

The Fatal Mistake That Will Send Millions to Hell

Living in a world where we must choose between good and evil, there is an inescapable need for some sure rule of right by which we may guide our actions. We are living in a world which requires standards. We have to have standards of right and wrong, standards of weight, standards of measure. It is neither wise nor safe to depend altogether on conscience or reason for guidance. Some people depend on their consciences, but it is not a wise thing to do.

A Mohammedan has a Mohammedan conscience, a Buddhist has a Buddhist conscience. If a Mohammedan kills a Christian, it is no sin to him; it is all right. A Buddhist or a Hindu may do things that we could not do with a clear conscience. So it is not always safe to depend upon conscience. It is true that the Spirit of God speaks to our consciences, but sometimes our consciences become seared, as with a red-hot iron. We fail to respond so often when the Spirit of God speaks to us that after a while we do not recognize His voice.

And as we follow our own reasoning powers, we begin to think what we believe is all right, even if the Word of God says it is not. In Prov. 28:26 God says: "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered." We are all more or less independent in our thinking, and depend on our own ideas. I suppose it is human nature to think we are right. But I have discovered, young as I am, that sometimes I can be wrong.

In Prov. 16:25 we read: "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." When it comes to religious matters I do not ever want to become so hard-shelled in my belief that I will not accept what God has revealed in His Word as truth. We have a number of characters in the Bible who thought they were right, and yet they were not.

I suppose many of the Jews, as they persecuted Christ, thought they were right in doing so. And it was the preachers who persecuted Him the most. Some people think preachers cannot ever be wrong, but they can. They were certainly wrong in their opposition to Christ, and that opposition came mostly from the Pharisees and the Scribes and the Lawyers who were most skillful in wisdom and knowledge.

Some people think, "What does that young fellow up there know, anyway? Who does he think he is. If he were right, all the wise men would believe it and accept it as true. Why don't the great doctors, scientists, and philosophers believe what he teaches, if it is right?" But back in the time of Noah those giants had brilliant minds, and were very learned men, yet they did not believe the simple message which Noah preached. They were vain in their own conceit, and considered their own wisdom to be above the wisdom of God.

In Noah's time the wise men said: "There is not going to be any flood. Who ever heard of such a thing. The world could not come to an end by a flood." So only Noah and his family were

saved. And today, haven't we heard people say, "There is not going to be a second coming of Jesus. The world isn't coming to an end. Things are going to get better and better. Who does this preacher think he is, anyway—a prophet?" No, I do not claim to be a prophet, nor the son of a prophet; I just want to preach the Word of God in its simplicity. All God wants us to do is to follow His commands and not our own consciences or our own desires.

In Deut. 12:8 and 28 it says: "Ye shall not do after all the things that ye do here this day, every man whatsoever is RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES . . . Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD THY GOD." Are you wondering how you can know what is good and right in the sight of God? God has given us a perfect guide, a perfect standard.

God's Word is the revealed will of God. God would not leave us in ignorance about what is right and what is wrong. But sometimes we confuse the truth of God with the error so commonly taught all about us. Jesus says in John 14:15: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." The road is plainly marked. The Bible teaches first of all acceptance of Christ as our Saviour, and then the results of our acceptance of Christ, the fruits of our salvation will be seen in our lives and in our obedience to all God's commandments.

God says: "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them . . ." Matt. 7:20. And so if we have been saved by grace, the natural outcome, the spontaneous result will be seen in an obedient life. On the other hand, if we travel the road of unbelief and disobedience, we will find at the end of it defeat and death. Let us be sure that we are traveling the right road.

The Bible makes it clear that it is the broad way that the majority of people will travel. In Matt. 7:13, 14, we find these words: "Enter in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." This is certainly plain and clear, but people do not want to travel the strait and narrow way. Men do not want to make sacrifices. They prefer to follow the "WAY THAT SEEMETH RIGHT" to them."

