

Episode #328 We Establish the Law 4: The Ten Commandments

I. There are many different ideas and teachings about the law, and there is a great deal of confusion about it. Many remain in ignorance of what the Bible really says about the law. Paul said in Romans 3:31, "We Establish the Law." With proper teaching, we establish the law in its rightful place. That is what we will be seeking to do through this current series.

II. Last time we saw that Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, made a proposal to help Moses in the wilderness that reveals an important truth: there were tens of thousands of men in Israel who hated covetousness before the ten commandments were ever given. This shows us that there was right and wrong even before the ten commandments. Today, we will study these commandments.

III. Exodus 19. The covenant to be given.

- A. Verse 3. This agreement not for those who are not of the house of Jacob and sons of Israel. No Biblical reason to spread the law out to all men.
- B. Verse 4. The LORD brought more than 2 million people out of Egypt in one night, with all their goods and animals! If they went out 10 side-by-side and with 10 feet in between, they would form a line from Minneapolis to Chicago. Yet they came out in one night! This was truly a superlative miracle, and they came out on eagle's wings.
- C. Verse 5. Speaks of an agreement He is about to make with them. Because of what He had done for them (verse 4,) they should be willing to sign any contract He gives them without reading it through trust of Him.
- D. Verse 6. The other nations were to approach God through Israel, the priests.
- E. Verses 7-8. They agree. Their foremind but not their aftermind. Darby-Scotfield: "Grace was given up for law." "Israel, in a spirit of dark and senseless legality, abandoned Jehovah's covenant of pure grace for man's covenant of works." An entirely erroneous teaching. Deuteronomy 5:27-29. We should always be willing to accept any agreement God offers.

IV. The Ten Commandments: What Are They?

- A. First important thing to recognize: the ten commandments were the ten terms of a covenant (agreement) God made with Israel. Exodus 34:28, Deuteronomy 4:12-13.
- B. Cain (Genesis 4,) Pharaoh (Genesis 12,) Abimelech (Genesis 20,) and Judah (Genesis 38,) all knew certain acts were wrong before the law was given. Just because we are not under law does not mean we are free to do these things.
- C. Crucial to all religions are having works to do and a prayer to pray. Therefore, religious men make the ten commandments and the Lord's prayer the two premiere passages of Scripture. This is nothing but the blindness of the god of this eon, teaching things like "touch not, taste not, handle not." Colossians 2:21. The faith of Christ is different: gives liberty, blessings to those who do not work, but believe.

V. Paul places importance upon teaching the law lawfully. This is what we are seeking to do. The ten commandments were the ten terms of a covenant God was making with Israel. These things were wrong before the covenant was ever made, and they are still wrong even to those who are not part of Israel. Now, Israel was bound to do these by agreement. We can learn from them, but we are no part of Israel's covenant.