

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

July 2021

No. 427

COMMANDMENTS

And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thou-

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141 County Road 474
Woodland, AL 36280
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sands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. (Exo. 20:1-17)

As the people fled Egypt with Moses, God saw that there was a need for a set of laws so that the Israelites knew what His expectations were. They needed to be instructed to help them see right from wrong, especially after coming from the oppression they saw from the Egyptian Pharaoh.

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regard-

ed them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. (Heb. 8:6-12)

So why do we not follow these same commandments as they were given? Read the next verse in this chapter of Hebrews.

In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away. (Heb. 8:13)

There were also other things involved with the first covenant that went away.

Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. (Heb. 9:1)

Only certain ordained people could enter the holy places.

Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances,

imposed on them until the time of reformation. (Heb. 9:6-10)

But the blood of Christ was shed so that everyone, Jews and Gentiles, had access to God and the forgiveness of sins.

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. (Heb. 9:11-12)

For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he ap-

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The Harvester

141 County Road 474 * Woodland, AL 36280

Phone: (256) 449-9221* Email: theharvesteronline@gmail.com

Web Page: www.churches-of-christ.org

peared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (Heb. 9:19-26)

But we also still follow many of the original commandments. We do not condone killing, or stealing, or coveting, or many other things mentioned. When Jesus taught he emphasized the great commandment.

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Mat. 22:36-40)

All the law hangs on these commandments. We don't steal because we love, we don't kill because we love. Even if we do not always agree with choices made by others or their personal or political beliefs, we have love for others which keeps us from doing the things which are against the will of God.

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Rom. 13:8-10)

But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And

as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. (Luke 6:27-36)

Love is the fulfilling of the law, whether it is loving God or loving our neighbor. To quote an article written by Bro. Ben McManus and published in *The Harvester* in May 2011, “Christians should be seen as loving people. We are not to be selective with it. The best example of what Christian love embodies is seen in the patient and forgiving nature we reserve for our close family. As Jesus did, these qualities of love should be extended towards all people, even those with whom we disagree.”

A. D.

FROM THE SCRIPTURES: ABOUT THOSE WHO OVERCOME

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:4-5)

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (Rev. 2:7)

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. (Rev. 2:17)

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: (Rev. 2:26)

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. (Rev. 3:5)

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. (Rev. 3:12)

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (Rev. 3:21)

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (Rev. 21:7)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. On which mountain range did Noah's ark come to rest?
2. According to Old Testament law, what should you not cook a young goat in?
3. Whose hair when cut annually weighed two hundred shekels by the king's weight?
4. In what town did Jesus turn water into wine? (cont. on pg. 8)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
July 9 - 11	Oak Grove Eubank, KY	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
July 16 - 18	Mt. Carmel Road Gay, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
July 19 - 25	Oak Grove Woodland, AL	Ricky Murphy (Woodland, AL) & Hunter Bulger (Prattville, AL)
July 25 - 30	Napoleon Woodland, AL	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

*Masks and social distancing are recommended at these meetings.
Please check the website calendar for the latest updates.*

(cont. from pg. 7)

5. To which Jewish sect did Nicodemus belong?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH...

And remember last month's questions?

1. In which book of the Bible do we read of David and Goliath? 1 SAMUEL (1 Sam. 17)
2. What punishment was given to Gehazi for his greed? MADE LEPROUS (2 Kings 5:25-27)
3. How did the sailors discover Jonah was responsible for the storm? CAST LOTS (Jon. 1:7)
4. Who thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money? SIMON (THE SORCERER) (Acts 8:18)
5. Who had a slave named Onesimus? PHILEMON (Phm. 1:10-11)