The reason so few follow the way that leads to life is because it is so strait and narrow. Suppose a man says, "I love Jesus," and I ask him, "Are you willing to obey Christ?" He answers, "O, yes." Then I begin to tell him the kind of life he ought to live; I name over some of the things he should do as a Christian. Then he says, "I do not think that is necessary. I do not believe it is important. I just can't do that." Do you think he really loves Jesus if he is not willing to obey His commandments?

Now let us consider standards. We have to have standards in all we do. I would not want a person to build a house for me unless he used a square, a level, and a plumbline. We have standards in building, standards of weight, and standards of measure. We have the yard, the foot, the mile, meter, and kilometer. We have the pound, the ton, the ounce, and the inch. We must have standards. God has provided a perfect rule of conduct—a standard of right and wrong. Just because Mother and Dad did not follow this rule does not excuse me, for I have had more light given me and I understand the Bible truths more fully.

Mother and Dad once used a horse and buggy for transportation, but I would be foolish to say: "It was good enough for them, it will have to be good enough for me." Here is an illustration—a lighted candle. Now there is plenty of electricity. There are plenty of light fixtures with powerful light bulbs; but the candle was used by my ancestors, so I decide to stick with the old method of lighting. It makes no difference to me that dazzling light of electricity is available. What was good enough for grandpa is good enough for me. Therefore I'll stick with the candle light. You would think that I was unprogressive if not queer to take such an attitude, would you not?

Without a doubt the candle light was good enough for our ancestors so long as they didn't have anything better. But while they are excused for using candles in their day, there would be no excuse for me to use them in this advanced age. It is also true that God has advanced light for us in His Word today. Because my ancestors did not understand or see the light, is no excuse for me today. The Bible says in Acts 17:30: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." We may think that error is truth, but we must not be so entrenched in error that we will not listen to God's Word.

Suppose that Martin Luther had said: "My parents were good Catholics, my grandparents were good Catholics; so I am going to be a good Catholic. I am not going to come out of the church. If it is good enough for them, it is good enough for me." What would have happened to the Reformation and to Martin Luther if he had turned his back on the light that God showed to him? Those people may have been perfectly honest in what they believed, and may be saved because they knew no better, because they had never seen the light which God is showing you. But if you refuse the light God sends to you, He will hold you responsible.

God has given us a standard of conduct, the ten commandments. In Ps. 119:172 we read: "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteous." Some may say: "God's standards no longer exist. They have been abolished." But, dear Friends, if these commands are righteous, why would they be abolished? I would hate to live in a city that had no laws. I would move out of this town tomorrow if they threw out all laws. God has not abolished the Ten Commandments.

David says in Ps. 19:7: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul . . ." If you had a

perfect child, would you take that child to the doctor and say, "Please cut off my child's ear." the Doctor would ask, "Why?" You would answer, "Because he is perfect." That is unreasonable, senseless, tragic, is it not? But is it not just as unreasonable to think that the Law of God, which is perfect, should be changed or part of it be removed? In spite of the fact that the Bible says that the Law of God is perfect, there are preachers who insist that the Law has been abolished or changed. Dear Friends, do not abolish or change something that is as perfect as the perfect Law of God.

That wise man Soloman has written in Eccl. 12:13, 14: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of Man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." This text tells us that everyone will be brought into judgment, and that the Law of God, the Ten Commandments, will be the standard of God's judgment. We are going to be judged by those very commandments. They are God's standard and reveal to us what sin is.

When the children of Israel had been in captivity for hundreds of years so that many did not know of God's law, God considered it important enough to come down to Mt. Sinai with a great display of power, amid fire, thunder, and great smoke to speak His Ten Commandment Law to the people in thunderous tones. If God would come down tonight to some high mountain and speak in thunderous tones His Ten Commandments as He did back there in the days when the children of Israel were coming out of Egypt, I tell you it would be a very awe-inspiring sight. We would realize how really important God's standards are.

God gave His law from Mt. Sinai, but the law was in existence long before it was spoken from the mount and written on those two tables of stone. In Gen. 26:5 it says: "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." Now Abraham could not keep the commandments if he did not know what they were. But Abraham did know His law and obeyed it.

