternative. Consider what the Lord Jesus Christ has said, who has paid in full for our transgressions of God's commandments:

Matthew 7:21-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

It will be our disobedience to the laws and commandments of God that will keep us from entering the kingdom of God. Today, the laws and commandments of God might be insignificant to the majority of the inhabitants on earth, some even look at it as a profane thing, but it will come to haunt them on that day. Take heed that no one deceives you. It is your free will to decide what to believe. Let the word of truth be your guide.