But the law existed long before the time of Abraham. Adam and Eve could not have sinned if there had not been a law in Eden, for in Rom. 5:13 it says: ". . . Sin is not imputed when there is no law." And in I John 3:4 we read: ". . . Sin is the transgression of the law." Without the law there is no transgression, so the law of God has always been in existence.

We read in the New Testament in Rom. 5:12-14: "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin . . . death reigned from Adam to Moses." At the time Adam sinned in Eden the law of God was in existence. Since death reigned from Adam to Moses, the law must have been in existence during this time; for death was the result of sin and sin was the transgression of the law existing at that time. The commandments were so important that God did not even entrust them to Moses to be spoken to the people. He

spoke them Himself, and then wrote them with His own finger on tables of stone.

The Ten Commandments are found in Ex. 20. The first commandment is in the third verse and reads: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." This commandment teaches us that we are to worship God only and supremely, and that we should not have any other gods before Him. We are not to allow anything to keep us from honoring and obeying God. We should have nothing in our hearts more important than God and His plan for us.

The second commandment is in Ex. 20:4-6: "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 thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments." This commandment demands that we worship God directly. We must worship the Creator and not the things that He has created. It also emphasizes the importance of obeying this commandment, and all ten commandments.

The third commandment, in Ex. 20:7, reads: "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." This says we should not swear or take God's name in vain by needless repetition or by using it in an irreverent way. God is holy and His name should be held in respect and reverence. How it must grieve God to hear all the cursing and swearing from the lips of His own creatures! The sacrilegious songs and stories heard from day to day over television and radio are also condemned by this commandment.

The fourth commandment is found in Ex. 20:8-11: "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, or thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maid servant, 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." This tells us to keep the seventh day Sabbath. It also tells us how to keep it and why it is to be kept. The Sabbath was established at Creation for all mankind.

The first four commandments have shown our duty to God, but the next six show our duty to our fellowman. The fifth commandment says: "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Ex. 20:12. This commandment teaches us to respect lawful authority. If children learn to obey their parents, they would more than likely become law-abiding citizens. The fifth commandment is also the first commandment with promise. The Bible teaches that those who honor their parents will enjoy longer, healthier lives.

The sixth commandment, Ex. 20:13, tells us to

be kind. It says: "Thou shalt not kill." It teaches us not to hate others, which would only lead to murder and murderous thoughts. If we love those about us, we would never want to kill anybody, or even wish they were dead. Jesus enlarged or magnified this commandment by teaching that whosoever hateth his brother has transgressed the commandment.

The seventh commandment teaches us purity of thought and action. It says: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Ex. 20:14. Certainly if this commandment were followed there would be less heartache, and there would be fewer divorces in the country today. Jesus magnified this commandment also by declaring that whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery in his heart.

The eighth commandment tells us not to take what belongs to others. In Ex. 20:15 it says: "THOU SHALT NOT STEAL." Most of the people in the penitentiary today are there because they took what belonged to someone else. If we love others as ourselves we will not want to take what does not belong to us or what we have not earned. This commandment covers more than stealing. It also applies to cheating on income tax returns, or practicing unfair methods of business procedure.

The ninth commandment teaches truthfulness. In Ex. 20:16 it says: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Perjury is considered a grave misdemeanor in the courts today, and God considers any dishonesty or untruthfulness as a grave sin. Many times we can be dishonest by just keeping quiet and letting people think an untruth. Lies can be told without speaking a word.

The tenth and last commandment teaches us to be content. Ex. 20:17 says: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." Covetousness is certainly the root of most of the evils that exist today.

Now, I want to ask, Which one of these commandments is no longer needed? Is there anything in these ten commandments that is wrong, that should be abolished? Is there anything about this law of God that is imperfect? If there is, I would like to have it pointed out to me. I would hate to live in a world that did not have standards like these. The reason why the world is in the condition that it is today is that people have not followed these standards of God. It is evident that the Ten Commandments deal with moral and spiritual duties which can never be abridged, revised, modified, superseded, discarded, abolished, or become obsolete.

The Ten Commandments deal with matters which are naturally binding so long as God is God and man is man. The Bible tells us that the commandments of God will stand sure. In Ps. 111:7, 8, it says: "The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness." God says they "STAND FAST FOR EVER AND EVER." But

some say "THEY HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED."

The principles of the Ten Commandments are enlarged upon and emphasized in the New Testament; but still there is a studied attempt by many to get rid of some of the commandments. What a pity that men will turn away from the Lord. In I John 3:4, it says: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." Dear Friends, what about the Decalogue and the Christian? If there is no law, there is no sin. If you do not have any sin, you do not have any need of a Saviour. So why pray? Dear Ones, do not believe these "no law" preachers who tell you that the law has been abolished, that all you have to do is believe. You must also obey God and His precepts. Do not be deceived.

"Just believe!" Is that all that is necessary? In James 2:19 it says: "Thou believest that there is one God: thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble." But that will not save them. When a man believes in Christ it means more than just to believe in Jesus and stop there. If we really believe in Jesus and love Him, He says we will keep His commandments. It will be our intention and purpose to honor Him with all our hearts. Can you imagine a man claiming to be a Christian, being immoral, holding hatred in his heart toward anyone, or being a thief? No, such a man would certainly not be a Christian.

In Isa. 42:21 it says: "The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable." Jesus says that if a man holds hatred in his heart he is a murderer. He also says that if a man looks on a woman to lust after her, he has committed adultery. So when anyone says that you do not have to obey the law anymore, I say that he is not preaching the truth. Jesus Christ did come to magnify the law and make it honourable.

The law of ceremonies and ordinances which was abolished at the cross was the law of circumcision and of the sacrifice of animals. This ceased at the cross because it pointed forward to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. But the Law of the Ten Commandments, or the Moral Law, was not nailed to the cross. Preachers say you have to repent to be saved, but what should you repent of? Your sins, of course. But what is sin? Sin is the transgression of the law. But if the law was nailed to the cross there is no law and there is no sin; so we need no repentance. Do you see how contradictory this is? And yet there are people right here in this city who teach that the law of God has been abolished.

I have difficulty in believing that you do not have to keep the commandments, but you do need to repent and accept Jesus as your Saviour. Saviour from what? Saviour from sin. Well, what is sin? Sin is the transgression of the law. The law will never save anybody, but it reveals sin. It is God's standard; and we see in the law that we are sinners, that we are committing sin. Then we realize that we must come to Christ to be saved. That law cannot save us, but Jesus Christ can.

In James 1:23 and 24 we read: "For if any be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For

he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." It does no good to look into a glass and see that the face is dirty if we go away and do nothing about it.

In James 1:25 we continue to read: "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the word, this man shall be blessed in his deed." The law is like a mirror, and a man must look in the mirror to see his defects. If your face is dirty you do not use the mirror to try to rub it off. No, you have to have some other cleansing agent. Just so the law of God can never cleanse you. But the law shows you your defects. The blood of Jesus cleanses you.

In the Fiji Islands a trader gave some mirrors to the natives. When the queen of the island saw herself she was so shocked that she ordered all the mirrors destroyed. Isn't that just like some people who see their defects and then want to smash the law. They say, "Get rid of that old law because it condemns the things we are doing." The commandments will never save anybody, but they show us what sin is, and then we are led to seek the Saviour to save us from that sin. The law points out such sins as lying, stealing, committing adultery, worshipping images, cursing, swearing, and breaking the Sabbath.

When we see we are sinners, then we must come to Christ for salvation and forgiveness for those sins. In Rom. 7:7 Paul says: "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." What law is Paul talking about? What law says? "Thou shalt not covet." The Ten Commandment law, of course.

We "had not known sin but by the law." That law will be the standard of God's judgment. In James 2:10 we are told: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." If we break one link in the chain, the chain is broken. If you have a light held by a chain to the ceiling and you break one link in the chain, the light will come down with a crash. You need break only one of the commandments of God to be living in sin.

If the Ten Commandments were abolished, it would be no sin to worship idols, swear, lie, steal, dishonor our parents, or commit adultery. I cannot believe that Jesus died on the cross to abolish the law and allow such things. But rather I believe that He died to abolish the sins of lying, stealing, killing, and committing adultery. I do not believe that when Jesus died it was all right to do these things. Yet that is what is being taught today. There is one evangelist heard over the radio from coast to coast who is an antinomian, preaching all the time: "Do not pay any attention to the Ten Commandments." I believe people want to believe that the commandments have been abolished because they do not like to have their sins pointed out.

In Rom. 4:15 it says: "Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression." It is because of this "NO LAW" preach-

ing that we have so much crime in the world tonight. In a Town Hall Meeting of the Air, recently, they were discussing juvenile delinquency; but they did not put their finger on the solution. The trouble is that though young people today go to church, they never find out that God has a standard of righteousness. They know nothing about His Ten Commandments, for they are taught that they were abolished.

When the antinomians preach that the Ten Commandments have been abolished, that you do not have to obey God, they are opening up the floodgates of lawlessness that is engulfing the whole world; and then we wonder why we are having juvenile delinquency today. In Rom. 5:13 we read: "For until the law, sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law." So as long as sin exists, the Ten Commandments are still binding on all. There can be no sin where there is no law. Jesus died to save us from sin, not to save us from obedience. The law of God had been broken, and He came to mend it.

Man was sentenced to death by the law. Jesus died on the cross because of man's transgression of the Ten Commandments. If the Ten Commandments could have been set aside, abolished, or repealed, Jesus need not have died. But the law of God was perfect and could not be abolished; it could not be destroyed. And for that reason Jesus had to come into the world to die in order to save man; because under the law all are condemned to die. He came into the world to die in man's stead.

Adam and Eve were at first perfect, but they were driven from the Garden of Eden when they transgressed. They stole the fruit that God told them was not theirs, and that they should leave alone. They obeyed the voice of the devil instead of the voice of God. They broke the commandments that said: "Thou shalt not covet," and "Thou shalt not steal." They broke the commandment that said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." When they disobeyed God they broke every one of the Ten Commandments.

Jesus had to come into the world to prove to the universe of God that it was possible to live a perfectly obedient life. He was in the world of sin, perfectly obedient to His Father. He was in the world of sin and yet there was no sin in Him. I am thankful that Jesus Christ did die for me. Only by His death will eternal life be available to those who love and obey Him.

The curse of the law is death. In Rom. 6:23 it says: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Sin is the transgression of the law, and the wages of sin is death. Suppose you commit a murder. You would immediately come under the curse of the law of this state, and you would be condemned to die.

We are all under the condemnation of death, for in Rom. 3:23 we read: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Then in Rom. 5:12 it tells us: ". . . Death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." We are all under the condemnation of death. Now suppose you are to die in this state for the sin of murder, and suppose somebody who loves you very much offers to

die in your stead. The governor writes out a pardon for you. You are saved by grace. The penalty of the law is met.

So you must come to Jesus and ask Him to save you from the curse of the law which is death. You are worthy of death, you have broken the law, you have come under the curse of the law, which is death. But here is One, Jesus, who is willing to become your substitute, to die in your place. You get a pardon, you are saved by grace, you are set free. For Jesus died in your place. Now for you to say, "I am saved by grace, I do not have to keep the commandments," would be just about like the murderer saying, "I am saved by grace, I am free, I can steal, kill, and do anything now that I want." Is that right? No, indeed.

The man who has been pardoned is under greater responsibility than ever to be a good citizen. But the man who is saved by grace says, "I can do anything I want to. I do not have to keep the commandments. I am saved by grace." Dear Friends, this is the fatal mistake that is going to send millions of people to hell. Millions of people say, "I am saved by grace. I do not need to keep the commandments." Even in this city there are preachers upholding that sort of thing, preaching it from the pulpit.

We are all condemned to die under the law, unless we come to Jesus and ask Him to mark our bill paid. We are condemned to die because the penalty for sin is death. And we will all have to die unless somebody pays for us. There is only One who can pay the price for us, and that One is Jesus Christ the Righteous. And unless He has received your bill and saved you by grace you are under condemnation of the law of God, and condemned to die.

O, no, the law cannot save us, dear Friends; it only points out our sins. Salvation is only by grace in all ages. No one can secure salvation by keeping the Ten Commandments. In Gal. 2:16 it says: "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ . . ." Dear Friends, we can never work our way into the kingdom of God. Unless we love Jesus and accept Him as our Saviour, we can never get into the kingdom; but if we love Him we will keep God's commandments, and He will receive us into the mansions of heaven.

The man who truly accepts Jesus, who is really converted will delight in keeping the law of God. It will be the spontaneous result, the fruit of salvation. In Ps. 40:8 David says: "I delight to do thy will, O my God; yea, thy law is within my heart." If you have been saved by grace you will not quibble over this but you will say with David, "I delight to do Thy will, O my God." And you will want to keep God's law because that is what He wants you to do.

Under the law we are condemned to die, but under the gospel we are saved through Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a perfect life. If you steal, you can confess in the name of the Son of God and He will impute the life of Jesus Christ to you. Instead of seeing a thief, God will see Jesus Christ. When it comes to lying or committing adultery, or any of those other sins, if you confess them to God in

Jesus' name the life of Jesus Christ is imputed to you, and when God looks at you He sees only Jesus.

There is only one thing you cannot have Jesus cover, and that is the supposed sin of Sunday breaking. The Bible does not say it is a sin to break the first day of the week. The Bible does not say that the first day of the week is the Sabbath. Jesus did not keep the first day of the week. So God cannot impute the life of Jesus to cover that supposed sin as He can the other sins that we mentioned.

Christians are not under the law but under grace. However, this in nowise releases them from obedience to the Ten Commandments. In Rom. 6:14 and 15 we read: "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid." Many read the 14th verse and say, "I am not under the law but under grace." But being under grace, under the grace of Jesus Christ, would not permit you to be a disobedient child of His. Notice the 15th verse again. "Shall we sin because we are not under the law? . . . God forbid. The apostle uses the strongest term he could use, "God forbid."

Because we are under grace we are under a double responsibility to be obedient subjects of God. The grace of Jesus Christ does not permit us to do anything we please. O, if we could only understand that! Under grace and therefore free from the law! That is the fatal mistake being preached from the popular pulpits today, and millions of people are being deceived into thinking that they can transgress the commandments of God and be saved no matter how they live. Many will reap the results of that teaching some day, when they find themselves eternally lost, hopelessly lost outside the kingdom of God.

The gospel of Christ, faith in Christ, or free grace does not dissolve the binding obligation of the Decalogue, but rather brings the sinner into harmony with these commandments and thus establishes the law. In Rom. 3:31 it makes this clear. "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." O, if we have faith in Christ it will be our desire to do His will in all things. If we destroy the law, we do not have need of grace and no need of a Saviour. For if there is no law there is no sin, and if there is no sin we do not need a Saviour.

Law and grace are inseparable; if we do have the law, we do need grace. If we do not have a law we do not need a Saviour. The law requires that we worship God supremely, directly, and reverently; that we keep God's day holy; that we respect every form of lawful authority; that we be kind and love one another; that we be pure, honest, truthful, and content. But what does grace bestow? It bestows a new heart with the law written therein; it fulfills the righteousness of the law in us; it gives love which fulfills the law.

In Heb. 8:10 Paul says: ". . . 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." So if we want to belong to the people of God, we must have the law of God in our

hearts. It is through grace that we have the power to keep it.

It is not the law that saves us, for Paul says in Rom. 8:3, 4: "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us . . ." We are saved through the sacrifice of Christ. If we accept Him and His sacrifice "the righteousness of the law" will be fulfilled in each of us.

The manager of a coal office was called out just as a young man entered. He left \$500.00 in bills on the table not noticing the young man who could easily have picked up the money. No one would have known where the money went. But he did not take the money. He waited for the manager to come back. Returning, the manager gasped, "I never realized that I left all that money on the table. You are indeed an honest man."

That man had been a criminal, a thief. He had served time in the penitentiary. But he did not take the \$500.00. Why? Not far from that coal company's office he had once stolen thousands of dollars. But since that time he had been saved by grace. He was a new man. God had given him a new heart. God had written in his heart the law of God, and one of the commandments said, "Thou shalt not steal." That young man was saved by grace, and that is the reason he did not steal the money.

There are some essential truths about the law according to the New Testament that we need to remember. First: Christians are entirely free from the ceremonial ordinances of Moses. In Eph. 2:15 it says: "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances . . ." And in Col. 2:14 it explains this further: "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." So the ceremonial observances of the Mosaic law were fulfilled in the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, and were abolished with the old covenant at the cross.

We do not now have to kill animals or carry out the ordinance of circumcision, or observe feast days, or holy days, or the annual sabbath days which were observed before the cross. Remember these sabbath days were not the Sabbath of the Lord, but were holy days, feast days like the Passover Feast and the Feast of Tabernacles and Pentecost. These were done away with at the cross, but God's holy Sabbath is in the Ten Commandment Law which is eternal.

The second important truth to be remembered is: The keeping of the Ten Commandment Law must never be regarded as a means of justification. In Gal. 2:16 we read: "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

The third essential fact regarding the Law set forth in the New Testament is that all the commandments should be sacredly observed by Chris-

tians as God's rule of righteousness and His moral standard for humanity. In I John 5:3 we read: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous." I cannot see the reasonableness of anyone saying, "We are Christians," and refusing to keep the commandment which says, "Thou shalt not kill," or any one of the other commandments of God.

The Ten Commandments will not save you; they are only a mirror, a standard that says what sin is. We must seek Christ for salvation. Now, do not go away from here and say that I taught that the commandments would save you; for they will not. Do not say that that preacher said you have to keep the commandments to be saved. But do tell the people that I said that if you are saved, you will keep the commandments. You do not keep the Ten Commandment Law in order to be saved, but you keep the Ten Commandments because you are saved.

Rev. 14 contains God's last message for the world. In verse 12 God points out His people of the last days: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Now some may say that only Jews are to keep the commandments, but this could not refer to Jews, for Jews do not have the faith of Jesus. So in order to find the real truth we must find that religious movement and people in which is manifest this inseparable union of obedience to the commandments and faith in the Saviour.

To prove that God is just, that His law is perfect, and that it cannot be abolished, God had to make the supreme sacrifice. He had to give His only begotten Son. Thus He magnified the law and made it honorable. And yet mere puny faulty man will get up in the pulpit and tell people that Jesus Christ died to abolish the law! Jesus did no such thing. That is the fatal mistake that will send millions to hell. Jesus died to establish the government of God, to establish the law of God, and to prove that these standards of God cannot be abolished.

I thank God for the sacrifice of His most precious possession in His gift of His only begotten

Son to prove to the universe that He is a God of justice, and also a God of mercy. Every one of us is doomed to die, we are all under the curse of the law, unless we accept Jesus Christ who died to save us from the penalty of death under the law.

O, some day, if we are faithful to Jesus we will see that wonderful Saviour who has died for us! I wish that everyone of us could say as did David in Ps. 119:34, 10: "Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea I shall observe it with my whole heart." "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments." This should be the prayer of each one of us tonight."

Dear Friends, I do not want to grieve God in anything. I do not want to disobey Him wilfully in any respect. Do you? As the prophet says in Amos 3:3: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Can we walk with Jesus if we wilfully disobey Him? If we are living in rebellion against God, even if it is only on one point, we cannot have communion with God. In I John 2:6, we read: "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked." Jesus was obedient in all points, without sin. We cannot walk with Him unless we are obedient.

Are you willing to walk as Jesus walked? If you are, then you will go all the way with Him. If you are willing to let God have His way in your life, you will keep all His commandments. I want Him to have His way in mine. I have surrendered my life to Him. It is not much I have given Him, but I want Him to have His way in all things.

"Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou are the Potter; I am the clay:
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

"Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
As in Thy presence humbly I bow.

"Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er by being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!"